

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 10th October 2017

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CCLrs: B Calderwood (Deputy Chair and Treasurer), R Cairncross (Secretary), S Forde, T Smith, D Morris, and A Muszynski; and WCllrs: M Barnacle, C Purves, and W Robertson; and PC D Stapleton; and 25 members of the public.]

Apologies: CCLrs M Strang Steel, and A Robertson; and WCllr R Watters.

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes CC meeting held on 12th September 2017 were approved.

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

7.4 Roads. The sudden appearance of a number of automatic traffic monitors across Portmoak's roads reflected a decision of PKC to incorporate their findings into a new "Route Action Plan" that would include the A911.

4. **Westfield Opencast Site - Restoration and Regeneration Project (Fife 16/03661/EIA).** The CC noted the recent letter from Perth and Kinross Council to Fife Council setting out its final comments in respect of the application. It acknowledged that it largely accommodated most of the requests for mitigation that the CC had made in its letter of objection of 18th August. It felt that, while the funding sought was appreciated, it was believed inadequate for its intended purpose. Major concerns remained: that the PKC letter made no request for mitigation requirements to be a condition of planning consent; and that there had not been an adequate evaluation of alternative road routes. A decision on these matters would be a matter for Fife Council. There was also considerable concern that the generation of energy from waste by incineration may not be classed as renewable. Yet it was a key part of the application which would be sustained by some 1,000 HGV movements per day along the B9097. Although waste incineration to generate energy was part of Scottish Government Policy, it should be seen as an option of last resort and that should be taken into account when evaluating the application.

The four Kinross Ward Councillors had felt that the PKC letter was not sufficiently strong and had therefore submitted a further independent comment to Fife Council. This highlighted: the impact of the designated haul route for HGVs on Loch Leven and the Local Landscape Area; and an inadequate environmental assessment which had not adequately evaluated this impact. They felt that PKC should have maintained its objection to the proposal until there was more certainty that the suggested funding could be delivered.

A decision was imminent. The CC was minded to write to Ministers to request that the application be "called-in" and will make a final decision on that shortly. Were it to do so WCllr Purves signalled that our MP, Luke Graham, would write in support. WCllrs suggested that members of the public wrote to Scottish Ministers, MPs and MSPs as soon as practicable setting out their concerns.

5. **School access - policy on parking.** The CC had reviewed the unresolved problems of restricted access to the School along Buchan Avenue and the related matter of safer drop-off and pick-up arrangements from the adjoining car park. Representatives of the CC had met with the Head Teacher of the school. It was unfortunate that these matters had been considered by PKC some six months ago with no resolution. It was noted that vehicles had been observed parked on the right hand bend hard against the school gates. It was recognised that there may be no easy solution. WCllr W Robertson would convene a group to re-examine this challenge to include representatives of the CC, PKC, and the School.

6. Arrangements for the maintenance of residual plots across Whitecraigs. The CC was pleased to learn that progress had been made in transferring ownership of a number of redundant plots across Whitecraigs from A & J Stephen to PKC. PKC would assume maintenance of the plots. The new arrangement would facilitate the leasing of one plot to Kinnesswood in Bloom. The CC remained concerned that despite it being the intention of A & J Stephen to do so, a significant plot had not been transferred (stretching from the A911 along the side of the golf course to Stephen's Field). The matter would be followed up by WCllr Callum Purves.

7. Reports

7.1 Police: PC Douglas Stapleton was welcomed and reported that there had been little crime in Portmoak but that there had been one house breaking in Kinnesswood. As the nights drew in it was important that all residents reviewed their security arrangements and reported anything unusual. Nearby a truck and trailer had been stolen but recovered, some vandalism had occurred in Milnathort and a local resident been taken advantage of by a "BT scammer". Recently a car had run off the road at East Brackley. This was a significant accident but apparently was not known to the Police. The CC reiterated its concern that accident intelligence which informed decisions by PKC was not reliable. "Boy racers" were entering the Westfield site through open gates from the Perth and Kinross access road. PC Stapleton undertook to investigate. As this was a busy time for farmers, be careful of mud on the roads - especially in darkness. The Area Commander's Bulletins of 13th, 21st, and 28th September and of 4th October were noted.

7.2 Treasurer: The balance at the month ending 30th September was £475.20 in the General Account; and £1,042.23 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,517.43.

7.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a) 17/01596/IPL. Land 50 metres south of 9 Bishop Terrace, Kinnesswood. Erection of a dwelling house in principle. (*Stephen's Field*).

