

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 13th December 2016

at Portmoak Primary School, Kinnesswood

- 1. Attendance:** CClrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); B Calderwood (Treasurer); S Forde; D Morris; A Robertson; T Smith and C Vlasto; and WClrs: M Barnacle; D Cuthbert; and W Robertson; and 16 members of the public.

Apologies: WClr J Giaciopazzi and Police Scotland.

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

- Para 7.4 *“WClr Calderwood”* amend to *“CClr Calderwood.”*
- Para 7.5 *“...and no difficulties and been encountered”* amend to *“...and fewer difficulties had been encountered”*
- Para 7.5 *“...construction of the new drainshad inadvertently enabled sheep to get through the fence.”* amend to *“...construction of the new drains had inadvertently made it possible that sheep could get through the fence.”*

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.**

- Para 7.4. A further meeting with the Roads Department would be delayed pending a response from PKC to the CC's recent letter on “Traffic in Portmoak.”
- Paras 11.1 and 11.2. A Newsletter article promoting better publicity for the Outdoor Access Code in relation to goose shooting would be targeted for September 2017.

- 4. Westfield Restoration and Regeneration Project, Fife (16/03661/EIA).**

This was a major and complex development in Fife adjoining Portmoak at the now defunct open cast coal site. The CC had not been informed of the pre-application consultation and had only two weeks earlier learned of the formal planning application for which consultation closed on 21st December. The Chairman and Secretary had had a preliminary meeting with the Lead Planner in Fife to apprise him of our interests and concerns - specifically the designated access route for HGVs to and from the site through PKC and along the B9097, B920 and C50 from the M90. It was proposed to truck in significant waste which could mean up to some 500 HGV movements along the B9097 per 12 hour period for 5 days a week. The CC had signalled an interest in minimising that traffic by investing, where possible, in alternative rail transport using the branch line which still served the site. The CC had been granted an extension until the end of January to make comments.

WClrs commented that transport was a major issue, that the use of the rail line made sense and that the current “B9097 Action Plan” would now need to be revised. They agreed that they, together with CC representatives, would meet with PKC officials to review the PKC position (WClr D Cuthbert to arrange) and that it would be prudent to advise MSPs on the matter (WClr W Robertson to pursue). Other points raised included: a need to ensure improved access corridors for walkers and cyclists along the proposed route; and that there would probably be a consequential increase in traffic along the A911 within Portmoak.

Residents voiced concerns about: the nature and diversity of the industrial process proposed; the risks of pollution; the large volume of waste to be processed; the designated route into the site along the C50 when it should be possible to continue on the B9097 to enter the site from the south; how far farming would be compromised were it to become impossible to move cattle across the B9097; and the need for speed restrictions. There was a broader national agenda to accommodate here and to question whether trucking waste by road was the best way to proceed.

The CC would return to the matter at its meeting on 10th January before submitting comments by the end of the month.

5. Our Community:

1. *Kinross and Earn Action Partnership.* WCllr D Cuthbert reported that, although the Partnership had held two meetings, progress towards agreeing how the “participatory budget” of £20,000 should be spent within the current financial year was slow. The CC would make some suggestions.
2. *A strategy and Vision for Portmoak.* Plans to take forward a programme to work with various community groups to use the “Place Standard” tool were in hand. Together the outputs should provide the CC with a better understanding of matters which affect the quality of life in Portmoak. This would inform and complement the work of the Kinross and Earn Action Partnership.

6. **Recycling:** The CC noted the result of a survey of Kinnesswood residents. 21 had replied confirming a unanimous wish for at least a bottle bank recycling unit. 16 respondees had made 21 suggestions for a possible location of which somewhere around the car park by the school was the most popular (11). Other suggestions included: the Bee Garden; behind the shelter on Main Street; and the golf course area. The CC acknowledged that the school did not support use of the car park and recommended that PKC officials be approached to see if the site behind the bus shelter was viable.

7. Reports

7.1 Police: The CC was pleased to receive a local report by PC Douglas Stapleton. The theft of agricultural machinery remained a significant problem. The CC thanked PC Stapleton for his report. It noted the Area Commander Bulletins of 10th, 17th, and 24th November and of 1st and 8th December.

7.2 Treasurer: The General Account at the end of November was £633.60, while the Michael Bruce Way account was £739.51 giving a total of funds on hand of £1,373.11.

7.3 Planning:

1. New applications: (See item 4).
2. Progress with Developments:
 - a) *Former Lomond Inn.* Formal consent for this development to proceed was awaited. Arrangements were in hand to preserve the stained glass windows of the Inn and to re-site a bottle bank recycling provision from the site to elsewhere within the village.
 - b) *Glenlomond.* No progress to note. Formal consent for this development to proceed was awaited.

7.4 **Roads:** Following the PKC consultations on the B9097 Action Plan and on proposals for traffic light controls for Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell the CC had submitted a letter to PKC setting out a comprehensive commentary on its views on traffic across Portmoak. The letter is available to view on the CC website. Further meetings with officials will be deferred until a response to the letter from PKC is received.

7.5 **Paths:** Although it had been a dry autumn/winter, so far the work to improve drainage on the Michael Bruce Way had stood up well. The problem with some sheep escaping through the revised drains had been resolved. The proposals for the Trail Head sign from the Living Lomonds Landscape Project for the Church car park had been circulated. CCllr Tom Smith had provided comment. It should be in place shortly.

8. Superfast Broadband in Portmoak - commissioning Arrangements: New arrangements were now in hand for both Scotlandwell and Glenlomond. Concerns about the lack of progress with the proposed broadband provisions for Wester Balgedie were expressed. Contact with BT to clarify the reason for the delay had proved elusive. WCllr M Barnacle would advise of possible names in BT to approach who may assist in clarifying the position of Wester Balgedie.

9. P&KC Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllrs reported that; the Full Council will shortly move to confirm its budget for the coming year - cuts could be anticipated; St Pauls Church in Perth, which occupied a prominent position, would be renovated retaining only the walls; and that Perth and Kinross would become a "Free Trade County."

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

11. AOCB: A representative of Bishopshire Golf Club and the Chairman confirmed that steps had been taken to try to obtain an agreement with four adjacent residents regarding the management of the tall cypress "hedge" that bordered the Golf Club and abutted their properties in Whitecraigs.

12. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 10th January 2017 in Portmoak Primary School.** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 8.45pm.