

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 10th May 2016 at Portmoak Hall

1. Attendance: CCllrs: B Calderwood (Deputy Chair and Treasurer); R Cairncross (Secretary); S Forde; A Robertson; D Morris; and C Vlasto; and WCllrs: M Barnacle; and W Robertson and PC D Stapleton and 8 members of the public.

Apologies: CCllrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); T Smith; and WCllrs D Cuthbert and J Giacomazzi.

2. Approval of previous Minutes: The draft Minute of the meeting held in April 2016 was approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes: No matters raised.

4. Reports:

4.1 Police: PC D Stapleton was welcomed to the meeting. There had been minimal incidents to report. The CC noted that there was a "Rural Crime Event" to be held in Perth on 11th May. It recognised the significance of rural crime in the Portmoak Area and regretted that little time has been available to promote this activity. As these events are held regularly, members suggested that a further meeting, held perhaps in Kinross around the beginning of November, could be helpful. Enrolment with Community and Rural Watch Schemes was encouraged. The Commanders Bulletin of 15th April was noted.

4.2 Treasurer: The General Account at the month end of April was £140.30, while the Michael Bruce Way account was 694.30 - giving a total of funds on hand of £834.60.

4.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a. 16/00429/FLL Land 200 metres North East of Turffit, Scotlandwell. Erection of a new house and ancillary accommodation. This application for a significant dwellinghouse did not meet with the requirements of PKC planning policy "Housing in the Countryside." As no justification had been presented, the CC would object.
- b. 16/00570/FLL Garden Cottage Back Dykes Kinnesswood. Open a new window. No comment.
- c. 16/00661/FLL 6 Bishop Terrace Kinnesswood. Erection of a balcony. No comment.
- d. 16/00680/FLL Moucums View Leslie Road, Scotlandwell. Removal of condition to provide site access visibility splays onto A911. The Council objects. It supports the provision of visibility splays for the reason given "in the interests of pedestrian and traffic safety and in the interests of free traffic flow."

- e. 16/00701/FLL Lilyoak Sandy Lane, Scotlandwell. Installation of new windows and door. No comment.
- f. 16/00702/FLL 23 Gamekeepers Road Kinnesswood. Installation of new timber deck over existing stair. No comment.

2. Progress with developments:

- a. 16/00325/CON and 16/00326/FLL Former Lomond Hotel, Kinnesswood. Following the April Meeting of the CC, it had written to PKC seeking once again that a Conservation Officer Report regarding the proposed whole development be published on the PKC website. The extant PKC Protocol for *“Obtaining, Publishing and Reporting Planning Application Comments from Council Colleagues”* provided for the handling of specialist comments from other colleagues such as a Conservation Officer in Development Management (*ref. para 1*). Given the nature of this application, where conservation was central to its evaluation, it was regrettable to learn from the response from PKC that no Conservation Officer Report would be made available. The CC did not accept the PKC view that in these circumstances informal discussions between the Conservation and Planning Officers would suffice. This was not in the spirit of open governance and ran counter to PKC’s stated operating practice. Ward Councillors confirmed their view that the Conservation Team should operate independently of the Planning and Development Department and that their Reports should be published. They would raise this matter at the forthcoming PKC Planning Members and Officers Working Group. The CC would now review what further action was open to it but, given that these applications may shortly be considered by the Development Management Committee, it would write immediately to seek once more the Report’s publication before that Committee meets.
- b. Glenlomond proposal to erect dwellinghouses. A new planning application was anticipated. No progress to report.
- c. Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen’s Field consequent on departure of the developer. Meeting with A & J Stephen awaited.

4.4 Roads: The CC received the PKC *“Road and Pavement Improvement List”* dated 16th April and its own *“Road Report Summary”* for May. It was a matter of concern that a significant majority of the 28 items identified by the CC had not been acknowledged by PKC. The CC had regularly submitted such matters to PKC and invited officers and Ward Councillors to site meetings. The following matters were highlighted:

- 1. *The unsafe footpath along the A911 from Scotlandwell to the Church and Hall.* This was a long standing problem. The Acting Head Teacher of Portmoak School had recently alerted the CC once again to the matter. The current poor and deteriorating state of the surface of the same foot path now constituted a danger to users and compounded the primary problem.
- 2. *Pedestrian safety in the Main Streets Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell.* Narrow pavements put pedestrians at risk. A resident proposed protective bollards on certain pavements.

3. *Parking immediately after build-outs.* The problems that this was causing for both cyclists and vehicles merited evaluation.
4. *Drainage in Scotlandwell between the junctions at Sandy Lane and the Moss Access Road.* Work to resolve the problems here had yet to be concluded.
5. *Pilot 20mph limits within Easter Balgedie, Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell.* Portmoak was a candidate for these pilot limits. It is now unclear whether the scheme will proceed or not.

