

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 13th September 2016

at Portmoak Village Hall

- 1. Attendance:** CClrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); S Forde; D Morris; T Smith; and C Vlasto; and WClrs: D Cuthbert; and J Giacomazzi; and PC Judge; and 11 members of the public.

Apologies: CClrs: B Calderwood and A Robertson; WClrs: M Barnacle and W Robertson.

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

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.3.8.1 Boulders restricting passage of essential agricultural machinery on the Dryside Road at Muirs of Kinnesswood. It was noted that PKC considered this a matter for the police to resolve.

3.4 Year of History, Heritage and Architecture 2017: a Portmoak Project. The CC would provide a letter of support before the end of September.

3.5 Trailhead sign in Church car park. The Living Lomonds Landscape Project had secured permission from the Church of Scotland to erect this sign. The CC would be given around 4 days towards the end of September to comment on its content.

3.7 Edinburgh Airport: Consultation on Design Envelopes for possible route positioning. The CC had submitted its comments.

- 4. Bus Transport in Portmoak:** Issues affecting parents and children who had no longer access to a school bus service and now had to travel to Portmoak School from Scotlandwell by the 201 service bus had been well set out. It was recognised that walking to school from Scotlandwell raised safety issues and that PKC, despite long term requests, had been unable to resolve these. Wider community issues, which had caused inconvenience as a result of re-scheduling the 201 service bus together with the introduction of a revised new school bus service to Kinross High School, were also recognised. It was unfortunate that so many parents from Scotlandwell were now using car transport increasing congestion around the School. The matter would be pursued by Ward Councillors with PKC officers hopefully at a meeting set for 20th September.
- 5. PKC Review of Community Campuses and Charging Arrangements:** This Review had been commissioned: to improve community use of campuses and increase associated income; to enable review of the wider school estate and to allow facilities to be closed; to remove barriers for community users; and to improve efficiency and operating costs of campuses. The CC recognised the wide community usage of Portmoak Village Hall and also its own need along with other groups to meet in Portmoak School. While the Loch Leven Campus was popular it was situated at a distance from Portmoak. It did not see that its usage would be improved by the withdrawal of community access to Portmoak Primary School. It would respond to the consultation accordingly.

6. Portmoak Moss: Jeff Gunnell from the Portmoak Community Woodland Group was welcomed and reported on an on-going programme of work to improve the Moss. The Moss was a raised peat bog and in an earlier phase of work the water table across it had been successfully raised. While this had had many benefits a consequence was the need to remove the risk “Bog Burst” at the margins. Using a number of engineering approaches the bog borders were now being re-contoured and strengthened. Steps and pathways would be repaired. Jeff Gunnell also drew attention to a Woodland Group open event “Apple Day” on the 2nd October. This would be held at the orchard at Kilmagad Wood.

7. Reports:

7.1 Police: PC Judge was welcomed and made the following comments:

- A programme of community speedwatch across PKC was being implemented.
- On the B9097 the matter of speeding motor cycles was acknowledged and was being monitored
- The problem of inconsiderate parking in and around the school at Kinnesswood was being monitored.
- Police Scotland youth volunteers would give advice on the responsible use of fireworks.
- New arrangements for rural policing were under development
- Theft of quad bikes was a particular risk. Prevention measures were advised.

The CC reviewed a number of these problem (see Roads Report below). PC Judge was thanked for her attendance. The Commander’s Bulletins of 11th, 18th and 25th August and 1st September were noted.

7.2 Treasurer: There was no in-month change. The General Account at the end of August was £671.40, while the Michael Bruce Way account was £919.40 giving a total of funds on hand of £1,590.80.

7.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a) 16/01423/FLL Land 50 metres North East of The Chalet, Lochend Farm Scotlandwell. Erection of a dwellinghouse, ancillary accommodation and farm office. CC view – no comment.
- b) 16/01417/FLL Loch Leven’s Larder, Wester Balgedie. Siting of a storage container for a temporary period (in retrospect). CC view – no comment.
- c) 16/01193/FLL Garden Cottage Back Dykes Road Kinnesswood. Alterations and installation of windows. CC view – no comment.

2. Progress with Developments:

- a) Former Lomond Inn. A decision by PKC’s Development Management Committee was anticipated. A number of new amendments to the current application had recently been added. It was the CC’s view that together these did not reflect any material change. It will write to PKC to confirm that these amendments did not alter its already stated objection. Separately the CC had pursued a formal complaint on PKC’s decision to withhold conservation officer reports. The

response was in its view unsatisfactory. The CC was now seeking under Freedom of Information (or analogous planning provisions) all conservation information held on record referring to applications relating to this development.

