

# Portmoak Community Council

## Draft Minutes of Meeting held on December 11th 2012 at Portmoak Primary School

**1. Attendance:** Cllrs : M. Parkin (Chair); R. Cairncross; T. Smith; S. Forde;  
B. Calderwood; R. Williamson; M. Strang Steel.

WCllrs : D. Cuthbert; W. Robertson; M. Barnacle; J. Giacomazzi.

4 members of the public attended.

Miss Elizabeth Smith MSP attended by invitation.

**Apologies :** Cllr J. Bird

**2. Previous minutes:** Were approved and signed.

### **3. Matters arising**

#### **3.1. B920**

The soft verges of the B920 have now been identified by reflective roadside poles, and warning signs have been erected. The Chairman will write to thank P&KC Roads Dept.

Refreshing of the surface painted road signage on the A911 from Milnathort to Auchmuir Bridge is still hand with P&KC Roads Department.

#### **3.2. Flooding on road between Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond**

A legal solution to this problem is still proceeding on the initiative of WCllr Giacomazzi.

#### **3.3. Stephen's Field.**

Contact with Mr John Stephen of A & J Stephen Ltd is being maintained, and it is hoped to hold a meeting in early 2013 to continue with the resolution of outstanding matters to take us forward.

#### **3.4. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership**

Contact with the LLLP is being maintained, and a courtesy copy of a report on their activities is expected soon. The CC is still convinced that Cllr Tom Smith should join their committee, to better serve the joint interests of the CC and the LLLP.

#### **3.5. Lomond Country Inn**

The selling agents have set a closing date for offers of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

#### **3.6. Content of Police Reports**

The Chairman had previously asked if information about solved crimes and road traffic accidents could be included in Police Reports. A reply has been received to say that solved crimes would be reported, but not road traffic accidents.

### **3.7. Gorse and Vegetation at Golf Course A911 boundary**

The footpath beside the A911 has been cleared, but the Golf Club is reluctant to remove all the vegetation at this boundary, as it prevents stray golf balls from going on to the road, and also from hitting parked cars and houses at Woodmarch. The Club has spoken to a representative of Kinnesswood in Bloom, and the matter seems to be resolved.

### **3.8. Community Payback Orders**

Mr John Irons of P&KC will be attending the February 2013 meeting of the CC to explain this initiative.

### **3.9. Britain in Bloom – Silver Gilt Award Signs for Scotlandwell**

This matter is still in hand with P&KC in conjunction with the replacement of the Scotlandwell village name sign at a new northern A911 location.

### **3.10. Wall at foot of Field on A911 at “Greenacres” Kinnesswood**

The wall remains unrepaired and partially collapsed.

### **3.11. Accidents on A911 at Wester Balgedie**

A site meeting between CC representatives, and Mr Daryl McKeown of PKC and PC Kerry McLeod, had taken place on 7<sup>th</sup> December. WCllr J Giacobazzi was also present as well as a local resident. Remedial measures such as signage and anti-skid surfaces were discussed and Mr McKeown will be reporting back to Ward Cllr Giacobazzi with recommendations.

### **3.12. Developer Contribution for Scotlandwell Trees**

Scotlandwell in Bloom have now heard from P&KC, who are going to discuss tree types and locations with them.

### **3.13. Pedestrian access between Wester and Easter Balgedie**

The CC had written to both WCllr Robertson and TRACKS to support any future application for funding from Sustrans, as well as writing directly to Mr Brian Cargill at P&KC to highlight this lack of access as an infrastructure shortfall. TRACKS are due to submit a second application to Sustrans in January 2013 for the funding of a sealed-surface path costing in the region of £80k, to be funded jointly by Sustrans and P&KC. TRACKS have been asked to let the CC review this application before submission. The CC will also be writing to the P&KC Access Officer to further support the P&KC funding element of this vital piece of missing infrastructure.

### **3.14. Position of Scotlandwell A911 Name Sign**

The CC will advise P&KC Roads Department that the preferred location for this sign is adjacent to the new 40mph sign on the A911, north of Scotlandwell.

