

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 9th August 2016 at Portmoak Village Hall

- 1. Attendance:** CClrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); S Forde; D Morris; A Robertson; T Smith; and C Vlasto; and WClrs: M Barnacle; D Cuthbert; J Giacomazzi and W Robertson; and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: CClr: B Calderwood and Police Scotland.

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

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.5.0 PKC Public Transport Consultation: The results of the recent PKC public consultation on Stagecoach services south of Perth had been confirmed. Revised timetables would be effective from 15th August 2016 and included a reduction in service provision on the 201 route serving Portmoak and linking it to Glenrothes, Milnathort and Kinross. From Portmoak the earliest arrival into Kinross was 0918 and into Glenrothes was 1010. The last bus to leave Kinross was 18.00 and from Glenrothes it was 17.00. There could be an impact on those who may have to rely on such connections to hold down a job. Further, onward morning connections will no longer be possible e.g. from Milnathort to Dunfermline. Service to Glenlomond had been withdrawn. The CC would explore with PKC whether a “Demand Responsive Travel” (DRT) scheme could complement the revised 201 service provision. Separately ward councillors confirmed that the 201 service was subsidised with both PKC and Fife Council making contributions.

3.8.1 Boulders restricting passage of essential agricultural machinery on the Dryside Road at Muirs of Kinnesswood. The matter was being evaluated by Police Scotland.

3.7.1 Kinnesswood in Bloom (KIB). A & J Stephen had agreed a 15 year lease with KIB. This would enable it to take forward its plans for the plot of land adjoining the golf club.

- 4. Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017: a Portmoak Project.**

Wendy Macphedran introduced an exciting, innovative and ambitious new project which aimed, as part of Scotland’s 2017 year of history, heritage and archaeology, at celebrating Portmoak’s rich history of heritage and archaeology. A project team included Professor David Munro would take this work forward and would shortly submit applications to funding agencies. The remit was both broad and inclusive with community-wide participation and many activities considered including further “digs” and communication about the life and happenings in Portmoak using different media. Further information would be provided at subsequent CC meetings. The CC agreed in principle to provide letters of support for the project.

- 5. Reports:**

- 5.1 Police:** There was no Police Report. The Commander’s Bulletins of 14th July, 21st July, 28th July and 4th August were noted.

Road accidents. There had recently been three further accidents on the A911 at West Bowhouse and a further accident at Findatie on the B9097. The CC remains concerned that, despite continued efforts, there is no reliable and transparent way of recording and reporting accidents on Portmoak roads. As this evidence is needed to support PKC road safety improvements, this is not helpful. Last year, in response to CC concerns, Local Police Reports helpfully began to report such accidents where they were known to the police. However, these Reports have now been discontinued and the new weekly Commander Bulletin did not address the matter. The CC would write to the Area Commander to see if such evidence could be presented in a different fashion. It appeared likely that there would shortly be speed monitoring along the A911.

5.2 Treasurer: The operational grant of £559.70 from PKC for the years 2016 - 2017 had been received as was a donation of £250.00 from Portmoak Primary School to the Michael Bruce Way Account. The General Account at the end of July was £671.40, while the Michael Bruce Way account was £919.40 giving a total of funds on hand of £1,590.81.

5.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a) 16/01291/FLL Land 180M NW of Tigh Na Gerran, Scotlandwell: Erection of an agricultural shed. No comment.
- b) 16/01171/PN Lomondmuir Farm, Wester Balgedie, Erection of an agricultural building. No comment.
- c) 16/01166/FLL Grahamstone Farm Cottage Kinnesswood, Extension to a dwellinghouse. No comment.

2. Progress with Developments:

- a) Former Lomond Inn. The CC had pursued its second formal complaint to PKC for failure to provide conservation officer reports in respect of the impact of this new-build development within the Kinnesswood Conservation Area. The PKC position was that, where such reports were available, they would be published. In this case none was available! The CC took the view that that begged the question and had now, under Freedom of Information proceedings, sought to determine what information was held by PKC on the matter. WCllrs confirmed that they too had been unsuccessful in securing conservation officer reports. There is now only a single conservation officer for PKC.
- b) Glenlomond. The demolition work is apparently viewed by PKC as work to clear the site for the proposed development, even although planning consent has not been granted.

3. Update on recent planning applications: The Local Review Body had met recently and a preliminary statement had been issued to confirm that, in respect of the following appeals:

16/00701/FLL, Lilyoak Scotlandwell - alterations to dwelling house including new windows: appeal upheld subject to conditions.

