

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 10th June 2014 at Portmoak Primary School

1. Attendance: CCllrs: Malcolm Strang Steel (Chairman); Bruce Calderwood (Deputy Chair); Robin Cairncross (Secretary); Richard Williamson (Treasurer); Susan Forde; and Tom Smith; and WCllrs: Willie Robertson; Joe Giacobazzi; and 6 members of the public.

Apologies: CCllr Richard Williamson (Treasurer); and WCllrs Mike Barnacle and Dave Cuthbert.

2. Invitation for New Members: The Community 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 on 0159 284 0672 or any member of the Council.

3. Previous minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held in May 2014 were approved.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

4.1 Stephen's Field: No further progress.

7.1 Royal Mail Post Box at Kinnesswood: No further progress

5. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership: Sarah MacDonald, Community Participation & Training Manager presented an overview of the work of the Partnership. This is being taken forward over the next two years with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources. It is a landscape conservation programme which aims to re-connect people with the living legacy of the Lomond and Benarty Hills through a range of community-based activities, volunteering opportunities and projects. These are expressed through five themes: Rural Skills Training (opportunities for young unemployed); Living Heritage (recognised through a series of craft workshops); Historic Landscape (community archaeological programmes); Exploring the Lomonds (path signage and access development); and Wild Places (conservation and restoration e.g Portmoak Moss). The CC recognised that these all represented valued opportunities for residents and organisations in Portmoak and would try to publicise them. It will look to retain close links with the Partnership. The CC thanked Sarah for her presentation. Further information can be found on the Project's website www.lllp.org.uk.

6. Reports:

6.1 Police: The Council received the Police Report and noted that there had been no crimes or incidents in the past month. Advice on bogus callers and workmen was welcomed. The Ward Councillors reported that there had been two serious incidents of fly-tipping just outside the Portmoak boundary

6.2 Treasurer: The Council's accounts at the end of May 2014 recorded no change from April: a balance of £43.15 in the General Account and £771.05 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £814.20.

6.3 Planning: The CC considered the following new applications and agreed not to object to nor to make comment on:

14/00798/FLL Findatie Farm, erection of a wind turbine; and

14/00902/FLL Little Arnot, alterations and extensions to the dwellinghouse.

These were the unanimous decisions of the CC.

Progress with applications The CC noted the following:

14/00707/FLL The Lomond Inn, erection of 5 new Houses and associated engineering operations. The CC noted that P&KC had unfortunately validated this application without the required Design Statement and that to date this important information had not been made available. In the event that the Statement does become available, P&KC have agreed to promulgate it and to reopen the consultation on the application. The CC noted that: its letter of objection had surprisingly been acknowledged by P&KC as “neutral” and had not been placed on its website; and that the consultee comments from the P&KC’s conservation team had also not been placed on the website. The CC would take steps to have its letter properly categorised and publicised. The Ward Councillors shared the concern of the rest of the CC at the apparent suppression of the conservation officer’s report.

14/000153/FLL footpath Easter to Wester Balgedie. The CC with the residents of Easter and Wester Balgedie will host an opening ceremony on Saturday 14th June.

14/00607/FLL Levenmouth Farm, demolition of old farm house and erection of two one and half storey dwelling houses. Discussions were taking place to find a suitable route for a signposted path from the Heritage Trail through the Farm.

Developer contributions. P&KC had recently responded to the request by Ward Councillors and the CC for all such contributions, whether made per a Section 75 or not, to be transparent, enabled to show those made from Kinross-shire and for that information to be kept up to date. The information returned by P&KC was now being considered and in due course comment would be made. Preliminary analysis confirmed that the information was an invaluable first step but that further work would be necessary if it was to be meaningful. The CC thanked P&KC for the work carried out.

Tayplan The CC would consider how to respond before the end of June.

6.4 Roads: CClr Bruce Calderwood presented an updated “Roads Report”. The latest version of the Report would be forwarded to Ward Councillors to support their discussions with P&KC Roads Department. The CC noted:

- that its letter in respect of the series of accidents on the Scotlandwell to Bowhouse section of the A911 had not been acknowledged. This will be pursued.
- an approach from Portmoak Primary School Parent Council seeking support in resolving several traffic matters in the immediate environs of the School. The CC would wish to help and will pursue with the Parent Council clearer information on the nature of the problems.

- a proposal for a new shared-use path at Wester Balgedie. The CC welcomed this proposal which would make a safe crossing point at the junction linking this path on the loch side of road to the newly constructed path from Easter to Wester Balgedie on the hill side of the road. The CC would respond accordingly.

6.5 Paths: CClr Tom Smith reported that the “Paths Group” were preparing an approach for funding to support contracted repair work to the Michael Bruce Way. In the meantime it would be possible pursue work undertaken by volunteers.

7. Ward Cllr Reports:

WClr Joe Giacobazzi: No report.

WClr Willie Robertson: No report.

8. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor: The CC noted a request from a resident to WClr Robertson to improve paths and access links in and around Scotlandwell. This included an effective and accessible link from Scotlandwell to the Heritage Trail (the lack of such a link was seen as a disadvantage to the community); and improved links from the Church/Hall to The Green and from the village as a whole along the A911 to the new footpath from Kinnesswood leading to the Church/Hall. WClr Robertson had referred the matter to the CC. After discussion WClr Robertson asked the CC to write to him with its views after consideration of the points made.

9. AOCB:

None.

10. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm, on Tuesday 8th July 2014**, at Portmoak Village Hall.

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

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