Cllrs supported the WCllrs recommendation that the range of outstanding matters could be advanced by further site meetings with officials which WCllrs offered to organise. This would look particularly at the safety of pedestrians in both Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood. The matter of drainage within Scotlandwell and the state of the footpath surface between Scotlandwell and the Church would be taken forward separately.

4.5 Paths: A programme of work was underway and would be advanced over the summer. The use of the Michal Bruce Way as a teaching resource would be explored.

5. **PKC Public Transport Consultation:** PKC had advised that it would undertake a review of the Stagecoach X55/X56 unsubsidised routes through to Perth via Kinross and Milnathort. A recent change in service provision had resulted in duplication with parts of the fully subsidised daytime Service 56 route. The aim was to see if it would be possible for PKC and Stagecoach jointly to make local bus provision on this corridor more effective with the resources available. In addition PKC has decided to include the subsidised Stagecoach Service 201 in the review. Service 201 is familiar within Portmoak running between Glenrothes, Milnathort and Kinross and linking all five Portmoak settlements.

The review will be undertaken by PKC Public Transport Unit and will include an **Open Day in the Garden Room of the Kinross Day Centre from 0900 - 16.30 on Thursday 19th May**. The public are encouraged to go along and to provide feedback on their local public transport needs. The CC does not know where this Review may lead but it encourages Portmoak folk to drop in to Day Centre and to share their views on the 201 service with the Team.

6 Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr M Barnacle noted that the Local Boundary Commission Report dealing with revisions to local authority wards would be published shortly.

WCllr W Robertson reported that there had been more than 150 objections to converting the Glenfarg Hotel to flats. PKC had refused planning consent but the Local Review Body of three Ward Councillors had upheld the applicant's appeal.

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

1. Portmoak School - safety on the footpath between Scotlandwell and the Church.
2. Resident - bollard protection for pedestrians using pavements in Main Street Kinnesswood.

Both matters were considered under item 4.4 Roads.

8 AOCB:

1. Boulders restricting passage of agricultural machinery on the Dryside Road at Muirs of Kinnesswood. A resident asked that this impediment be removed. WCllr M Barnacle would take the matter forward.
2. Overhanging branches at Wester Balgedie affecting the passage of high-sided vehicles. A resident had requested the matter be explored. CCllr R Cairncross would explore and report back.

9 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 14th June at Portmoak School.** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at Portmoak Primary School

2. **Attendance:** Cllrs: B Calderwood (Deputy Chair and Treasurer); R Cairncross (Secretary); S Forde; A Robertson; D Morris; and C Vlasto; and WCLls: M Barnacle; and W Robertson and PC D Stapleton and 8 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLls: M Strang Steel (Chairman); T Smith; and WCLls D Cuthbert and J Giacobazzi.

3. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th May 2015 were approved.

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

None.

5. **Chairman's Annual Report. The CC received the Chairman's Report for 2016:**

The Council you see today is rather different in composition from the one you saw a year ago. We had a re-nomination in November. Dick Williamson decided not to put his name forward again, and I would like to thank him for his helpful contributions over the years, and especially for his work as Treasurer during that time. The sums involved may not be large but it is vital to keep the books straight and an entry of £1 takes as much time as one of £1000. I am grateful to Bruce Calderwood for taking up the post in Dick's place to add to his duties as Deputy Chair. We welcome as new members Dave Morris, who was co-opted in July, and Chris Vlasto and Alison Robertson, who joined in November. All are making valuable contributions to our work. We are now a full complement with a representation more reflective of the distribution of the population within the parish.

A hallmark of the year has been the amount of consultation, to which we have been invited to contribute and the increased range of bodies seeking our views. As a snapshot there were no less than six consultations before our last meeting, one from the police, one from SNH and the rest from various parts of Perth and Kinross Council (PKC). In addition to these we have been consulted over the year by Scottish Government and the Local Authority Boundaries Commission. We have not felt it necessary to reply to all but there have been an unusual number of a strategic nature. For example, there were huge documents on the integration of social and health care, the Main Issues Report for the next Local Development Plan and the draft Local Housing Strategy, all with important implications for the future. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Council for the time they have put in to reading these usually long and often opaque documents. Following up our response to the SNH consultation on their management plan for Loch Leven we asked if we could join the management committee that regularly meets, and have received an encouraging reply, even if not an actual invitation to join. We are also seeking to meet the River Leven Trustees, who are responsible for the operation of the sluices on the Loch.

