

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, July 10th 2012 at Portmoak Hall

1. Attendance: Cllrs : M. Parkin (Chair), R. Cairncross, T. Smith, S. Forde and J. Bird.

WClrs W. Robertson, M. Barnacle and D. Cuthbert, plus 4 residents.

Apologies : Received from Cllrs R. Williamson, M. Strang Steel and WClr J. Giacopazzi.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Bruce Calderwood to the Community Council, as a co-opted Cllr, and gave him the good wishes of the Cllrs and Portmoak residents. He hoped that he would enjoy the work of the Community Council.

Cllr Calderwood replied that he was delighted to join Portmoak CC and confirmed his commitment to work for the benefit of the Community.

Portmoak Community Council now has a full complement of eight Cllrs.

2. Previous minutes: Were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Mini Roundabout and Build Out on B920

There had been a productive site meeting on July 4th with PKC Roads Dept., and the following had been agreed:-

3.1.1. A mini roundabout, at the junction of Wellside Park and the B920, as required by the planning consents for Wellside Park, will be built by the developer before May 2013.

3.1.2. A build out (same design as those already in place throughout Portmoak) will be built on the west side of the B920, between the 30 mph signs and the entrance to Wellside Park. Scotlandwell street lighting might be extended to the position of the build out at the same time. It was hoped that work would be completed by September this year.

3.1.3. The soft verges on the B920 would be identified by roadside poles fitted with reflective strips, and warning signs would be erected.

3.1.4. The surface painted road speed signage on the A911 would be refreshed.

3.1.5 WClr Barnacle reported that a traffic survey would be undertaken in the 20 mph areas in the Bruce Road and Bishop Terrace area of Kinnesswood.

3.1.6. The speed limit and road signage at Pittendreich would be reviewed when plans for the Kinross Cricket Club pavilion and facilities were approved.

3.2. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter

The agreed improvements are delayed by the PKC license application for the replacement of defective asbestos sheeting on the roof of the shelter.

It was agreed that the various artworks made by the pupils of Portmoak Primary school, that had been displayed in the bus shelter, had been very well received during the latest period of festivities within the village, but it would now be appropriate to return them to their owners prior to work starting on the shelter, or before the regular visit by the PKC bus shelter cleaner. The Chairman would contact the Secretary of Kinnesswood in Bloom.

3.3 Dundee Courier

Since contacting the paper, the Chairman had received no further news. Item closed.

3.4. Flooding on road between Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond

WCllr Giacopazzi had agreed to help with this problem but was currently on holiday. CCllr Cairncross had submitted a comprehensive report of the situation to him. It was noted that water was presently not flowing on to the road.

A local resident said that this could be because he had temporarily redirected the flow of some water on his land, to provide for livestock. CCllr Cairncross agreed to discuss and investigate this situation with the resident.

3.5. Blocked drain at Newlands Farm

Work to remedy this has been completed.

3.6 Stephens Field.

No further progress to report.

4. Reports

4.1 Police Report

The Police were in attendance and gave their report.

On the previous Friday night there had been a break in at a chalet at Lochend Farm.

There had also been a theft of a Horse box in Scotlandwell. Similar thefts of horse boxes had also been reported in Fife.

There was no information about the detection of previously reported crime.

Speeding on local roads continues to be monitored, and there would be a speeding initiative by the Police in the first two weeks of September.

The Chairman asked the Police if the community based speed watch programme, whereby residents could operate speed guns was still in effect, as a Portmoak resident had expressed interest in doing this.

There was a similar programme being undertaken in the Crook of Devon area and the Police undertook to let the CC have the results of this exercise.

A request was also made for some form of flashing speed sign. A moveable flashing sign had been used in Portmoak some time ago. A permanent type of signal was becoming more and more popular in many parts of the country. These signs are available from PKC.

With the Kinross Show being staged near Vane Farm, there would be a Police presence at the show, especially around the entrance and exit to the car park.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for her much appreciated attendance.

4.2. Treasurers Report

There was currently £1396.34 in the two CC accounts.

4.3 Roads and Paths

1. The Secretary had reported via the P&KC website that the bend sign on the Scotlandwell to Leslie road was obstructed by undergrowth. He had also commented on the website form that some road verges had been cut in Portmoak, but others had not.
2. The Secretary had previously reported (June 2009) the need to clean the verges and gulleys of the B9097 Vane Farm Road. To date this has not been done. In 2010 it was then promised by PKC that the road surface would be repaired, and that this would be completed in 2011. WCllr Barnacle agreed that this road required maintenance, and outlined his own attempts to get signage for the blind summits, and also speed limit signs erected.

4.4 Planning

The Community Council had considered the following applications to PKC:

12/00943/IPL, Erection of a dwelling-house in outline at Balneathill – Objection made.

12/01047/FLL, Land 20 metres west of Climpy Cottage, Scotlandwell, Erection of a dwelling-house. – No comment.

