

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 8th March 2016 at Portmoak School

1. **Attendance:** CClrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); B Calderwood (Treasurer and Deputy Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); A Robertson; S Forde; D Morris; T Smith and C Vlasto; and WCllrs: M Barnacle; D Cuthbert and W Robertson; and PCs R Lorimer and D Stapleton and 6 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllr: J Giacobazzi.

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

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

3.0 *Portmoak Cemetery.* A PKC report on cemetery provision across Perth and Kinross was anticipated shortly. A local solution for Portmoak's need for further cemetery provision is likely to be recommended as a preferred option. A site for a new cemetery was being investigated.

8.0 *Pilot 20mph speed restrictions in Portmoak.* A decision was awaited but the CC understood that these would apply to Easter Balgiedie as well as to Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood.

3. **Reports:**

4.1 Police: PCs R Lorimer and D Stapleton were welcomed. The demise of the monthly Police Report which focused on Portmoak matters was confirmed. The resource to support this was no longer available. The CC felt that, while the weekly Commander Reports were of value, they did not fulfil the function of the local monthly Report. This was particularly the case when, if for operational reasons, police officers were unable to attend CC meetings. *The CC would write once more to Police Scotland in support of retention of the local Monthly Police Report.*

There had been two recent road accidents on the straight stretch of the A911 between Scotlandwell and Auchmuirbridge. The CC sought assurance that these incidents would be notified to PKC. Aberrant behaviour from a youth in Kinross had been dealt with. The Commander's Bulletins of 11th and 25th February were noted.

4.1 Treasurer: The general account at the month end of February was £430.44 while the MBW account remained unaltered £874.21, giving a total of funds on hand of £1,304.65. Plans were in hand to manage any end of year surplus.

- 4.2 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a. 16/00325/CON and 16/00326/FLL Former Lomond Hotel, Kinnesswood. Part demolition & change of use & extension to hotel to form dwellinghouse and erection of 4 dwellinghouses and associated works.

The CC considered this third iteration of proposals for the Lomond Inn site. They were clear and reflected significant progress from the original

proposals. That said, there remained concern that cross-section elevations across the site showing proposed new builds in relation surrounding properties were still omitted and that, after two years, an officer conservation report had yet to be made available. The CC were mindful of the conservation setting and, while welcoming the retention of the original Inn, believed that the proposals “overdeveloped” the site. In particular the row of three houses at the rear of the site and facing the Loch were of a scale too large for the site and together represented a significant “barrier” whether viewed from the village or from the Loch. The CC recognised the importance of views of the Loch from the village Main Street and that these would be blocked by these houses. It supported the value placed on the retention of these views by the Report “*Kinnesswood Village Appraisal and Conservation Area Status.*” While the CC in principle supports housing on this site, it believes that smaller, fewer and varied housing units of a scale reflective of the surrounding properties and retaining views of the Loch would be more appropriate in place of the three large properties proposed. *For these reasons it will write objecting to these applications.*

- b.** 16/00172/FLL Vane Farm Nature Centre - Erection of 3 km Predator Fence. Uwe Stoneman, Tayside Reserve Manager RSPB, was welcomed and set out an evidence-based case for the proposed predatory fence. While wildlife on the wetlands is at risk from predators the risk to the single colony of nesting lapwings is particularly high. The species is in decline, is listed as endangered and, unless protected, would not be sustainable. RSPB had undertaken significant research into the nature of the predation which confirmed that it was primarily nocturnal and came from both foxes and badgers.

The design of the 3km fence proposed (electrified, 1.6 metres in height and buried to a depth of 30cm) has proved to be effective on a number of RSPB sites across the UK. As a single fox could devastate a colony it had to be effective. While the wetlands would remain open to Loch Leven the design would aim to preclude entry by predators attempting to swim around the fence where it entered Loch Leven. Part of its course would run alongside the Heritage Trail, where it would be separated from the Trail by the existing stock fence so ensuring the public has no direct access to the fence. Once erected its effect would be closely monitored. It would be removed if the solution was ineffective.

The CC recognised the validity of the evidence presented and, in view of the charitable nature of the applicant and the fact that the application is in a National Nature Reserve supported the planning application, despite the potential constraint of the proposal on access rights. *It would write to PKC accordingly.*

- c.** 16/00170/FLL Iona Back Dykes Road, Kinnesswood - Installation of replacement windows. No Comment by CC.

