

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on November 13th 2012 at Portmoak Primary School

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

WCllrs : D. Cuthbert and W. Robertson. 6 members of the public attended.

Apologies : Cllrs J. Bird and M. Strang Steel. Ward Cllrs J. Giacomazzi and M. Barnacle.

2. Previous minutes: Were approved and signed following a correction to the Report from WCllr M. Barnacle.

3. Matters arising

3.1. B920

The soft verges of the B920 are still to be identified by reflective roadside poles, and the warning signs are still to be erected. The CC has been advised that works orders for these have been issued by P&KC Roads, and work will be completed this financial year. In addition, two pairs of signs at the north of Scotlandwell will warn drivers about pedestrians crossing the A911 to reach the car parks at the Church and Portmoak Hall.

Refreshing of the surface painted road signage on the A911 from Milnathort to Auchmuir Bridge is in hand with P&KC Roads Dept. No indication as yet of a completion date.

3.2. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter

The asbestos roof has been replaced, and new interior roof woodwork has been painted. The new floor has also been laid, and the external grouting will be done in 2013, as this requires warmer weather. The Chairman had spoken to Mr Moray Fraser of P&KC to thank him for this excellent work.

3.3. Flooding on road between Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond

A legal solution to this long standing problem is now in hand with P&KC, on the initiative of WCllr Giacomazzi.

3.4. Stephen's Field.

Representatives of the CC held a productive meeting with Mr John Stephen of A & J Stephen Ltd on 11th October to clarify various matters such as vehicular access, orphan ground, and responsibility for the maintenance of some areas. A letter outlining items to be clarified or resolved was sent to Mr Stephen, as agreed, on 18th October. Another meeting in early 2013 is anticipated. Meanwhile the CC is working to establish a management committee for the field, and sources of potential funding are being explored.

3.5. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

Mr Alex Page, Project Development Officer for the LLLP, together with Board Members Professor David Munro, and Mr George Lawrie, were present by invitation, and spoke about the LLLP and its objectives.

The LLLP is a landscape conservation and development project, working with landowners and an association of local agencies and organisations, including Benarty Community Forum Group, Centre for Stewardship at Falkland, Fife Council, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Kinross Museum Trust, Lomond Hills Regional Park, Markinch Heritage Group, and TRACKS.

The Living Lomonds area includes the Lomond Hills Regional Park, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Loch Leven, and surrounding areas. The LLLP has received first round support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop their project during 2012 under the Landscape Partnerships Grant Programme. A second round application will be made in March 2013, with a proposed three year delivery phase from late 2013 to 2015.

The HLF Landscape Partnership scheme requires projects to address the following themes relating to the natural and cultural heritage in a specified landscape:

- Conserving and restoring
- Increasing community participation
- Access and learning
- Training and skills.

A number of background studies have been completed, including archaeology, biodiversity, woodlands, historic landscape, intangible heritage, access, and audience development. These have helped to identify the priorities that the proposed projects are designed to address.

Examples of a number of proposed projects were given, subject to land owner / manager approval, with an emphasis on those planned for the Portmoak area:

- Portmoak Moss – surveys, management planning and follow up activities to conserve this important natural resource.
- Improving the management of access in the area, using self-closing gates, fencing, seasonal signage and involving land managers in the management of access in the area.
- Information centres and posts to direct visitors to key heritage features and interpret these in a variety of ways (e.g. leaflets, smart phone applications)
- Survey/audit of archaeological features using community volunteers guided by an experience archaeologist.
- Inspiring school children to connect with the ‘literary landscape’ through workshops drawing on the rich history of poetry and literature.
- Training apprenticeships in rural skills to help tackle unemployment and promote conservation/restoration of the local heritage.

During the current development phase, the membership of the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership is under review. Portmoak Community Council expressed the wish to be represented on the Partnership.

The Chairman thanked the LLLP representatives for their time, and for their excellent presentation.

3.6. Lomond Country Inn

The Inn is currently being offered for sale by Messrs Ballantynes of Perth.

3.7. Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill – Supporting Community Councils

Following the CC response to this on 24th September, the CC was represented at a meeting on 6th November, organised by P&KC Democratic Services, to examine the roles and responsibilities of Community Councils, and to the views of CCs on the value of the government's Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, which considers expanding the role of Community Councils. Portmoak felt that the meeting was useful, but the Agenda had not been fully dealt with.

3.8. Content of Police Reports

The Chairman had previously written to ask if information about solved crimes and road traffic accidents could be included in Police Reports. No response to this request had been received.

3.9. Gorse and Vegetation at Golf Course A911 boundary

There has been no response to the CC letter to the Golf Club on 20th September, to ask if they could clear this vegetation. Another request has been made.

3.10. Community Payback Orders

The CC had received basic information about this scheme from P&KC asking if there would be any tasks available for people doing community service, and offering to give a presentation to the CC. The Chairman had asked for further information. A reminder had been sent, with the clearance of the gorse and vegetation along the A911 in mind, as above, but still no response. WCllr Cuthbert offered to pursue the matter.

3.11. Britain in Bloom – Silver Gilt Award Signs for Scotlandwell

P&KC are unable to provide these because of budget constraints, and a letter to the Royal Horticultural Society had produced nothing. This matter is however still in hand with P&KC in connection with the replacement of Scotlandwell village name signs.