## **4. Reports**

### **4.1. Police Report**

PC Euan Mitchell was present, and reported as follows;

No crimes solved since last Meeting.

Recent Crimes

16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 – Theft of motor vehicle from Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood. Under investigation.

5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – Theft of mechanical digger from Sandy Lane, Scotlandwell. Under investigation.

In connection with the digger theft, it was pointed out by a CClr that while all thefts are regrettable for the victim, and should be pursued with equal vigour, the loss of this machine will also deprive its owner of a living, as well as reducing the valuable service he provides to the community.

Operation Ainslie : This aims to detect housebreaking along the A9 between Stirling and Inverness, and will run until 24<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

Regular speed checks continue in response to concern from residents. Three drivers have been warned, and one ticket issued in respect of a vehicle travelling at 54mph in a 40mph limit.

Constable Mitchell reported that there were no HGVs on the A911 during the three hour period of these afternoon checks over three random week days.

Since June 2012, two accidents had been reported.

PC Mitchell was asked for the Police definition of a road accident, and this was “any accident on a public road, reported to the Police.”

The Chairman thanked PC Mitchell for his attendance, and he elected to stay for the later consideration of the passage of HGVs through Portmoak.

### **4.2. Treasurers Report**

There was no income during the month, and the balance in the two CC accounts was currently £928.91p, after £13 paid for hall hire

### **4.3. Roads and Paths**

The main issue here is the lack of safe pedestrian access between Wester and Easter Balgedie along the A911, and this was dealt with as above at item **3.13**.

The CC considers that it is unrealistic to expect Portmoak to absorb continued housing development, without proper attention to improving the infrastructure.

#### **4.4. Planning**

The Community Council had considered the following new application to P&KC and had made no objection. This was the decision of the entire Community Council.

12/01935/FLL: Alterations to stable block, Causeway Cottage, Scotlandwell.

The Community Council had been notified of two further applications to P&KC as follows:

12/01765/FLL: Erection of three wind turbines and associated works, on land at Tillyrie Hill, Milnathort.

12/02066/FLL: Alteration and replacement of Radome, Meteorological Station, Munduff Hill, Auchmuir Bridge.

These applications are presently under consideration.

With regard to 12/01935/FLL a resident said he felt that the works proposed would bring about changes to the buildings, and that these works were not just storm damage repair.

Another resident remarked that a planning application would not be needed for storm damage repair.

The CC agreed to look at this application again, but made the point that any minor changes would probably not give cause for objection.

Full Details of P&KC Planning applications within Portmoak, with CC comments, can be found on the Community Council website at [www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org).

#### **4.5. Ward Cllr Reports**

WCllr Barnacle said that there had been 1,500 submissions to the proposed Local Development Plan, but it was unlikely that any of these would cause any amendment to the Plan as proposed by P&KC, and that the Plan would probably be presented to Ministers for approval in its present state. He asked the CC to advise him of any specific significant matter in Portmoak that could justify him moving for an amendment to the Plan.

WCllr Giacomazzi had agreed an access path at the Wellside Park development with P&KC planners. Written confirmation of this would be awaited.

#### **5. AOCB**

##### **Heavy Goods Vehicles using the A911**

The Chairman welcomed Elizabeth Smith MSP, who represents the region of Mid Scotland and Fife.

HGVs using the A911 through Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell have long been a problem, which has now been increased by the traffic calming measures in these villages.

The Chairman had been contacted by Elizabeth, who had also received complaints from Portmoak residents during her own work as an MSP, and it was agreed that this matter could be usefully dealt with at a CC meeting.

After a wide ranging discussion, it was agreed that the number of HGVs using the A911 was increasing, as was the size of these vehicles, even including local delivery vehicles.

It was agreed that large goods vehicles are having difficulty turning into Leslie Road in Scotlandwell, and that this is sometimes caused by excessive approach speed.

