

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 10th March 2015 at Portmoak Primary School

- 1. Attendance:** Cllrs: Malcolm Strang Steel (Chairman); Robin Cairncross (Secretary); Richard Williamson (Treasurer); Bruce Calderwood; Susan Forde; and Tom Smith; WCllrs: Mike Barnacle; Dave Cuthbert; Joe Giacopazzi and Willie Robertson; PC Sadie Allan and colleague and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: none.

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held in February 2015 were approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.3 Lomond Inn. The CC has been advised that submission of a revised planning application for this site is imminent.

3.4 Closure of Levensglenn Nursing home, Glenlomond. Plans for a residential development are awaited. The Glenlomond Residents Association will meet soon with the new owner. Pre-application plans for wider community consideration would be helpful.

8.1 Street lighting in Kinnesswood. Engineers from the PKC lighting department had undertaken to “tune” the aberrant lighting.

Reports:

4.1 Police: The CC noted the Commander’s Bulletins of 26th February and 5th March and received the monthly Police Report. There had been no local crime in the past month. There was a need to be alert as bogus workmen and workers were around. PC Allan explained that staff restructuring would enhance community policing and the Chairman confirmed that representatives of the CC would meet shortly with Community Sergeants Nicolson and Goodison. The arrangements for neighbourhood/community watch schemes were being revisited.

4.2 Treasurer: The Council’s accounts at the end of January 2015 showed: a balance of £407.50 in the General Account and £166.75 in the Michael Bruce Way Account (MBW) giving a total of £574.25. The CC would ensure that its anticipated budget allocations would be concluded before the end of the current financial year.

4.3 Planning:

- New applications:

15/00194/FLL Site West of Main Street, Scotlandwell, Modification of permission 08/01059/FLL (erection of 16 dwelling houses) subdivision of plot 6 and the erection of 2 dwelling houses. The CC had objected to this application as the site Plan had failed yet again to provide for the path from the development to The Green.

It was the unanimous decision of the CC to object.

- Progress with applications:
14/02099/FLL. Site West of Main Street Scotlandwell, Modification of Permission 08/01059/FLL (erection of 16 dwelling houses) change of house type, plot 15. In line with the new application (above) (15/00194/FLL) the CC had also objected to this application as it had not provided for the path from the development into The Green. WCllr Giacobazzi would press for formal confirmation that the path would be provided.
- Improving the Planning Development Management process. Some of our Ward Councillors would meet shortly in a PKC Member Officer Working Group to consider how planning provisions might be improved. The CC confirmed a short paper to submit to Kinross Ward Councillors, on their invitation, commenting on two approaches to improving planning: “*A Protocol for obtaining, publishing and reporting planning application comments from council (PKC) colleagues*”; and how the input from community councils could be better recognised. Ward Councillors would report progress at the next meeting of the CC.
- New Local Development Plan (LDP2). Preparations for the next Local Development Plan had commenced. The CC would shortly submit its views, taking into account those of the community, on potential sites for development and on a range of other issues. Around a dozen matters were reviewed including: housing in the field between Scotlandwell and the Church (linked to a community benefit of an effective and safe pavement/footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church and Hall); several settlement boundary issues; availability of affordable housing; transport (including HGV transit of the A911); improved car parking provisions; the development and promotion of tourism, leisure and small businesses; and improved access to the Moss. There was also a case to review the Airfield Safeguarding Policy and the possibility of extending the Fife Regional Park beyond Fife into Portmoak. As fracking licenses impinge on part of Portmoak, a policy on fracking from PKC would be welcomed.

4.4 Roads: Safety on the West Bowhouse section of A911. As it had not been possible to achieve a satisfactory conclusion of this matter, WCllr Willie Roberson would arrange a meeting of the concerned parties.

The CC noted that: extensive resurfacing work on south Loch Road B9097 would commence shortly with consequent traffic delays; and that sign repairs had been effected at Wester Balgedie. Signs on the causeway (B920) warning of soft verges had now failed and needed repair. WCllr Joe Giacobazzi would pursue PKC to repair the failed warning lighting on two build-out bollards at the north of and within Kinnesswood.

4.5 Paths: CCllr Tom Smith: Report held over to next meeting.

5. Stephen’s Field: The CC was preparing to ballot the community on the future of the Field.

6. Portmoak Community Woodland. Jeff Gunnell representing Portmoak Community Woodland Group was welcomed and explained that a detailed Report had been received on the future of the Moss entitled *Management Options for Portmoak Moss*. Copies were available in the Kinnesswood shop and on line at www.portmoakcw.org.uk/.

Woodland Trust Scotland, who own the Moss, will produce a new management plan for the Moss later this year. It was intended that this Report should inform that plan. There are a number of options within the Report ranging from “do nothing” to extensive development. There is a wish that the next management plan would commit to a level of basic maintenance which would at least sustain the tremendous progress in restoring the raised bog and provide a basis on which further funding for development could be pursued.

7. Superfast broadband and Scotlandwell. Superfast broadband had arrived in Portmoak. With two of three “cabinets” related to the Scotlandwell exchange enabled Kinnesswood was already connected. Upgrading of the third “cabinet” covering the Balgedies and Glenlmond could be anticipated. That left Scotlandwell and residences connected directly to the exchange there in an anomalous position. Digital Scotland have explained that they are “*exploring how best*” to achieve bringing Superfast Fibre broadband to Scotlandwell itself and the surrounding area. It goes on to say that “*we may deliver it as part of our commercial programme or by working in partnership with your local authority. At the moment you can’t order Superfast Fibre Broadband.*” The CC will seek the advice of Jim Valentine (the PKC official with responsibility for Local Authority participation in this Digital Scotland programme).

8. Ward Cllr Reports: The following were raised:

- Community participation in development and maintenance of the Moss was commended as was the work undertaken by CC’s Paths Group.
- Improvements to parking and access arrangements at Portmoak Primary School were in hand as were plans to introduce speed restrictions within Kinnesswood.
- PKC’s budget for next year had been settled although there appeared little consensus on how that had been achieved.
- Disposal of dog waste in public places remains a matter on which good practice should be followed.

9. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor. None notified.

10. AOCB:

Defibrillator. A new community defibrillator had been installed outside the Village Hall. Training of a cohort of first-responders was in hand.

Flood Risk Strategy. The CC would respond to a consultation on Flood Risk Plans. It was pointed out to PKC that Loch Leven drained to the river Forth basin for which PKC was not the lead local authority.

Renovation of the cobbled road access to the Wash House and Well at Scotlandwell. The CC supported the work being taken forward to secure funding for this development.

11. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm, on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at Portmoak Village Hall.**

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

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