

# Portmoak Community Council

## Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Portmoak Village Hall

1. **Attendance:** CCLrs: Bruce Calderwood (Deputy Chairman); Robin Cairncross (Secretary); Richard Williamson (Treasurer); Susan Forde; and Tom Smith; WCLrs: Mike Barnacle; Dave Cuthbert; and Willie Robertson; PC Rhiannon Lorimer and 9 members of the public.

**Apologies:** CCLr Malcolm Strang Steel; and Ward Councillor Joe Giacobazzi.

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

3. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.4 Closure of Levensglenn Nursing home, Glenlomond. The developer had been in contact with the Glenlomond Residents Association. An architect had been appointed with a view to the construction of some 15 detached homes. It was believed that the current sewage provision could suffice although improved efficiency would be explored.

4.3 New Local Development Plan (LDP2): Main Issues Report - Call for Issues and Sites. The CC had submitted its Report to Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) focussing on a number of issues. This would shortly be placed on the CC website. The CC had made no submission in respect of sites suitable for development.

6. Portmoak Community Woodland. A representative of the Portmoak Community Woodland Group presented the CC with a copy of the formal report to the Group entitled *Management Options for Portmoak Moss*. This is an important and unique local resource. Portmoak residents can read the Report on-line at [www.portmoakcc.org.uk/](http://www.portmoakcc.org.uk/) - copies are also available in the Kinnesswood Shop and Library (*the old telephone box*).

4. **Reports:**

4.1 Police: PC Rhiannon Lorimer was welcomed. The problems of speculative bogus workmen were highlighted and the public encouraged to report concerns to the police. The CC received the monthly Police Report. There had been vandalism to car in a Scotlandwell driveway and thefts of a quad bike from Kinnesswood and of a JCB telescopic handler from Kirkness Farm (both recovered with inquiries underway). The CC noted the Commander's Bulletins of 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March, and of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April. The Chairman and Secretary had had a useful meeting with our Community Sergeants: Amanda Nicolson and Geoffrey Goodison covering theft detection, reporting and prevention. A provision to include "accident reporting" within the monthly police report would be examined. New arrangements for a community watch scheme would be introduced shortly.

4.2 Treasurer: The Council's accounts at the end of March 2015 showed: a balance of £66.92 in the General Account and £ 416.92 in the Michael Bruce Way Account (MBW) giving a total of £483.88.

4.3 Planning:

- **New applications:**

15/00449/FLL: Land 200 meters North West of Findatie Farm Kinross, Erection of 16 holiday lodges and associated works relating to levels, landscaping, access and drainage for the whole site and chalet details and siting for plots 2 – 5 inclusive. There had been a previous application in principle on which the CC had commented. Decision: No comment nor objection.

15/00476/FLL: 16 Whitecraigs Kinnesswood, Extension to dwellinghouse. Decision: No comment nor objection.

15/00338/FLL: Leven Cottage Wester Balgedie, Extension to dwelling house, erection of garage and installation of solar panels. There had been a previous application on which the CC had commented. Decision: No comment nor objection.

15/00343/FLL: Land 150 Metres South West of Beechpark, Mid Bowhouse, Erection of dwellinghouse. Decision: No comment nor objection.

These were the unanimous decisions of the CC.

Immediately before the meeting the CC received notice of the following applications all of which would require comment in advance of the next meeting of the Council:

15/00464/FLL Former Causeway Cottage Scotlandwell, Modification of permission 09/00936/FLL Erection of dwelling house change of house type.

15/00506/CON Former Lomond Inn Main Street Kinross, Demolition of Buildings.

15/00562/FLL Greenhead Farmhouse, The Arnot Estate, Leslie, Erection of a Wind Turbine access and associated works.

15/00565/FLL Land 200 Metres South of Springfield Farm, Wester Balgedie, Kinross Erection of a dwelling house.

The CC would seek an extension of the 15/00506/CON (Former Lomond Inn) until after the next CC Meeting due on 12th May.

***Progress with applications:***

14/02099/FLL & 15/00194/FLL: Site West of Main Street Scotlandwell, Modification of Permission 08/01059/FLL (erection of 16 dwelling houses) change of house type, plot 15. Site plans had now been amended to include the footpath from the Wellside development to The Green and, as a consequence, the CC had withdrawn its objections. A meeting with the developer to review outstanding matters would be arranged.

