

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 12th July 2016 at Portmoak Village Hall

- 1. Attendance:** Cllrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); B Calderwood (Deputy Chair and Treasurer); R Cairncross (Secretary); T Smith; and S Forde; and WCllrs: M Barnacle; and D Cuthbert; and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs: D Morris; and A Robertson; and WCllrs J Giacomazzi and W Robertson.

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes:** The draft Minute of the meeting held in June 2016 was approved subject to the following amendments:

3.8.1 Boulders restricting the passage of essential agricultural machinery on the Dryside Road: Amend to "The land on both sides of the carriage way was believed to be owned by a local resident."

4.3 Planning (g) 16/00751/FLL Former site of Levensglan Nursing Home, Glenlmond – Erection of 13 houses. Amend to: "The CC had objected to the application unless, in the interests of road safety, the following two conditions were met:

- 1. *Passing places.*** Any consent should be conditional upon three passing places (not two as proposed) of a specification sufficient to accommodate large construction traffic between Wester Balgedie and Glenlmond being provided by the Applicant before development commences.
- 2. *Signage.*** Any consent should be conditional upon the developer installing at each end of Wester Balgedie warning signage generally in the terms specified in the CC's letter of objection of 18th January 2016 to application 18/01834/FLL and again prior to commencement of any development."

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.5.0 PKC Public Transport Consultation: WCllrs were asked to clarify if the burden of subsidy for the 201 Stagecoach route fell only on PKC or did Fife Council make a contribution.

3.8.1 Boulders restricting passage of essential agricultural machinery on the Dryside Road at Muirs of Kinnesswood. WCllr M Barnacle had taken the matter up with both the resident concerned and with PKC. The latter did not feel that it had a locus in resolving this longstanding matter. The Chairman, after further investigation, will raise the matter with the police.

7.1 Kinnesswood in Bloom (KIB) KIB had written again to A & J Stephen seeking either direct permission to or, alternatively, a lease to enable it to progress its proposed development of the site adjacent to the Golf Club. To date there had been no response. As a consequence significant funding secured to support the development could be compromised. The CC, with a different but complementary agenda, was also seeking a meeting with A & J Stephen with, to date, no success. It would redouble its efforts.

- 4. Reports:**

4.1 Police: There was no Police Report. The Commander's Bulletins of 16th June, 23rd June, 30th June, and 7th July were noted.

4.2 Treasurer: The General Account at the end of June was £140.30, while the Michael Bruce Way account was £694.39 - giving a total of funds on hand of £834.69. The operational grant from PKC for the years 2016 - 2017 was anticipated.

4.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a) 16/00981/FLL Land 50 metres south of the Old School House, Scotlandwell. Erection of dwelling house and ancillary buildings. No CC comment.
- b) 16/00982/CON Land 50 metres south of the Old School House, Scotlandwell. Demolition of buildings. No CC comment.

2. Progress with Developments

- a) Former Lomond Inn: Proposals for part demolition and erection of 5 dwellinghouses. The CC had lodged a complaint with PKC that, despite recurrent requests, conservation officer reports had not been made available. The response was judged inadequate and would be followed up. A Freedom of Information request seeking relevant information would be made. WCllrs confirmed that their attempts to seek transparency on this matter had also been rebuffed.
- b) Glenlomond: Proposals to erect 13 dwellinghouses. No further developments.
- c) Update on recent planning applications: In the past month PKC had determined seven planning applications: five had been approved and two refused. Five emanated from the three conservation areas and two did not. A summary can be found on the Council's website "*Rolling List of Applications with Decisions*".

4.4 Roads:

1. The CC noted that there had been no progress following the recent visit from the PKC to consider a number of roads issues across Portmoak. (These had been listed in the Minutes of the CC meeting of 14th June.) CClr B Calderwood would now follow these up.
2. The CC noted a response from the Minister for Transport and the Islands in respect of a number of issues relating to traffic usage on the A911: Local Authorities were now responsible for the classification of their roads; the A911 was not part of the trans-European transport network; and the Government has no control over which routes Sat-Nav devices identify as shorter alternatives but local authorities do have powers to restrict certain classes of vehicles on local roads. The CC would write once more to clarify its request for traffic travelling south on the M90 and heading to Glenrothes to defer exit from the M90 until junction 5 was reached.

4.5 Paths: This was a busy time: a) With long hours of daylight the weekly working parties held each Monday evening were proving effective. Work had focused on providing improved drainage on the upper reaches of the Michael Bruce Way and on maintenance at Peat Loan and Dryside Road. b) A new path from RSPB Vane Farm across Benarty to Balingry would open shortly. c) There had been no further information on LLLP proposal to install a Trailhead Sign at the Church carpark. CCLLR T Smith would check with the Church and LLLP. d) Portmoak Primary School had

recently held a successful sponsored walk along part of the Michael Bruce Way raising more than £2,000. £250 had been donated to the CC's Michael Bruce Way Fund. The CC would write to thank the School.

5. Progress with other matters:

5.1 Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen's Field consequent on the departure the developer. To clarify a number of outstanding matters the CC would continue to seek a meeting with the developer A & J Stephen.

5.2 Portmoak Cemetery. The matter was being pursued by the Chairman. WCllrs confirmed that in the recent budget settlement there would be some funding to support cemetery development.

6. River Leven Trustees: CCllrs M Strang Steel and R Cairncross had met with the Chairman and Secretary of the River Leven Trustees. It was a constructive meeting. More than 40 businesses used the River as a resource at the end of the 19th century but today there were three: Cameron Bridge Distillery, Fettykil Paper works, and a small hydro plant. Through regulating the supply of water from the Loch to the River, the Trustees discharged their responsibility of ensuring a consistent supply of water to these businesses. While the sluices could be controlled remotely their precise settings were determined by a recent engineering report which took into account a number of external factors. The Loch did not represent a large reservoir and there were times when management of its levels could be challenging. Towards the end of last year the Loch level was lowered yet the result of excessive rain meant that Loch levels could not be controlled. As a consequence for some weeks the spillway was in action with excess water by-passing the sluices.

It was acknowledged that there were a number of myths surrounding the management of Loch levels. The CC suggested options that the Trustees might consider to improve communication about the management of Loch levels and of the associated "cut" leading from the Loch.

7. Local Flood Risk Management Plans: The CC noted the publication by lead authorities of Local Flood Risk Management Plans. The River Leven and its drainage fell under the Forth Estuary Plan. Plans were available to view on line at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/frmplans>.

8. Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr M Barnacle reported that: a) he had raised concerns about compliance with development requirements for the Loch Leven Catchment Area in particular in respect of retrospective applications, (b) an improved capital budget had been secured proving additional funding for potential infrastructure projects, and (c) Portmoak Primary School had published an impressive Standards and Quality Report for 2015-16. The CC would write to congratulate the school on its achievement.

WCllr D Cuthbert reported that: (a) the capital budget for the next year had been settled. Members had been successful in securing some further funding for infrastructures developments. (b) he had now been appointed convenor of the Audit Committee; and (c) planning enforcement would review the erection of a shed at Kilmagadwood to determine whether a planning application was required or not.

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

None.

10. AOCB

A resident wished to record thanks to PKC for cutting verges in the past two weeks. It had made a real difference.

A request was made to remove redundant signs: for new housing at the Wellside development in Scotlandwell; and for Levenslen at the Wester Balgedie junction. These would be followed up.

- 11. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 9th August at Portmoak Village Hall.** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.