16/00363/UPL and 16/00364/IPL, Lochend Scotlandwell - erection of two dwelling houses: a site visit is to be held.

- 5.4 Roads: CCllr Calderwood had submitted a Report on the recent site meeting of CC representatives with PKC Road and Safety officers to PKC and to Ward Councillors. The CC would review progress its meeting in September meeting

The CC had received a letter from a resident living on the B9097 (south loch road) raising a number of matters relating to traffic on the B9097 on what he identified as a busy and dangerous road. These included: endemic speeding of both cars and motor cyclists; dangerous overtaking exacerbated by two blind summits; and poor road surface. The CC recognised that both the B9097 and the A911 as they traversed Portmoak posed significant but different challenges. The matter would be reviewed at the September meeting of the Council when it was anticipated the resident would be present. In the meantime WCllrs would endeavour to gain sight of the proposed PKC “*Action Plan*” for the B9097: this extends from Crook of Devon through to its junction with the B920 east of Findatie.

- 5.5 Paths: This was a busy time of the year for the “*Paths Group*” which, while continuing the programme for improving drainage on the Michael Bruce Way, was active in cutting back a prolific growth of bracken and other vegetation along several paths.

Trailhead sign in Church car park. Although The Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership was committed to installing this sign shortly, the CC had had no sight of its content. The LLLP had not yet had a reply from the Church of Scotland to its request for permission to put up the sign on Church ground.

Path Strategy. A case for a “*Portmoak Path Strategy*” was made which would become more relevant when the anticipated review of the current Core Path Plan began. It would be helpful to have the community’s thoughts on Paths across Portmoak before this review began.

RSPB Loch Leven linking The Heritage Trail via Benarty to Ballingry and Lochore. This new path had been commissioned under the auspices of TRACKS and had been formally opened in July. It had been widely welcomed. CC members were concerned that, owing to the steepness of certain sections of the path, it would be dangerous for cyclists. They advised that warning signs advising of the unsuitability for cycling should be in place along at least parts of the route. WCllr W Robertson would raise the matter with RSPB Loch Leven.

Wellside development to The Green in Scotlandwell. Susan Forde reported that the new path leading from the Wellside development in Scotlandwell to The Green was almost complete. This was welcomed. As the path emerged at an old hawthorn hedge and newly developed flower beds, arrangements would need to be made for a useable access from the path to the Green. WCllr W Robertson would work with Scotlandwell in Bloom to facilitate a practical solution.

6. Progress with other matters:

- 6.1 *Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen’s Field consequent on the departure the developer.* Representatives of the CC will meet with A & J Stephen on 5th September.
- 6.2 *Portmoak Cemetery.* The Chairman reported that there had been progress although proposals remained to be confirmed. An overall plan for cemetery provision across Kinross was under review. WCllrs confirmed that there was funding available to support work in this area.

7. Edinburgh Airport: Consultation on Design Envelopes for possible route positioning.

The CCs views had been sought on the potential impact of altering flight paths above Edinburgh. Modern navigation systems now permitted aircraft to follow a precisely defined path and this in turn would allow more effective use of airport capacity. The impact on Portmoak would potentially arise from arrivals from the north overflying at heights between 4,000 and 7,000 feet above ground level. There was an extensive envelop stretching from Cupar in the east to Muckhart and Kincardine in the west which encompassed a north approach and which could accommodate a range of options for any confirmed route. The CC was mindful that the Scottish Gliding Centre (SGC) operated at Portmoak and was by far the largest gliding club in Scotland. It would be important that its operations were not compromised. There might be an impact on the wildlife on the loch. The CC would comment accordingly and in preparing its response would liaise with the SGC and SNH.

- 8. Flooding in Kinnesswood:** There had been a recent episode of flooding in Kinnesswood. Two sets of drains were involved. 1) The entrance of a burn into a culvert near Bishop Terrace which needed to be kept clear and would continue to be monitored by local residents; and 2) drains around Main Street close to the garage which would benefit from more regular clearance of any build up of silt. Residents were encouraged to report any drains that were silting up.

9. Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr M Barnacle reported that briefing sessions on taking forward Local Development Plan (2) would commence shortly.

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

None.

11. AOCB

The CC congratulated Kinnesswood in achieving second place in the Best Kept Village competition and Wester Balgedie which came third in the best kept hamlet category. Wester Balgedie also won the Sir Robert Stewart of Arndean Cup for the most improved hamlet or village.

- 12. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 13th September at Portmoak School.** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.