The CC had previously considered this new planning application and had taken the view that in such circumstances and, in order to fulfil its role in ascertaining, co-ordinating and reflecting the views of the community it represents, a new Ballot would be required. Further, the information circulated with the application raised a number of significant points that would require clarification before a Ballot could be effected. The CC confirmed that position. It had sought an extension to the consultation time to enable a Ballot to be held but that had not been accommodated. As there was no prospect of holding a Ballot it agreed that it should now object to the current application. In discussion the CC noted: the many years that this matter had lain unresolved; the considerable effort it had invested in clarifying the preceding application made in April and the significant objections made by many residents to both applications. To take matters forward a meeting of representatives from the CC, PKC and A & J Stephen had been mooted. If confirmed the CC would participate and raise the need for a ballot, more information and the concerns which were being expressed by Portmoak residents.

- b) 17/01583/LBC. The Cottage, Main Street, Scotlandwell. Installation of secondary glazing to habitable rooms to the front elevation. No Comment.
- c) 17/01509/FLL. Dunhoy, Main Street, Kinnesswood. Alterations to hard standing material and formation of decking. No Comment.
- d) 17/01483/FLL 1 Bishop Terrace, Kinnesswood. Alteration and extension to dwellinghouse and formation of a roof terrace. No Comment.

7.4 Roads:

- a) Wester Balgedie/Carsehall Junction (*increased traffic risk - papers circulated*). The CC recognised the serious problems that this junction presented and the consequent risk to the safety of residents, pedestrians and road users alike. These had been well detailed in the letter from local residents (*circulated*). This was a known problem but with increased traffic the situation was deteriorating and this had triggered the letter from residents. The CC agree that a site meeting to consider this matter with residents, WCllrs, CC representatives and PKC roads department was now essential. WCllr Callum Purves undertook to arrange this.
- b) Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond (*to note progress*). It was unfortunate that yet again no progress had been made on what the CC regard as a priority matter. Following the last CC meeting and at the request of WCllrs relevant papers had been forward to all concerned to provide a background record of efforts made over the past three years. A site meeting was agreed to be essential and would be arranged by WCllr Callum Purves. Mr W Grieg for PKC with responsibility for cemeteries would be invited to participate.
- c) Vehicle Activated signs (*invitation to comment on siting of five such signs*). The CC welcomed this opportunity to enhance safety across Portmoak and would work with PKC to help identify appropriate sites. CCllr Bruce Calderwood would take this forward liaising with the PKC Roads Department.
- d) Potential closure of B911 at the build-out on entering Scotlandwell from Kinnesswood. WCllr C Purves confirmed that PKC had asked BT Openreach to consider what alternative arrangements were possible. The CC reiterated the suggestion that, if necessary, the build-out could be suspended with ramps to allow safe passage over it.
- e) BT Manhole at garage by Kinnesswood (*To note recurrent flooding*). WCllrs noted the concerns that the BT manhole adjacent to the garage was, since the new resurfacing, taking a significant load of water each time it rained. WCllr Callum Purves would pursue the matter with the PKC roads department.

7.5 **Paths:** CCllr Tom Smith reported that, while the work schedule was tapering down as darkness came early, work on clearing gorse was still being undertaken. There would be time to consider the next work programme and to consider repairs to steps and new signage. In taking forward paths groups, PKC Greenspace had referred to Portmoak as an exemplar. The CC had welcomed the donation from the Portmoak Festival Fund to support the work of the Paths Group.

8. PKC Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr Callum Purves. The full PKC Council had meet recently in Kinross for the first time in over 50 years. It had support two local member motions: keeping open the possibility of restoring a rail route to or through Kinross; and the introduction of two further slip roads to Junction 7 on the M90. PKC would shortly review its policy on the wider introduction of 20mph limits.

WCllr M Barnacle. Efforts were currently under way to improve the forthcoming LDP to reflect better the needs of Kinross-shire. As this was not proving easy it seems that PKC will face a number of amendments as the LDP progresses.

WCllr W Robertson. Consultations on proposals to change the provision of surgical services across Tayside had been held recently by the Tayside Health Board. Two matters needed to be addressed: direct public transport from Kinross-shire to Ninewells was non-existent making travel arduous for relatives and carers alike; and times for ambulances to reach patients in acute need appeared over-long. Both matters were being pursued.

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

10. AOCB: None.

11. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.30pm** on Tuesday 14th November 2017 in Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell. The Deputy Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.10pm.