12/00843/FLL Gairney Bridge Farm Cottage, Erection of a poultry breeding facility (this item shared with Cleish and Blairadam CC) – No comment

The Community Council was in process of considering:

12/01192/FLL Iona, Back Dykes Road, Kinnesswood, Alterations and extension to house.

12/01139/FLL Greenburn, East Brackley, Alteration and extension to house.

Full Details of Portmoak Planning applications with CC comments can be found on the Community Council website at www.portmoak.org.

4.5. Ward Cllr Reports

1. WCllr Barnacle had written to PKC Planning, to ask for a discussion on their policy for small cluster wind turbines.
2. WCllr Cuthbert advised the meeting that bus services from Portmoak to the High School could be reduced, and he would welcome notice of any problems arising from this.
3. WCllr Robertson advised the meeting that TRACKS had succeeded with their recent application for the RSPB part of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, which had been approved at a Development Management Committee meeting on 4th July, and that he would do everything in his power to minimise the impact that this application would have on local residents, and that the final screening of the path for the residents, would be agreed between TRACKS, the RSPB, and those residents.

TRACKS would learn within six weeks if their Lottery Fund application for this final part of the Heritage Trail had been successful. A local resident affected by this TRACKS application thanked the CC for their assistance during this application process.

5. AOCB

5.1. Planning Compliance

CCLr Cairncross raised the issue of how required standards for landscaping, where they were a condition of a planning consent granted by PKC, could be assured. This did not appear to be happening. This would be considered further when more information was available.

5.2. Communications/Consultations.

The Chairman said that there had been a lack of communication and consultation during this last exercise involving TRACKS. The CC felt that there was a requirement for a more proactive approach to communication and consultation with residents and landowners and with Community Councils, and this was especially needed in another venture that involved TRACKS - the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership (LLLP).

(Editors Post Meeting Note: The following is taken from the LLLP website,

What is the Living Lomonds Project?

The Living Lomonds is a landscape conservation project being developed by the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership (LLLP), an association of local organisations.

The Living Lomonds area includes the Lomond Hills Regional Park, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Loch Leven, and surrounding areas. The LLLP has received financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop the Living Lomonds project during 2012 under the Landscape Partnerships Grant Programme.

At the end of 2012 the LLLP will submit a full HLF application which, if successful, will provide funding for a range of projects that will benefit the people and landscape of the Living Lomonds area.

The LLLP is bound by a Partnership Agreement signed by each of the member organisations. Towards the end of the development phase (2012) the membership of the LLLP will be reviewed and revised accordingly to the expected needs of the delivery phase (2013 – 15).

The current members of the LLLP are as follows:

Benarty Community Forum Group, Centre for Stewardship at Falkland, Fife Council, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Kinross Museum Trust, Lomond Hills Regional Park Partnership, Markinch Heritage Group and TRACKS (The Rural Access Committee Kinross-shire).

Although the principle of the LLLP was accepted, there were a number of questions as to how the project was being communicated to those people in Portmoak who would be directly involved. The early signs were that little involvement or communication had taken place in Portmoak, and an example of how a resident land owner had been refused information at the recent Portmoak Festival was not considered appropriate, and did not indicate well for the future communication process.

A resident pointed out that this project was being managed by a group in Fife, not involving the people of Portmoak, but using the natural assets of Portmoak, such as Loch Leven, in their advertising material, and in their application for Lottery Funding.

It was also suggested by a resident that disenchanted farmers in Fife, who had also not been involved with any communication/consultation process, were threatening to boycott the whole idea by detailing their complaints to the management of the Lottery Fund.

WCllr Robertson responded by saying that the application for funding must contain information of what the project was about, and be sufficient to attract the funding. However, it was not possible at that stage to cover every detail on the ground. Once the funding had been allocated, then the detail of the project could be determined.

Overall there was a lack of a proper mechanism for including people who have an interest in what may happen.

WCllr Robertson agreed, through his association with TRACKS, to properly consider the feelings of the Portmoak residents, and to consider the issues raised, and what could be done to deal with those issues.

He suggested that TRACKS, and representatives from the LLLP, should attend the next CC meeting in September to explain their purpose and proposals. This was agreed.

5.3. Lomond Country Inn

The Lomond closed some time ago and is currently for sale. It was last offered by auction in March 2012 but remains unsold. This long established Inn is sadly missed by residents.

There are signs of deterioration to the exterior of the building, and the CC is concerned that this should not continue to a point where the building becomes unattractive to potential purchasers, or detracts from the appearance of the village.

The Chairman agreed to contact the owner to ascertain the position.

5.4 Kinross-shire Community Council Network (KCCN)

The Chairman informed the meeting that the next KCCN meeting would take place at the Loch Leven Campus on July 18th 2012.

5.5 Annual Meeting with Elected Politicians.

The Voluntary Action Perthshire Group have organised a 'Question Time' type event with elected politicians, and the Chairman will attend this to represent Portmoak CC on 14th September.

6. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Sept 11th 2012 in Portmoak School.

(Please note that there will not be an August meeting)

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

www.Portmoak.org