

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 13th October 2015 at Portmoak Hall

- 1. Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); B Calderwood (Deputy Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); S Forde; and T Smith; and WCLrs M Barnacle; and D Cuthbert; and 11 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLrs: D Morris; and R Williamson; and WCLrs W Robertson and J Giacopazzi; and the Police.

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes:** The draft Minute of the Meeting held in September 2015 was approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

5.5 Roads. “Green route” from Wester Balgedie along the Dryside Road. Further information is being sought from Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) on potential speed limits along this route.

7.0 Portmoak cemetery. PKC has yet to respond to the CC’s request to retain long established burial provision within the parish and to liaise with the CC re positioning of a bench gifted to the community.

- 4. Scottish Gliding Centre (SGC) – Presentation on operations and use of aerotow:** Colin Hamilton, tug pilot at SGC, explained the recent change to the operation of the aerotow had been introduced to allay public concerns. Safety was paramount in SGC operations. There were approximately 10,000 winch tows and 900 aerotows per year. The SGC had recently commissioned a new tug aircraft which, when following the established route for tows to the west, had meant that the point of release of the glider was in the vicinity of the golf course. The public noted a drop in engine noise and the aircraft tilting towards the ground. Although this was normal practice it had cause alarm. A new route had been commissioned where the aircraft, after take-off, turned north and then circled to the left over Loch Leven while still gaining height. Glider release would now occur at a greater altitude than before and in the vicinity Grahamstone Farm. There were no issues when taking off to the east. Separately the SGC explained policy for runway utilisation and how the point at which gliders aimed to land was governed by a “point of reference” that allowed for optimum runway space. Mr Hamilton was thanked for his presentation.

- 5. Reports:**

- 5.1 Police: The CC noted the monthly police report and that the Police had raised a concern about traffic calming measures in Kinnesswood. Drivers were making poor judgements when to progress through the single carriageway in the face of oncoming traffic. This concern had been shared with the Roads Department of Perth and Kinross Council and situation would now be monitored. The CC noted that there had been a further accident on the A911 at West Bowhouse. The Commander’s Bulletins of 11th, 17th, 25th September and of 2nd and 8th October were noted.

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5.2 Treasurer: There was no income to the general account in the month, but £20 of expenditure for hall hire. The bank balance at 30th September is therefore £527.40. Within the MBW account there was income of £0.07 in bank interest, and expenditure on drainage material of £28.80. The bank balance at 30th September is therefore £874.12.

5.3 Planning:

- New applications:
 - a. 15/01482/FLL Vane Farm Nature Centre - Formation of path, seating, borrow pit and associated drainage works. No comment.
 - b. 15/01500/FLL, 28 Gamekeepers Road – extension to dwellinghouse. No comment.
 - c. 15/00978/FLL, Land 50 metres south of the Old School House, Main Street, Scotlandwell – erection of a new dwelling house. No comment.
- Progress with developments
 - a. Lomond Inn 15/00505FLL & 15/00506/CON. Progress awaited.
 - b. Glenlomond. No further progress to note.
 - c. Levenmouth 14/00607/FLL. SNH have confirmed that the necessary licences re bat preservation have been obtained.

5.4 Roads: CCllr Bruce Calderwood presented the “Road’s Report” which, subject to amendment and updating, would be placed on the CC website. Of note were:

- a. *Traffic on A911*: The CC heard from a resident that HGV passage through Kinnesswood was causing difficulties with significant vibration felt in residences and vehicles having to mount pavements. These were long-standing problems. The Chairman would welcome supporting evidence if that were that available. It was regrettable that there was no mechanism for informing all satnav providers that the A911 through Portmoak was “inadvisable” for HGVs. Representatives of the CC will meet shortly with PKC Roads Department to review a number of issues affecting the A911 including the introduction of 20mph speed restrictions. HGV transit through Portmoak would be explored.
- b. *The Old Gullet Bridge*: PKC would shortly complete repairs which had been delayed for several months because of the presence of wild life and the consequent need to acquire the relevant SNH licence.
- c. *The Moss Road Car Park at Scotlandwell*: Subject to acquiring the necessary funding, plans were in hand to refurbish the car park (expanding its capacity to around 6 cars) and for the CC to take ownership of it.
- d. *Cats Eyes*: These would be replaced along the A911 from Burleigh Road Milnathort to Auchmuirbridge over 5 days commencing 2/11/15. The CC thanked PKC and ward councillors for making this long overdue improvement possible.

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- e. *Grit Bins:* The CC remained concerned that PKC would not provide and service two grit bins needed in the hillier part of Portmoak.
- f. *South Loch Road:* Ward Councillors would pursue a review of the signage and road markings for the second blind summit going west on this road.
- g. *Snow clearing winter 2014/15.* The CC noted that the PKC scheme had failed to attract participation from local farmers.
- h. *Warning signage at West Bowhouse.* In view of a recent accident there the CC sought information on progress with PKC's commitment to install improved warning signs on this stretch of the A911.

5.5 Paths: CCllr Tom Smith reported that, as part of its final work on the Whitecraigs site, A & J Stephen: was undertaking landscaping; had installed new drainage along the existing path leading down from Stephen's field to the golf clubhouse on the A911; and was substantially rebuilding the path for part of that route. The CC would review planning requirements in respect of landscaping and related matters in advance of A & J Stephen's departure from the site.

The Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership (LLLP) had approached the CC advising of their potential support of £500 for a limited range of community activities. The CC would consider this. It noted that LLLP will shortly publish two leaflets for walkers. These were "self-guided place-name walks" which aimed to re-connect people with the hills, and covered the Michael Bruce Way and a section of the Heritage Trail from Carsehall to Findatie. While these were welcome it was disappointing that the CC had had limited opportunity to comment on the leaflets during their preparation. The Chairman would raise the matter with LLLP.

- 6. **Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland - Consultation:** The CC would shortly submit its comments on the consultation to the Commission. The Commission proposed that the number of ward councillors for Perth and Kinross would fall from 41 to 40, new boundaries would reduce the size of the existing Kinross-shire ward and that the number of ward councillors representing Kinross-shire Ward would fall from 4 to 3. The CC opposed these proposals and will make the case for retaining the number of ward councillors for Perth and Kinross Council at 41, the number of ward councillors for the Kinross-shire ward at 4 and for retaining, at least, the current boundaries of the Kinross-shire ward.
- 7. **Election of a New Council:** A new Community Council for Portmoak will be authorised by PKC from November 5th. Eight members had been appointed: six from the existing Council; and two new members. As the member establishment of eight had not been exceeded there would be no election. PKC were currently contacting all CC members. It was anticipated that the new CC will be commissioned formally at the next planned CC meeting on Tuesday 10th November (7.00PM in Portmoak School). Further details of the new CC will be published thereafter.
- 8. **Ward Cllr Reports:**

WCllr Cuthbert reported that the celebrations for the opening of the new refurbished Kinross town centre had been a great success. More than 6,000 had attended. The work was now substantially completed. Plans were now being taken forward for the Kinross

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Winter Festival. The Local Government Boundary Commissions plans for Kinross-shire were being considered by both ward councillors and PKC. He had approached PKC to include in their response to the Commission the option of alternative ward arrangements.

WClr Barnacle advised that on the 18th November PKC should approve the new Local Plan "Main Issues Report" for consultation. During consultation there would be opportunities for the public to comment at local "drop-in" centres.

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

Spring Tree Packs. These were now available from the Woodland Trust.

10. AOCB:

11. Date of next Meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm, on Tuesday 10th November at Portmoak School .**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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