2. Progress with developments:

- a.** Lomond Inn - An alternative concept. It was reported that no progress had been made.

- b. Glenlomond 15/01834/FLL, erection of 14 4/5 bedroom dwellinghouses. This application had been withdrawn and a further application was anticipated shortly.
- c. Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen's Field consequent on departure of the developer. Following contact with A & J Stephen the Chairman reported that a meeting to review both the matter of maintenance of redundant plots across the development and the status of Stephen's Field would be arranged.

4.3 Roads: WCllr Bruce Calderwood circulated an updated "Roads Report" which would be placed on the CC website. He highlighted: progress with road drainage in Scotlandwell although this was not yet complete; the cypress hedge obstructing the pavement at Wester Balgedie had still to be tackled; and that there remained a risk of flooding with consequent residual mud on the A911 footpath midway between Easter and Wester Balgedie. *The CC would write to the PKC Roads Department seeking support in resolving what appeared to be faulty drainage system adjacent to the footpath.*

The problem of the narrow A911 accommodating large HGVs was reported by WCllr Robertson. He had seen two attempting to pass within Kinnesswood. Both had required to mount pavements. This was a recognised problem. There were three possible solutions: discouraging HGV transit of Portmoak along the A911 through road signage and better Sat Nav software; introduction of "give and take" provisions at certain points; and downgrading the road classification of the A911 and upgrading that of the south Loch Road B9097. *The CC would approach PKC roads Department re the possible introduction of "give and take" provisions.*

Potholes: The CC noted the Report of WCllr J Giacomazzi.

Kilmagadwood junction: The Chairman and a resident raised the matter of the unimplemented planning condition requiring, for road safety reasons, modification of the Kilmagadwood junction. The planning enforcement officer has approached local residents asking them to explain why enforcement of the condition is desirable. *The CC would write to the PKC enforcer supporting the taking of enforcement action for the benefit of all users of the A911.*

4.4 Paths: WCllr Tom Smith reported that: a meeting with representatives from "Paths for All" to review the state of the Michael Bruce Way (MBW) and to recommend improvements would be held shortly; two information leaflets dealing with a section of Heritage Trail within Portmoak and with the MBW had been published by the Living Lomonds partnership; and that improvements to the entry to the Moss at Peat Loan could be anticipated.

5. Draft response: Consultation on Main Issues Report: Comment on the Main Issues Report was required by the 16th March. A draft response had been circulated for comment. There were no "Main Issues" that applied direct to Portmoak but in contributing to the preparation of the Main Issues Report the CC had been invited to raise a number of more local issues. These would be revisited in its response. CCllrs were asked to give comments on the draft to the Secretary by Saturday 12th March.

6. Dates of Meetings 2016 – 2017: These were noted and, once confirmed by the school, would be forwarded to PKC and circulated widely.

7. Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr M Barnacle reported that: Cats eyes would be installed shortly on the B9097 between Findatie and East Brackley and that the recommendations of The Boundary Commission could be anticipated shortly. He alerted the CC that, in relation to the Main Issues Report, it should give consideration to the Kinnesswood settlement boundaries.

WCllr Robertson reported that following recent flooding, the Heritage Trail had now dried out and damaged parts would shortly be repaired. He noted that it would be timely to press City Link to restore withdrawn services to Edinburgh. *The CC agreed to write in that respect.*

WCllr D Cuthbert reported that: full brown bin collection across all PKC communities was being pursued; a PKC Scrutiny Review of enforcement practice was underway; and that PKC handling of resources relating to a redundant school in Scone provided a contrast with the equivalent arrangements for the old Kinross High School.

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

New arrangements for CC insurance had been received and would be progressed.

9. AOCB:

Footpath alongside the A911 from Scotlandwell to the Church Hall and onwards to Kinnesswood. A resident raised the state of this footpath. It was recognised as unsafe for all pedestrians and was clearly unsuitable for children attempting to access the Church or Hall and the school in Kinnesswood. The CC acknowledged that this was a well-known and longstanding problem and was a significant challenge. It had been recognised by both PKC and the CC that the initial step in progressing this problem would be through an options appraisal of possible solutions. *It would write once more to PKC seeking such an appraisal.*

10. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 12th April at Portmoak Village Hall.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.10pm.