

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 11th November 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: Michael Barnacle; Dave Cuthbert and Willie Robertson and 12 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllr Joe Giacobazzi and a Representative of Police Scotland.

- 2. Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held in October 2014 were approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.4.1 Stephen's Field: The Chairman reported that a date for a meeting with A&J Stephen was anticipated shortly.

4.3 Planning: 14/01620/IPL The Chairman noted that P&KC had appropriately notified the CC of the application and that a communications glitch had handicapped initial consideration.

4.4 Roads: There was no further information on the extent on the cat's eyes installation along the A911 other than it could begin within the next month.

- 4. Reports:**

4.1 Police: In the absence of a police representative the CC received the Police Report. Advice on scam phone calls and counterfeit notes was noted. In light of a recent spate of break-ins there is a need to review security measures in and around homes. The break-in at the Kinnesswood Shop had been detected. The lack of police attendance at CC meetings across Kinross had been raised with police authorities and an improvement could be anticipated. The CC would send representatives to the Community Safety meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 26th November in Loch Leven Community Campus. Police and fire services would be present.

4.2 Treasurer: The Council's accounts at the end of October 2014: a balance of £615.97 in the General Account and £1,696.19 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £2,312.16.

4.3 Planning:

- New applications: The CC considered the following new applications and agreed not to object to nor to make comment on:
 - 14/01791/FLL Vane Farm Nature Centre, Alterations, regarding works, formation of decking and seating, relocation of storage compound, car parking and associated works.

- 14/01683/FLL Land 50 metres south of Causeway cottage, Scotlandwell. Modification of planning proposal 09/00936/FLL (erection of dwelling house - change of house type).

The CC considered the following new application:

- 14/01368/FLL Leven Cottage Wester Balgedie, Extension of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access and car parking area. It had no objection but agreed to comment on the access to the A911.

These were the unanimous decisions of the CC.

- Progress with applications:

- 14/00707/FLL The Lomond Inn, erection of 5 houses. To report on a complaint to P&KC by the Council on the handing of the application.

The Chairman reported on two formal complaints to P&KC: failing to secure and publish a Design Statement on validating the application in default of planning regulations: and withholding access to conservation reports. This first complaint was upheld; the second was dismissed because the comments did not refer to a complete application. However in any future application the Conservation Officers final comments on the full application will be made available on Public Access.

On the 12th November P&KC Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee will consider a motion from WCCI Robertson to the effect that to improve transparency of decision making Conservation Officer's views should be included within reports and also made publicly available on the planning portal.

- 14/00607/FLL Levenmouth, Scotlandwell erection of 2 houses: notice of proposed new path to Heritage Trail.

The planning application had been amended to show the proposal for a new path. A planning decision is awaited.

4.4 Roads: The CC noted:

- that its letter of 24th April in respect of the series of accidents on the Scotlandwell to Bowhouse section of the A911 had still to be acknowledged. This will be pursued.
- that inquires had been undertaken to find how far the contracts for snow clearing offered to local farmers were appropriate and if they were discouraging recruitment. WCllr Robertson would pursue the matter.
- traffic controls in and around the school. There were different elements to this and the matter remains under consideration.

4.5 Paths: CClr Tom Smith reported that:

- Contractors had begun work to repair some of the upper stretches of the Michael Bruce Way. Continuing damage from cattle to some parts of the trail remained a concern.

- The Paths Group were reviewing paths across Portmoak and would prepare a priority list of those for further development.

5. Closure of Levensglan Nursing Home, Glenlomond

The recent announcement that the Nursing home with 68 care beds would close by 16 January came as a surprise. There would be an immediate effect on residents who were currently being re-homed and on the staff - around 100 - who travel from across Kinross and Fife and who would be made redundant. The loss of this facility at a time when community care is increasingly required should be considered. There will be an immediate impact on the community of 44 homes at Glenlomond. The infrastructure of roads, ground maintenance and sewage is maintained by the resident group at Glenlomond to which the Nursing Home make a significant contribution - approximately one fifth. Loss of that contribution would cause difficulty.

As it appears that the current owner intends to dispose of the Home as soon as is practicable, there were a number of matters which were of immediate concern to the residents and the wider community: what is the future of the Home (is it likely to continue as a Nursing Home?); and although the building will have 24 hour security from closure until disposal, there is a risk that it will lie abandoned for some time with no care and maintenance provision. What too are the implications were it to be sold for development other than as a Nursing Home.

The Glenlomond Residents Association will meet with the owners shortly and there is an intention to hold a public meeting with the owners at the Nursing Home, Glenlomond on Monday 15th December at 7.30pm.

The CC will write to interested parties to make them aware of the developing situation at Glenlomond.

6. P&KC Consultation on Management of Temporary Gypsy Traveller Encampments

The CC received this document for consultation. It recognised it as a comprehensive, practical and useful guide for managing these particular circumstances. It did not wish to comment.

7. Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr Dave Cuthbert: Work was proceeding to establish new arrangements to better link Health with Local Authority services. The potential local impact of child sexual abuse was being reviewed.

WCllr Mike Barnacle: Progress with developing the new Landscape supplementary guidance was slow and wider consultation may not now happen before the spring. He sought and secured the support of the CC for a pan-Kinross meeting of community councils.

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

A representative of the Portmoak Moss Local Committee explained that, although extensive renovation work had recently been completed, the intention was now to develop a new Management Plan for the Moss. There would be an opportunity to see what is proposed and to contribute to it at an open drop-in session on Friday 5th December between 6.00 - 8.00pm at the Well Inn in Scotlandwell. All are welcome.

Christmas trees will be available at the Moss on Sunday 14th December. These are free but a donation would be appreciated.

9. AOCB:

Commissioning Superfast Broadband: This programme led by Digital Scotland and BT had meant that fibre-optic cables now follow the A911 throughout its length as it crosses Portmoak. Houses connected to “cabinets” in Kinnesswood were now able to access the service. It was unclear when and if the rest of Portmoak would be connected.

Kinnesswood Post Box: This long saga may be coming to an end as Royal Mail has informed the CC that a request for installation has now “gone out to a contractor” to carry out.

10. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm, on Tuesday 9th December, 2014**, at Portmoak Primary School.

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

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