A Kinnesswood resident said that the axle weight of some vehicles is causing roadside dwellings to vibrate, which must inflict damage.

It was also mentioned that some large agricultural vehicles, particularly those with heavy trailers, are also experiencing difficulty due to the build outs.

The merit of having the A911 downgraded to a "B" class road was discussed, but it was concluded that this did not provide a solution, and might even be disadvantageous.

It was generally agreed that the B9097 was a more suitable road for HGVs, and preferable to the A911.

The merit of having a 20 mph speed limit throughout Portmoak was debated without conclusion.

It was agreed that there was no point in simply moving the Portmoak HGV problem to another area, and that Fife should also be consulted.

At the suggestion of WCllr Robertson, it was agreed that an overview of the situation should be made with the objective of establishing Kinross-shire as a pilot area for the study of road haulage and its impact on communities.

Elizabeth agreed to pull information together from this wider perspective, and to liaise with WCllrs Robertson and Barnacle, who could provide additional input from their own previous local experience and information.

It was agreed that the object of the exercise would be to involve Community Councils, elected members, the Police, Perth and Kinross Council, Fife Council, and others as appropriate, in the production of a balanced submission to Transport Scotland.

The Chairman thanked Elizabeth Smith MSP for her interest and involvement with Portmoak in the resolution of this problem.

### **Speeding**

A resident said that speeding vehicles in Kinnesswood in the early morning are still a problem. It had previously been suggested to the Police that early morning and evening would be the most productive times to address this problem.

### **House Levels at Wellside Park**

A resident said that the height of a house being built on the Wellside Park development seemed to be greater than that indicated on the approved plans, and asked if the CC could intervene to verify this. This was agreed.

### **Radome on Munduff Hill**

A resident of Kinross had written to the CC to say that he considered this device to be an intrusion on the skyline, and this could perhaps be reduced by a change of colour from white. This Radome is subject of a planning application to P&KC, presently under consideration by the CC. There was some discussion during Planning 4.4, and it was felt that white was probably the best choice against the sky. It was also remarked that the Radome was probably white for operational reasons. This will be reviewed during the CC planning consideration.

### **Gritting of Road at Wester Balgedie**

The Chairman had written to P&KC Roads Department to ask that the road from the A911, through Wester Balgedie, and then onwards to Glenlomond could be given priority, as this new bus route was not being gritted until late in the day.

### **Grit Bin at Church Car Park**

A Scotlandwell resident had asked if a grit bin could be provided, as the car park is dangerously icy in winter. The Chairman had accordingly written to P&KC Roads Department.

### **Access to Field from A911**

A resident reported that a wide access had been created leading to a field to the west of the A911, between Woodmarch and Kinnesswood, and he asked if this had required planning permission. The CC undertook to investigate.

### **Vandalism**

The same resident reported vandalism on the golf course, and the throwing of eggs at parked cars. He had not reported these events to the Police. The CC may do this after speaking to officials at the Golf Club.

### **Wind Farms**

The same resident then spoke in general terms about the proliferation of wind farms in the area, and their visual impact, and asked what the CC was doing to prevent this, as he considered that there were better ways of generating electricity. The Chairman said that the CC would address individual wind farm planning applications to P&KC as they arose, but that it was Scottish Government policy to build wind farms as part of a commitment to generate electricity from renewable sources. The Chairman said that the discussion of government policy was beyond the remit of the CC, as indeed were the merits of other means of generating electricity.

### **Proposed Wind Farm at Tillyrie**

A member of the public, a landowner from Milnathort, addressed the meeting to say that it was on her land that the proposed wind farm at Tillyrie would be built. She gave the history of two previous failed applications for the site, and the effect on her, and her personal rationale for now wishing to make another application for three turbines instead of five, and also of shorter blade length. She said that the wind farm would make a donation to the Milnathort Future Trust from its operating profits, and this would benefit various Milnathort charities. She asked Portmoak CC to support this planning application.

**6. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held at 7.00pm, on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013, in Portmoak Primary School.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 9pm.

**[www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)**

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