- b) Glenlomond. Substantial clearance of the site had been completed. A planning decision was awaited.

7.4 Roads: CClr Calderwood had circulated the September CC Roads Report. The following refer:

- a) *B9097 (South Loch Road)*: A resident confirmed that speeding was a significant problem but was not confined to motorcycles. The road was inherently unsafe. He believed there was a good case to reduce the speed limit on a substantial part of this route to ensure in particular safe entrance and exit from RSPB Loch Leven and other residences. There were three blind summits but only one had been adequately marked. Increased HGV usage was a further matter and he expressed concern that any HGVs should be re-routed from the A911 through the villages of Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell to the B9097 south loch road. The CC noted that this matter was the subject of a PKC Road Safety Action Plan which covered the whole of the B9097 from Crook of Devon across the M90 and into Portmoak. This was anticipated shortly.
- b) *Road safety issues A911 Scotlandwell footpath to Church and Hall and within Main Street Kinnesswood*. Safe pedestrian passage on the footpath alongside the A911 to the Church/Hall from Scotlandwell and onwards to Kinnesswood was a CC priority to resolve. It was noted that temporary restrictions narrowing the road in Kinnesswood appeared to have a beneficial effect. A PKC Road Safety Action Plan was anticipated shortly. The CC had learned that Ward Councillors and officers would review the matter at a meeting on 20th September.
- c) *Consultation 40mph Speed Limit (A911) Wester Balgedie*. The CC noted the proposal to extend the 40mph limit from Wester Balgedie towards the direction of Milnathort to include entrances from Loch Leven's Larder. The CC would write in support of this.
- d) *20 mph pilot projects for new limits within Kinnesswood, Scotlandwell and Easter Balgedie*. PKC have yet to confirm whether these pilots are to proceed or not. If the answer is yes then further evaluation would be needed in respect of Portmoak before any decision to introduce them was made.

7.5 Paths: The Paths Group had been hard at work clearing bracken on the Michel Bruce Way (MBW) and on Dryside Road. The benefits of all the hard work to improve drainage on the MBW will yield dividends. There was concern that the old Dryside Road, a core path, past Springfield and Lomondmuir Farms was impeded by a poor gate and stile as well as vegetation overgrowth. The matter would be explored by the CC.

George Lawrie (TRACKS) reported that:

- a) he had recently been looking into potential paths between The Green at Scotlandwell and the Church. A report would go to PKC Brian Cargill;
- b) Sustrans would look at placing advisory signs warning against cycling on steep sections of the new path coming down from Benarty to RSPB Loch Leven;

- c) drainage problems on the new path between Easter and Wester Balgedie could be a “silting problem” and would be looked as soon as the crops were out of the field concerned.
- d) new signage relating to the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership routes is in hand; and that
- e) TRACKS was fully committed for the next three years.

8. Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen’s Field consequent on the departure the developer. The Chairman summarised a constructive meeting with John Stephen, Managing Director of A & J Stephen. A full report had already been circulated to CC members. Key points were:

1. arrangements had been agreed in principle between A & J Stephen and Perth and Kinross Council that the latter will assume responsibility before spring 2017 for the maintenance of the “redundant” plots of land arising from completion of phases 2 and 3 of the Whitecraigs development; and
2. the intention of A & J Stephen to transfer to the ownership of Portmoak Community Council, Stephen’s Field with pedestrian and vehicular access. To allow this to happen and to meet the 2008 conditional contractual requirements A & J Stephen will seek planning permission in principle for a single dwellinghouse on the “Retained Plot” at the northwest side of the Field. Their intention is to do so within the next six weeks.

9. P&KC Ward Cllr Reports: WCllr D Cuthbert alerted the CC to a forthcoming meeting of the Kinross-shire Community Councils Forum to discuss the introduction of “Locality Community Planning Partnerships” or “Action Partnerships.” The meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th September. CCllrs M Strang Steel and R Cairncross will attend.

10. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor: *Brown Signs – Tourist Scotland Information.* A resident raised the question of the rules and regulations for the erection of such signs. Current practice appeared inequitable. WCllr D Cuthbert would investigate.

11. AOCB

The CC learned that in the recent "**Take a Pride in Perthshire**" competition: Scotlandwell in Bloom won the category "*Wee Village*" and a Gold Medal; while in the category "*Small Village*" Kinnesswood in Bloom won a Gold Medal.

The CC has since learned that in the national "**Beautiful Scotland**" competition Kinnesswood in Bloom won both the class award "*Small Village Trophy*" and a Silver Gilt Medal.

Congratulations to both villages and our thanks to the efforts of so many in securing these achievements.

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