

Portmoak Community Council

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

1. **Attendance:** Cllrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); B Calderwood (Treasurer and Deputy Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); D Morris; and T Smith; and WCllrs: M Barnacle; D Cuthbert and J Giacomazzi; and 8 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed David Baudains, Chair of Milnathort CC, and Patrick Milne Home from Kinross-shire Civic Trust.

Apologies: Cllrs: A Robertson; S Forde and C Vlasto; and WCllr W Robertson; and PC A Spalding.

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

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

4. **Reports:**

4.1 Police: In the absence of PC Spalding, the CC considered the Police Scotland Consultation on the Kinross-shire Multi Member Ward Plan. It agreed to support the plan as presented and would inform Police Scotland accordingly by 15th April. The Area Commander Bulletins of 10th and 24th March and of 1st and 8th April were noted.

4.2 Treasurer: The general account at the month end of March was £140.30 while the MBW account was £694.30, giving a total of funds on hand of £834.60.

4.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a. 16/00290/FLL Installation of floodlighting at Balneathill House, Easter Balgedie. No comment made.
- b. 16/00362/IPL and 16/00363IPL Two new houses at Lochend, Scotlandwell. The Council has commented that the houses should be either single or true one and half storeys.

2. Progress with developments:

- a. 16/00325/CON and 16/00326/FLL Former Lomond Hotel, Kinnesswood. The CC response to the latest application had been submitted and is one of number of objections. Central to the application is how well the proposals fit within the Kinnesswood Conservation Area. Following the last CC meeting, at which the lack of a conservation officer Report had been raised, WCllr W Robertson had contacted PKC seeking that this Report would now be published. On the 8th April a conservation officer report dated 2nd April and relating solely to the part demolition of the hotel and the demolition of the annex building and outbuildings was published in respect of planning application 16/00325/CON. No such report, however, was made available for the new build proposals as set out in application 16/00326/FLL. The CC noted that over the past two years

it had on a number of occasions sought such a Report. It regarded its omission now as incompatible with a transparent planning process. This matter was noted by the WCllrs present and the CC would write to PKC once more seeking that the Report be published on the PKC web.

A resident objected to the Secretary referring to the three WCllrs present as being in a “privileged position”. Each is a member of the Development Management Committee (which is likely to determine the outcome of this application); receives detailed briefing in respect of any application; and has direct access to senior planning officials.

- b.** Glenlomond proposal to erect dwellinghouses. A new planning application was anticipated.
- c.** Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen’s Field consequent on departure of the developer. A meeting to review both the matter of maintenance of redundant plots across the development and the status of Stephen’s Field is in hand.

3. Planning Enforcement Provisions – PKC invitation to comment. The Chairman would respond taking account of the CC’s views by 29th April.

4.3 Roads: CCllr Calderwood reported that, although the CC had carefully raised a number of issues with PKC officers, progress had been disappointing. WCllrs present noted this. WCllr Barnacle would pursue the matter further to include: an update on the Portmoak site meeting of 3rd November 2015; further information on the proposed 20mph pilots for the A911 at Easter Balgedie, Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell; and an explanation of what is proposed in the “B9097 Action Plan” for the South Loch Road.

PKC Consultation on the proposal plan to introduce a 20mph speed limit on Dryside Road at Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie. Comments were required by the by 3rd May. The CC revisited the proposals. It agreed that: a) it welcomed the proposal to introduce a “Green Route” safeguarding pedestrians and cyclists along the Dryside Road from its junction with the A911 at Wester Balgedie, past Glenlomond to its conclusion at the boundary with Fife; b) from the A911 junction to the north end of the village of Wester Balgedie and on the section of the Route from the entrance to Glenlomond Village to the waste water plant the speed should be a maximum of 20mph; and that c) elsewhere along the Route the maximum speed should be 30mph and not as proposed 40 mph. The CC felt that despite the blind bends, lack of passing places and the absence of provision for cyclists and pedestrians, a speed of 20mph between Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond was unrealistic. It believed that 30 mph for that section of the Route and the section from the waste water plant to the border with Fife should be 30mph. An off-road walking/cycling route from Glenlomond to Wester Balgedie should be pursued. PKC would be informed accordingly.

