

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 12th September 2017

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

- 1. Attendance:** CCLrs: B Calderwood (Deputy Chair and Treasurer), R Cairncross (Secretary), S Forde; T Smith; and WCLrs: C Purves, and R Watters, PC D Stapleton and 11 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLrs M Strang Steel, D Morris, A Muszynski, A Robertson; and WCLrs M Barnacle and W Robertson.

- 2. Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes CC meeting held on 8th August 2017 were approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.3.5 Recycling provision in Kinnesswood. This appeared well-used. Additional signage signalling the whereabouts of the bins had still to be arranged

3.5 Community Council Meetings at the School. WCLr C Purves explained that PKC had determined last February to withdraw public access to facilities within many schools. Portmoak School was one such school and the policy had resulted in the loss of the School for CC meetings. It was unfortunate that the decision had not been communicated to either the School or CC. The CC was fortunate to have the use of the Village Hall as an alternative venue. There was a cost saving in using the Hall with the bonus that such funds remained in the community.

- 4. Westfield Opencast Site - Restoration and Regeneration Project (Fife 16/03661/EIA).**

The Secretary reported on a meeting that the Deputy Chairman and he had had with Fife and PKC planners on 23rd August. Our four Ward Councillors together with two representatives of Kinross CC were present. The meeting was well-chaired by CCLr Dave Cuthbert of Kinross CC. Initial discussion achieved an assurance that our four ward councillors would be party to any decision taken by PKC officers in respect of PKC's response to Fife Council. In turn Fife Council confirmed that this response was expected and that, as the application was scheduled to be determined by 23rd October, the time to make that response was short.

The meeting then considered the CC's letter of objection submitted on 18th August to Fife Council. Key points were covered in particular: the place for a three-way agreement between Fife, PKC and the applicant to oversee a Vehicle Management Plan; the case for an evaluation of alternative routes to include the contribution of rail; and the operational impact on the leisure and tourist industry and on agriculture. Specific requests for conditions of mitigation were also addressed: capping tonnage trucked; limitation on duration and times of HGV movements (including impacts on the Kinross Show, the Loch Leven Half Marathon and cycling events); and a number of specific measures to improve road safety from junction 5 on the M90 along the B9097 to the site. While PKC expressed an interest in securing an agreement to maintain the road, neither Fife nor PKC planners expressed any commitment to present or promote any of the mitigation measures identified by the CC. In response WCLrs was proposed that a lump "mitigation sum" should be paid to PKC. Whether Transport Scotland was content with the impact of the proposed transport model had yet to be clarified.

The CC was disappointed to hear that in the interim PKC had made no attempt to arrange the planned meeting with WCLrs which would confirm the Council's response.

Discussion confirmed that in light of lack of satisfactory progression, the CC should now write to Scottish Ministers to seek that they "call-in" this planning application and that in parallel MSPs should be apprised and a briefing to the press explored. The national importance of Loch Leven had not so far been effectively recognised and there were concerns that with two planning

authorities involved its position had not been adequately addressed nor safeguarded. In addition the proposal to handle waste in this fashion do not appear to comply with Scottish Government policies.

5. **School access – policy on parking.** The CC was concerned to learn that the proposals to improve access to the school along Buchan Avenue had been placed “on the shelf”. PKC had not communicated this decision to either the CC or the school. PKC had subsequently stated that the project was unlikely to be revisited “*unless it can be demonstrated that there is sufficient community support in favour of the proposed restrictions.*” Community support was important and PKC had noted objections from residents on Buchan Avenue. Further, Council Parking Attendants could not be on site all the time to enforce such restrictions.

This was a long standing matter of concern and it remained so. It related to the wider issue of child safety during the pick-up and drop-off times in and around the school and the car park. The CC would review matters with the school shortly and in the meantime WCllr Purves would seek if further progress can be made.

