

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on October 8th 2013 at Portmoak Primary School

- 1. Attendance:** CCllrs: M Strang Steel (Chair); R Cairncross (Secretary); B Calderwood (Deputy Chair); S Forde; Tom Smith. WCllrs: M Barnacle; J Giacopazzi; and W Robertson; a member of the Police; and 7 members of the public

Apologies : CCllr R Williamson ; WCllr D Cuthbert:

- 2. Change of Office Bearers:** The Council received the resignation of CCllr Ian McGrattan and expressed its gratitude for his helpful service to the Council. The Chairman also noted the resignation of Rita Pritchard as Minute Secretary and thanked her for interest in the Council.

The Chairman introduced new arrangements for the conduct of the Council's business.

Invitation for New Members: The Chairman explained that the Council was now operating with two members short of its establishment of eight. The Council would welcome interest from any resident of Portmoak over the age of 18 years who might wish to join the Council. Interest in the position of Minute Secretary would also be welcome. Please contact the Secretary or any member of the Council.

- 3. Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held in September 2013 were approved, subject to the addition of apologies from CCllr T Smith, by the CC and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- 4.1 Stephen's Field: No further progress to report.
- 4.2 Footpath between Easter and Wester Balgedie: WCllr W Robertson confirmed that progress had been made but had been delayed by work needed to support the further development of the Heritage Trail.
- 4.3 Grounds Maintenance: WCllr J Giacopazzi reported that PKC had provided a budget of £60,000 to carry out a second cut of roadside verges at important junctions. Cll Calderwood would provide him with a list of those in Portmoak.

5. Reports

- 5.1 Police: PC Victoria Riches presented the Police report and stated that: there had been no significant crime in the past month in the Portmoak area; speed checks in Scotlandwell were continuing and tickets issued; and that Kinross-shire Rural Watch had been launched. Members of the public were encouraged to sign up to Kinross-shire Rural watch and can do so electronically on www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk. A Public consultation survey on local policing had also been launched and members of the public are asked to provide feedback.

The Chairman asked what might be done to provide regular feedback on the results of investigations into previously reported crimes and will, on advice, now raise the matter formally with the Police.

Separately, the Community Council was alerted to a further public consultation now underway by Police Scotland to consider how public counter services at police stations could be more effectively managed and delivered. The Community Council gave preliminary consideration to the proposal to withdraw public counter provision at the Kinross station and would respond formally before the consultation ends on 31st October.

5.2 Treasurer: In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman reported a balance of £650.85 in the General Account, and £820.88 in the Michael Bruce Way Account. Total £1,471.73 as at the end of September 2013. The only expenditure in the month had been for the hire of the hall and on clearance of a part of the Michael Bruce way which had become overgrown.

5.3 Planning: The CC had considered the following planning application and had agreed to object to:

13/01425/FLL Modification of existing consent (10/00134/FLL) Change of house type (plot 2) and change of use from agricultural into garden ground, Land north of Kilmagadwood Cottage Scotlandwell. The Council was concerned that the junction with the A911 was unsafe and that building was progressing in conflict with planning conditions. It had also sought assurance about the ridge height of the property and the landscaping and maintenance of the redundant land at the junction. The Chairman asked what council policy is in relation to the enforcement of planning conditions in the light of the planners' apparent reluctance to take action. The ward councillors were unable to provide an answer. WCllr J Giacobazzi agreed to work with Council Staff, local residents, and the Community Council to reach a constructive outcome.

The CC considered the following planning applications made to P&KC and agreed not to object to:

13/01482/FLL Removal of conditions 2 and 3 (use of building and external storage) planning consent, 3 Middleburn Cottages, Kirkness Cardenden.

13/01543/FLL Erection of dwelling house - modification of (08/01803/FLL) change of house type, Balneathill House, Easter Balgedie.

13/01185/ADV Display of two signs, Land 70 metres North East of Fairview house, Scotlandwell.

13/01465/FLL Formations of agricultural field access (for TRACKS) East Newhall Cottage Kinross KY13 9LU

These decisions were unanimous.

Local Development Plan: The CC is considering 4 pieces of Supplementary Guidance as part of a consultation by Perth and Kinross Council and will, if necessary, respond by 11th October.

Developer contributions: The CC awaits confirmation that the developer contributions to The Green at Scotlandwell and to Portmoak Primary School have been made.

The CC is pursuing the position re Planning Consent when a permanent access from a field to a road is constructed by a landowner.

5.4 Roads:

Gritting and Snow Clearing: There is now a pressing need to clarify these arrangements - in particular whether local farmers are to be retained to support local snow clearing when required. CCI Calderwood would talk to the farmers who had put their names forward to participate in the scheme.

HGV Traffic in Portmoak: Diversion of HGV traffic transiting Portmoak along the A911 remains an outstanding and important matter and is linked to the possible reclassification of the A911 and B9070. The Community Council learned there was uncertainty whether responsibility for such decisions lay with Perth and Kinross Council or with Transport Scotland. WCllr W Robertson undertook to clarify the matter.

Request for a pelican crossing on the South Loch road at Vane farm to assist disabled visitors reaching Vane Farm from the Heritage Trail. WCllr W Robertson reported that this approach was not practicable and that other solutions were being pursued. The tunnel under the road at Vane Farm could not apparently be easily adapted as the approach on the north side was restricted by a water main.

Cllr B Calderwood confirmed that a detailed listing of outstanding road works across Portmoak would shortly be available and would be shared with Perth and Kinross Council Roads Department and with Ward Councillors.

5.5 Paths: Report carried forward due to lack of time

- 6. Outh Muir Windfarm** The Council had been invited by Perth and Kinross Council to comment directly to Fife Council on the proposal to erect five wind turbines - 110 metres high to blade tip plus associated infrastructure. The blade tips will be higher than all but a few points in the Cleish Hills and visible from many parts of Portmoak. The proposals would apparently be in contradiction of a number of policies from the Kinross Area Local Plan 2004, the Perth and Kinross Proposed LDP January 2012, the Dunfermline and West Fife Local Plan 2012 and the Fife Council's adopted SPG on Wind Energy. The Community Council considered whether or not the proposals would have a major adverse impact on existing landscape character and visual amenity of the Cleish Hills and the Kinross basin. There were no comments from the members of the public present. Two Councillors voted to object and three to make no comment. There were no abstentions. The CC will therefore take no action.

7. Ward Cllr Reports

WCllr W Robertson: advised that consideration was being given to the live broadcast of the deliberations of P&KC's Development Management Committee; and that there had been good progress with completion of the Heritage Trail.

WCllr Barnacle: asked to be notified of any road junctions requiring additional cutting; and alerted the Community Council to possible interference with the public right of responsible access due to shooting near Portmoak Moss at Grahamstone. CCI Williamson was to be in touch with the complainer for more details.

Both WCllr Barnacle and Robertson reported on interest in a possible return of the railway to Kinross; and on the intention to hold a meeting under the umbrella of the Kinross Community Council Network (KCCN) to examine: (i) the case for designating Kinross-shire as a National Scenic Area and (ii) the matter of possible fracking.

8. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor.

No matters notified.

9. AOCB

A resident sought further information on the current speed review along the A911 and whether or not the build-outs had influenced speed. The Community Council was advised that a speed review had taken place and the results would be available in due course.

The Community Council was advised the Perth and Kinross Council were consulting on their review of polling stations in their district. The ward councillors advised that no changes were being proposed for Kinross-shire and accordingly no action was thought necessary.

10. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm, on Tuesday 12th November 2013**, at Portmoak Primary School.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 09.00 pm.

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