***PKC Member Officer Working Group (planning) (MOG):*** WCllr Barnacle reported that many of the recommendations to improve the planning process identified at a meeting of all Kinross CCs had been recognised but not effectively addressed by the MOG. WCllr Dave Cuthbert (although not a member of the MOG) had contributed relevant papers to the meeting and been invited to participate. The CC regretted that he had been prevented from speaking.

4.4 Roads:

- **West Bowhouse section of the A911:** The CC acknowledged the decision of PKC (*John Thomson, Principal Engineer*) that the relevant condition in the original planning consent dealing with required sightlines was inappropriate and could not be delivered by the applicant. It was disappointed that speed restrictions would not be applied to mitigate the risk of further accidents. It appreciated that a new sign indicating a concealed entrance would be added and that the sign warning of bends would be up-graded.
- **Build-out illumination:** The build-outs within Kinnesswood and at the entrance approaching from Easter Balgedie had been “dark” for some four months. PKC have reported that the problems are due to water ingress and that the lights are to be replaced. As a matter of routine the condition of these build-outs would be reported to Clarence.
- **Speeding traffic within Scotlandwell:** The CC noted the concerns of a resident at the speed of traffic passing the build-out on the Leslie Road. This made it difficult for adults with children to cross the road.
- **Consultation on proposed 20 mph speed limit – Main Street, Bruce Road and Buchan Avenue, Kinnesswood:** The CC welcomed PKC proposals to create: permanent and mandatory 20mph limits as specified (to include Whitecraigs); and a permanent and part time 20 mph speed limit on a short section of Main Street. These will add to road safety in the immediate vicinity of Portmoak Primary School.

However, before confirming the arrangements in respect of Main Street Kinnesswood, the CC believes that it is now timely to consider the cogent case for similar permanent and mandatory 20mph speed limits along Main Street Kinnesswood and Main Street (with part of Leslie Road) Scotlandwell. The ability of pedestrians to move safely within these villages is important. In both villages pavements are either non-existent or extremely narrow and often make road crossing a necessity. In places it can be dangerous e.g.: crossing between the shop and garage in Kinnesswood; and around build-outs where a minority of motorists may accelerate to pass rather than wait. The A911 is a relatively narrow road with around 3,500 vehicles per 24hrs. The CC acknowledges that the exact placement of such limits within the villages would require careful evaluation. The CC would respond accordingly.

- 4.5 **Paths:** CClr Tom Smith: With the spring, voluntary work maintaining the Michael Bruce Way had recommenced. A grant from Tesco had enabled the purchase of a strimmer and bush cutter. Plans were in hand for further fund raising to support work on paths and to introduce better signage across the Portmoak path network. Anyone wishing to join the Paths Group or to help with its work should contact Tom Smith (Tel 841160).
5. **Stephen’s Field:** Preparations for a ballot of the community on the future of the Field would be taken forward shortly. Portmoak residents would have the opportunity to record their views either on-line or by completing a paper ballot return.
6. **Portmoak Church Cemetery:** WClr Willie Robertson confirmed that the cemetery was almost at capacity. Perth and Kinross Council will advise on plans to increase its capacity.

**7. Superfast broadband and Scotlandwell:** PKC has advised that 224 lines around Kinnesswood (just under one half of Portmoak homes) now have access to next generation broadband. Plans to extend this to homes in and around Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond were in hand. Unfortunately current deployment planning does not currently provide for Scotlandwell and nearby settlements. This situation may change and residents are encouraged to register with Digital Scotland to be kept informed and to regularly check provision: <http://www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen>.

**8. Ward Cllr Reports:** The following were raised:

- Failure to include the Cleish Hills and the river Devon and its Gorge as designated Special Landscape Areas within draft Supplementary Guidance. WCllr Barnacle has sought that this decision be reviewed.
- PKC had an interest in improving the environment of red squirrels. They were at risk as a pox carried by grey squirrels could affect them. There had been recent sightings across Portmoak especially at the Moss.
- Advance notice of a Boundary Commission proposal was given. The intention could be to significantly reduce the size of the Kinross Ward (which closely approximates to the boundaries of the old Kinross Council) and the number of its councillors to three. Consultation will follow in due course.

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

1. Request from Kinnesswood in Bloom (KIB): The CC will write to in support of their plans to landscape and improve land between Lavender Walk and Mrs Clydesdale's Garden.

**10. AOCB:** None raised

**11. Date of next Meeting:** The AGM and next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Portmoak School.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

[www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)