6. **Arrangements for the maintenance of residual plots across Whitecraigs.** While the CC warmly welcomed proposals to transfer ownership of a number plots of residual land across the Whitecraigs estate to PKC and for the latter to assume responsibility for their maintenance, it was concerned to learn a significant plot (stretching from the A911 alongside side the golf course up to Stephens’s field) had been omitted. It was important that that omission was rectified. The Chairman had written to John Stephen of A & J Stephen raising the matter. Mr Stephen had subsequently replied confirming that this was his intention. On the face of it there appeared to be an error in the proposed plans. WCllr R Watters would pursue the matter with PKC.

7. Reports

7.1 **Police:** PC D Stapleton was welcomed. While there had been no crime in Portmoak agricultural theft continued to be a problem with nearby thefts of a tractor, a quad bike and a sheep and a ram. The quad bike had since been recovered. There had been one episode of hare coursing at Findatie but no one had been apprehended. Farmers and the public had to be alert. The strong advice made to everyone is that if you see something unusual in the countryside and there is a vehicle involved or nearby please note down the license number. It could provide very significant assistance to the police. Speed checks along the A911 are set to continue especially around the morning commute period. The Area Commander’s Bulletins of 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th August and of 6th September were noted.

7.2 **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 31st August was £518.40 in the General Account; and £542.15 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,060.55.

7.3 Planning:

1. ***New applications:*** There had been an unusual dearth of new planning applications over the summer. It was difficult understand what had brought this about.
2. ***Progress with Developments:***
 - a) *Former Lomond Inn: proposals for part demolition and erection of 5 dwelling houses (16/03661/CON).* Conditions required to permit development to commence should be completed shortly. Building may not commence before the new year.
 - b) *Development at Glenlomond - proposals to build 13 houses (16/00751/FLL).* No change.
 - c) *Stephen’s Field, Kinnesswood.* Matters rest with A & J Stephen.

7.4 **Roads:** CCllr Bruce Calderwood presented an updated Roads Report. The CC Road’s Report had been circulated for August meeting of the CC. While the newly tarred section of the

A911 was appreciated there was puzzlement at the sudden appearance of a number of Automatic Traffic Monitors on several roads across Portmoak. WCllrs would seek an explanation. Two further matters were raised:

a) *Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.* This is an inadequate and dangerous footpath linking the two key settlements of Portmoak. This problem was longstanding and represented a challenging and potentially complex project which did not lend itself to superficial analysis. The response of PKC had not been supportive. WCllrs agreed to raise the matter with PKC. The CC would make available the relevant papers to them.

b) *Potential closure of B911 at build-out on entering Scotlandwell from Kinnesswood.* As a BT manhole lay close to the build-out it meant that essential BT maintenance work could require the road to be closed during working hours for potentially five days necessitating a diversion by Kinross. The CC believed that with some thought this could be avoided were, for example, the build-out to be suspended and ramps allow controlled traffic to pass over it. WCllr C Purves would investigate and report.

7.5 Paths: This had been a successful season. Plans were in hand to consider the maintenance programme for next year.

- 8. Consultations.** The CC noted two consultations: 1) *“Building Scotland’s Low Emission Zones”* (from the Scottish Government reply by 28th November and available on the Transport Scotland website; and 2) *“Shaping Surgical Services”* from Tayside Health Board. Reply by 3 October. It was uncertain if the arrangements proposed for Kinross-shire would be practical.
- 9. PKC Ward Cllr Reports:** WCllr Callum Purves reported that: arrangements for ensuring more sustainable pothole repairs were to be introduced; and that the Winter Service provisions (gritting and snow clearing etc.) would now operate a night shift from Kinross. This would mean a more rapid access to roads around Kinross-shire. The CC welcomed both the provisions.
- 10. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor.** The following were raised: 1) *Policy on the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Portmoak villages.* PKC was currently reviewing the policy; and 2) *Vehicle activated speed warning signs.* The CC would recommend where such signs could be placed.
- 11. AOCB:** The CC expressed its warm congratulations to Kinnesswood in Bloom. In the 2017 *Beautiful Scotland* competition the Group won the Small Village Trophy category and topped that up with a Silver Gilt Medal! The Group were also competing in *Take a Pride in Perthshire* with results anticipated shortly.
- 12. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.30pm** on Tuesday 10th October 2017 in Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell. The Deputy Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.10pm.