4.5 Paths: CCllr Tom Smith reported that the Paths Group had enjoyed a constructive site visit to the Michael Bruce Way with George Lawrie of TRACKS and Kevin Fairclough of Paths for All. Suggestions on how to proceed were being considered and there would be short and long term programmes of work covering a range of activities. There would be a significant focus on maintaining and improving drainage. Support from volunteer “Action Days” facilitated by Paths for All would be considered. New arrangement for grass cutting would shortly be commissioned.

5 Best kept village award 2016: Patrick Milne Home of the Kinross-shire Civic Trust explained the arrangements for the annual Best Kept Village and Hamlet Awards for Kinross-shire which are sponsored by the Trust. This is the 50th anniversary of the awards which had been created by Sir Robert Stewart of Arndean. It also coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Civic Trust. These are notable milestones and the Trust would welcome participation from all Portmoak settlements including, for the first time, Glenlomond. Entry is easy: notify the Trust by completing a simple form by the end of April. Judging this year would be towards the end of June. The emphasis is on factors contributing to a best kept village or hamlet, on tidiness and not on blooms. While the judges do look at public buildings they disregard buildings in a state of disrepair for which the community is not responsible. Patrick Milne Home was thanked for his presentation. The CC would encourage all settlements to participate.

6 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH): Consultation on Management Plan for Loch Leven. The CC considered the SNH draft 10 year Management Plan for the Loch Leven National Nature Reserve. It was supportive of the programme which aimed to change how SNH manages the Reserve with a particular emphasis on improving the experience of visitors and educational groups. It agreed with plans to ensure effective Local Access Guidance including mitigating measures for the effects of the Heritage Trail. The Council sought better access to the NNR and the Heritage Trail from the settlements of Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood. Doing so would allow them to derive an economic benefit from the large numbers of visitors passing through Portmoak. The Council would support the SNH aspiration to include Portmoak Moss in the NNR. The local community would be pleased to work in partnership on relevant projects and would separately explore with SNH how that might be accomplished. Comments would be submitted by 15th April.

7 Consultation on Draft Local Housing Strategy 2016 – 2017. Housing provision in Portmoak was recognised as an important matter and had been a strong part of the CC's response to the PKC Consultation on its Main Issues Report for the forthcoming Local Development Plan. It was difficult to reconcile the figures for population growth set out in the Housing Strategy with the projected fall in pupil intake at Portmoak School. CCllr Alison Robertson would be asked to take the lead in submitting a response on behalf of the CC by 19th April.

8 CC Matters:

8.1 Insurance renewal: The CC's renewal of its annual insurance had been confirmed and would be placed on the Hall notice board.

8.2 Information Leaflets 2016. These would be available for distribution shortly. Flyers had been placed on notice boards.

9 Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr M Barnacle: Congratulated the CC on its information leaflet; confirmed that his comment on the Main Issues Report could be found in the recent Newsletter; and reported that the recommendations of the Boundary Commission that could affect Kinross-shire would not be made to Scottish Ministers until after the forthcoming election.

WCllr J Giacopazzi reported that: traffic school exclusion zones were being trialled (the arrangement could be relevant to Portmoak School) and that the "Community Pay-Back scheme" might be relevant to projects in Portmoak.

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

- 10.1 PKC performance gritting and snow clearing 2015-2016. CClr. B Calderwod would respond to the PKC's request for comment by 22nd April.
- 10.2 Community Capacity Building Survey – The CC would make no comment.

11 AOCB: No matters raised.

12 Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 10th May at Portmoak School.** It will be preceded by a short AGM.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.05pm.