

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on May 14th 2013 at Portmoak Primary School

1. Attendance: Cllrs: M. Parkin (Chair) ; T. Smith; S. Forde; R. Williamson; B. Calderwood.
WClrs: M. Barnacle; W. Robertson; J. Giacomazzi, and three members of the public.

Apologies : Cllrs M. Strang Steel; R. Cairncross; Ward Cllr D. Cuthbert.

2. Previous minutes: Were approved and signed by the Chairman, after correction to the statement that a Police Report had not been received, when in fact it had, and to a clarification to Ward Cllr Robertson's statement about the piecemeal nature of planning applications from TRACKS at Levenmouth Farm making it difficult for P&KC Planning Department to apply an access condition through the site to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail.

3. Co-option of Community Councillor : Under item 7b of the Constitution, the Community Council unanimously agreed to the co-option of Mr Ian McGrattan as a Community Councillor, and Cllr McGrattan was then formally welcomed to the CC by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1. Stephen's Field

No further progress to report.

4.2. Gritting and Snow Clearing

The Chairman asked Cllrs for their input so that this report could now be prepared and submitted before the end of May. WClr Giacomazzi mentioned that the P&KC snow clearing budget for this season had been exceeded by a considerable amount.

4.3. Local Broadband Speeds

CC work continues with a view to improving local broadband speeds. More input from residents is required to prepare a case for presentation to BT.

4.4. Lomond Country Inn

The CC has established contact with the recent purchaser.

4.5. HGV Traffic

Liz Smith MSP is meeting with Mr Phil Flanders of the Road Haulage Association this month and will report further. Names of HGV operators using the A911 route to Glenrothes have been noted and passed to appropriate owners and haulage associations.

4.6. A911 Speeding

Following representations from the CC and WClr Barnacle and a resident, a review of the speed limit on the stretch between Scotlandwell and Auchmuir Bridge will be undertaken by Jillian Robinson, Principal Engineer of Road Safety and Design at P&KC Roads, in the light of increased private housing there, and the fact that the last A911 survey was made in 2009.

4.7. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter

The external pointing and finishing is to be carried out now that warmer weather is here.

4.8. Wester Balgedie Bus Shelter

A letter has been received from P&KC asking if we wish this wooden bus shelter to be replaced by a metal shelter, in line with P&KC current practice of replacing wooden structures. A picture of the metal shelter has been requested by the CC, and local residents are being consulted, particularly those adjacent to the shelter.

4.9. A911 footpath between Easter and Wester Balgedie

As has previously been reported, TRACKS and P&KC submitted an application to Sustrans for part funding (£49,403) of a sealed-surface path costing £98,807, with matched funding to be sought from P&KC Community Greenspace (£14,822) and SITA Trust (£34,582)

The project was within the Sustrans criteria, and the SITA Trust application result would be known in July 2013.

Subject to negotiations with landowners, the project was on target.

Mr George Lawrie of TRACKS now reported that the £49,403 Sustrans application has been approved, with a final draw down date of 31st March 2014. The SITA Trust application was still in process, with a decision date in July, as was the P&KC Community Greenspace application.

He further reported that there was positive progress with negotiations for the purchase of a 5 metre strip of land needed for construction of the complete path on the landward side of the A911, and also for the funds needed for the purchase of this land.

The Chairman asked if the CC should proceed further with the Climate Challenge Fund, with whom he had been maintaining contact. He stressed that carbon saving was the sole criteria for success and this would have to be quantified with acceptable methodology. After brief discussion it was decided to keep this on hold until July 2013, and the result of the SITA application.

4.10. Car parking for Scotlandwell

The possible development of a site on the B920 (H54), plus sundry infill development, could increase the size of Scotlandwell by 66%. Parking in Scotlandwell is already limited, and there is no provision for public parking. The leisure proposals for the Moss itself, together with visitors to the recently restored Wash House and Well, will further increase the demand for parking.

In the 2004 Local Development Plan, P&KC had required provision of land for car parking in Scotlandwell, and in the 2013 Draft Local Plan they had agreed that encouragement would be given to proposals that provided additional parking. As a source of such parking, the CC is presently in discussion with Bishopshire Curling Club regarding the possibility of combining car parking within their proposals for the restoration of their outdoor curling ponds at Moss Road. It was suggested that the Community Challenge Fund might be a source of funding for this, but it was hoped that the resources of Bishopshire Curling Club would be sufficient.

Cllr Bruce Calderwood is managing this project for the CC.

4.11. Grounds Maintenance

The CC has written to P&KC about the proposed reduction to grounds maintenance, particularly at Wester Balgedie, at the junction of the A911, and a response has been received from the Executive Director (Environment) to say that a further response from the Principal Parks Officer will be made by 1st May. This has not yet been received.