3.12. Countryside Rangers

WCllr Robertson was in touch with Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust to ask if Rangers could be provided to ensure responsible access to farmland, following complaints from landowners and farmers at the last CC meeting. WCllr Robertson reported that this matter was proceeding satisfactorily.

3.13. Wall at foot of Field on A911 at "Greenacres" Kinnesswood

The Chairman had spoken to a member of the family who own the field, and the need to repair this wall had been noted by them. This is to be done.

3.14. Accidents on A911 at Wester Balgedie

Daryl McKeown of P&KC Roads Dept. is arranging a site meeting with the CC and P&KC representatives, to discuss remedial measures such as signage and anti-skid surfaces.

3.15 Developer Contribution for Scotlandwell Trees

This money, or trees to the same value, for planting in Scotlandwell, should have been given to the CC three years ago. Thanks to various efforts to firstly trace this, and then to have it passed to the CC, Scotlandwell In Bloom have now heard from P&KC, who are going to discuss tree types and locations with them.

3.16. 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 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. The CC will review this application before submission, and will also write to justify and support the P&KC funding element of this vital piece of infrastructure. The CC thanked TRACKS for their assistance.

3.16. Failure to enforce landscaping conditions in Planning Consents

CCllr Cairncross had previously prepared a report for WCllr Cuthbert concerning Portmoak planning consents where landscaping requirements had been ignored, and then not enforced by P&KC. There was a general discussion, and it was concluded that P&KC did not consider landscaping to be a priority matter. There are 6 planning consents requiring landscaping still outstanding within Portmoak, and it was agreed that the CC would monitor each for compliance, and would report any default to P&KC planning.

4. Reports

4.1. Police Report

There was no Police presence, but a report was submitted:

No crimes solved since last Meeting.

Overnight on 15th October 2012, a trailer valued at £1,800 was stolen from Bishop Terrace, Kinnesswood. This is presently under enquiry.

Regular speed checks continue on local arterial roads. In response to specific resident concern over speeding vehicles in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell, speed checks were carried out between 2.30pm and 3.30pm on Thursday 1st November in both villages.

No speeding was detected. The CC commented that 8am to 9am would be a better time to conduct a speed check. Similarly 5pm to 6pm.

Operation Ainslie : This aims to detect housebreaking along the A9 between Stirling and Inverness.

Community Tasking and Co-ordination Groups : These aim to address neighbourhood issues. Six Groups have been created, one of which is in Kinross.

4.2. Treasurers Report

The balance in the two CC accounts was currently £941.84p

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 **3.15**.

4.4. Planning

The Community Council had considered the following two applications to P&KC and had made no objection.

12/01704/FLL, Widening of verges and amendment to traffic islands on B9097, to accommodate transport of wind turbine components to Westfield Wind Farm. Construction of new traffic island at B9097 / B920 junction.

12/01801/FLL, "Iona" Back Dykes Road, Kinnesswood, KY13 9HJ, Modification of existing consent (12/01192/FLL) variation of condition 2, roughcasting of wall.

Objections were made to a further two applications;

12/01745/FLL, Balneathill House, Easter Balgedie, KY13 9HQ, Erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle) This is a renewed application. The original (12/00943/IPL) was withdrawn in July 2012.

12/01740/FLL, Wellside Park, Scotlandwell. Modification of existing consent (08/01059/FLL) to sub-divide plot 11 to create two plots and to substitute a new house type on plots 9 and 10.

These four decisions were those of the entire Community Council.

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

WCllr Dave Cuthbert reported that a recent Community Speed Initiative had been successful at Fossoway. As a Portmoak resident had previously expressed an interest in this scheme, the Chairman undertook to contact him again.

As Chairman of KLEO, WCllr Cuthbert also drew the attention of the CC to the forthcoming Kinross Music Festival, to run from 15th to 25th November.

WCllr Willie Robertson reported that the recent Local Development Plan would be considered by P&KC Councillors in January 2013, with a view to making any amendments needed in view of the 1,500 representations made during the consultation process.

WCllr Robertson also suggested that Ward Councillors should be involved with the laying of wreaths at Kinross-shire War Memorials on Remembrance Sunday in 2013, and that War Memorials should be updated to record the names of those who had lost their lives in conflicts occurring after WW2. He would be progressing these two matters.

5. AOCB

Heavy Goods Vehicles using the A911

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 Smith MSP, who had also received complaints about this during her own work as an MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife.

Elizabeth had been in contact with Inspector Edward of Tayside Police, and there will be a discussion about this problem at the December 11th meeting of the CC, when Elizabeth and a representative of Tayside Police will be present. This will also be an opportunity to raise other traffic issues, as well as a chance to hear from Elizabeth and to raise other matters relevant to Portmoak with her.

Westfield Wind Farm – Community Benefit Fund

The Chairman has written to Infinis Plc., the developers of the 5 turbine wind farm presently under construction at Westfield, to ask that Portmoak CC be included in the team of local groups that will assist with the management of the Community Benefit Fund to be established by Infinis.

Congratulations : Portmoak Community Council would like to congratulate George and Margaret Brown, of Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood, who will be celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary on 21st November.

6. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm, on 11th December 2012, in Portmoak Primary School.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

www.portmoak.org