There has been some progress with matters relating to the A911 albeit slow. We eventually got a response from Transport Scotland, but I am not optimistic that we shall have diversionary signs on the M90. The question of categorising roads is now, however, a matter for PKC and we have raised with them the possibility of degrading the A911 from A to B and upgrading the B9097 (South Loch Road) from B to A. We had a very useful meeting with PKC roads officials on site in November in which this and all other issues relating to the A911 were raised with them. One issue discussed

was speed limits and the process for experimental 20mph speed limits in Kinnesswood, Scotlandwell and Easter Balgedie is under way. The officials were able to see at first hand the dangers caused to pedestrians on narrow pavements in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell by passing HGVs. A separate process is under way for the establishment of a Green Route along the Dryside Road. This will introduce speed limits along the route and in particular 20mph limits through Wester Balgedie and past Glenlmond. I am afraid all these processes take time!

Meanwhile Bruce Calderwood has been pursuing, along with these road matters, more day to day issues. I am glad to say we now have cats eyes on the A911 - I am sure you have noticed. It is a big improvement. We hope that the completion of the resurfacing of the South Loch Road is scheduled for this year; it is desperately needed. And like the rest of the country we have numerous potholes to be repaired, not least in the pavement between Scotlandwell and the Church. That has not diverted us from pursuing the much needed off road path for that route. We are pressing PKC to make progress with their promised option appraisal. We shall not give up.

As you may remember, we held a ballot of the community last May on the question of Stephen's Field. The result was decisively in favour of pursuing the acquisition but the key rests with the owner A & J Stephen. We are seeking a meeting with them and to discuss that and also the maintenance of the landscape areas in the Whitecraigs development. Responsibility for this appears to have fallen between a number of stools. Another public amenity which we are pursuing is ownership of the carpark on the Moss Road; we are about to lodge an application for funding.

Tom Smith heads a group of volunteers who do their best to keep our paths in good condition. Further repairs are required to the Michael Bruce Way and funding will be sought; this will be a recurring issue. The Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership is completing a path over Benarty to Lochore, with a view to linking the Meadows with the Lomonds. The establishment of a path from Lochend to the Heritage Trail is on the drawing board.

As statutory consultees we have considered 32 (38 last year) planning applications in the course of the year and objected to 5 of them (3 of the objections relate to the same site). The applications cover 27 houses, all of which are classed as 'windfall' by PKC, and not fully taken into account in their projections.

The big outstanding issues, as last year are the Lomond Inn and Levenglen. The third application for the Lomond Inn site is an improvement on the previous ones in that it does preserve the façade of the Inn but the Council is concerned about the size of the houses proposed. It will come before the Development Management Committee for decision shortly. An application for the Levenglen site at Glenlmond has been withdrawn and a fresh application for a smaller number of houses is awaited.

We were pleased to be consulted by PKC Scrutiny committee who are investigating the operation of the enforcement arm of the planning department. We have some concerns about the willingness of PKC to take enforcement action where breaches of conditions are involved. Often it is compliance with conditions which is of major concern for the community. The sooner a breach is reported the better the chance of enforcement action being taken. Many conditions, typically the provision of sight lines on access roads, are required to be carried out before development commences. If the development is commenced without the work required by the condition being

done, it becomes increasingly difficult to enforce the condition. If you see a development taking place and think such a condition is being infringed, check the condition and report to PKC. PCC councillors (including ward councillors) will be able to help.

I hope you have found the information leaflets we have distributed useful and the improved notice boards in the villages and Village Hall informative.

We have welcomed the attendance of the police at most of our meetings, but regret that we no longer receive a monthly written report of local crime.

I think I have written enough for you to see that it has been a busy year. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support, and particularly Robin Cairncross, on whom, as secretary, falls the task of co-ordinating all our efforts.

Malcolm Strang Steel

6. Treasurer's Annual Report.

The Treasurer paid tribute to the work of his predecessor, Dick Williamson. He then provided audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2016 and included a report and explanation of the funds in hand. At the year-end there was: £140.30 in the General Account; and £694.30 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £834.60.

7. Approval of Annual Accounts

The accounts for the year to 31 March 2016 had been subject to independent examination and as such submitted for approval by the Community Council prior to their submission to Perth & Kinross Council. The accounts were duly approved and the Treasurer instructed to submit them to Perth and Kinross Council and to obtain the funding grant for the year to March 2017.

The full Income and Expenditure of the CC's accounts can be found on the CC website. The Treasurer reported that a new Independent Examiner (auditor) would be required for the forthcoming financial year.

8. Office Bearers for 2016-17

The following office bearers were appointed for the year 2016-17:

Chairman: CClr M Strang Steel

Proposed by CClr B Calderwood and Seconded by CClr S Forde

Secretary: CClr R Cairncross

Proposed by CClr D Morris and Seconded by CClr A Robertson

Treasurer: CClr B Calderwood

Proposed by CClr D Morris and Seconded by CClr Chris Vlasto

Deputy Chairman: B Calderwood

Proposed by CClr D Morris and Seconded by CClr Chris Vlasto

7. Date of next AGM: 7.00pm on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at Portmoak Primary School

The Deputy Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.