4.12. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

Mr George Lawrie reported that the LLLP would be creating a forum of Community Councils if their Lottery funding application was successful, and that rather than have Cllr Tom Smith on their Committee – as had been requested – the forum would serve the same purpose, and that application for inclusion should be made to the LLLP in due course.

It was also mentioned that the Community Fund to be formed by the developer of the Westfield wind farm wished to deal only with one of the Fife Community Councils, and any dealings for the possible benefit of Portmoak should be addressed to that CC.

5.0. Reports

5.01. Police

A written report was submitted and PC Sadie Allan was also present. No actions from previous meetings. A road roller has been stolen from Powmill. The Crook of Devon Speedwatch scheme has been reviewed and may be formalised on a permanent basis. There are no proposals to implement any other Speedwatch schemes because of the present re-modelling of the Road Policing Unit in Tayside.

There was an explanation of the new 101 non-emergency number, but 999 should still be used for anything suspicious. PC Allan warned that bogus workmen are more prevalent in the better weather and urged caution if residents are cold-called by workmen wishing to carry out repairs of their own description, the need for which was previously unknown.

5.02. Treasurer

The Treasurer presented audited accounts to the Year ended March 2013 showing a balance of £355.78 in the Michael Bruce Way account, and £247.90 in the CC General account. Total £603.68. These audited accounts will be submitted to P&KC.

5.03. Planning

The CC had considered one Planning Application made to P&KC and had agreed not to make any comment or objection. This was;

13/00700: Levenbank, Wester Balgedie. Addition of a single storey sunroom, plus extension to form new study, lobby, and utility room.

It was noted that P&KC has granted consent for alteration and extension to 27 Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood (13/00522/FLL).

It was also noted that the application for a dwelling house at Arnot Tower has been withdrawn (13/00401/FLL)

13/00505/FLL: Land at Loch Leven's Larder. Change of use to form Cricket Ground, Pavilion, Car Parking etc. The CC has written to P&KC Planning to emphasise their support for this application.

The CC has asked P&KC for the position regarding Planning Consent when a permanent access from a field to a road is constructed by a landowner. No response as yet.

CCLr Cairncross had attended the Planning Users Forum held by P&KC on 9th May 2013, and had submitted a report to CCLrs. In particular it was noted that P&KC are proposing to work with some individual CCs on specific matters which may involve more than just planning. Presently under consideration for this proposal are the 12 CCs of Highland Perthshire and the Kinross CC group of 6.

It was noted that a £12,790 developer contribution in respect of the Kilmagadwood site had been paid to P&KC, and that this was intended for use by Portmoak Primary School. The School had been alerted to this by the CC. This contribution would pay for a proposed library extension at the school.

5.04. Roads

The following matters are still in hand with P&KC Roads Department.

- Refreshing of the surface painted road signage on the A911 from Milnathort to Auchmuir Bridge.
- Improved signage and road markings at the Wester Balgedie junction with the A911.
- Drain covers collapsing on the Portmoak length of the A911.
- Replacement reflective signs at New Gullet Bridge on the B920.
- Hidden Dip signs, that are to be erected on the A911 and the B9097.

WCllr Robertson suggested that if any collapsed drain cover or other defect is causing immediate danger, then this should be reported via e-mail to clarence@pkc.gov.uk or by phoning 01738 625411.

5.05. Paths

It was agreed to launch another fundraising effort for the Michael Bruce Way, and to form a paths group that could assist with work on the MBW, and also contribute to the upkeep of this well used local attraction.

It was noted that the present balance in the MBW account would probably be insufficient to pay for another complete season of grass cutting.

George Lawrie of TRACKS mentioned that there was a Community Paths Group run by Mr Dave Stubbs at P&KC, that could assist by lending tools to any Portmoak paths group

6.0. Ward Cllr Reports

WCllr Robertson reported that access to the Heritage Trail via Levenmouth was still being investigated. WCllr Giacomazzi indicated that an alternative proposal to use a path on the SW side of Portmoak Airfield would be unsafe because of glider movements, and would probably not be an acceptable alternative.

WCllr Giacomazzi reported that he had inspected damaged and collapsing walls at Wester Balgedie and also beside the pavement at the north entrance to Kinnesswood on the A911, and that P&KC would be contacting their owners regarding the need for repairs.

He also reported that replacements are still available for defective cat eye road markers, and it is P&KC policy to replace these where defective, finance permitting, but not to install new markers.

WCllr Robertson also reported that at his suggestion, P&KC had created a small rapid response maintenance team, capable of dealing directly with minor road and other repairs. This would dispense with the usual lengthy inspection and report process.

7.0. AOCB

A resident reported that the Post Office van that visited Kinnesswood was now fully operational due to the provision of broadband access, enabling the use of its computer and equipment for cash and other online transactions.

8.0. Date of next meeting.

The next CC meeting will be held at 7.00pm, on Tuesday 9th July 2013, at Portmoak Hall.

There will not be a meeting in June 2013.

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

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