

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2017

at Portmoak Primary School, Kinnesswood

- 1. Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); B Calderwood (Treasurer); S Forde; A Robertson; T Smith and C Vlasto; and WCLrs: D Cuthbert; and W Robertson; and 20 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLr D Morris and WCLrs J Giacomazzi and M Barnacle.

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes:** The draft Minute of the meeting held in December 2016 was approved subject to the following amendment:

- Para 7.5 *“The problem with some sheep escaping through.....”* amend to *“The problem with the possibility of some sheep escaping through....”*

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.**

Para 5 Our Community: Kinross and Earn Action Partnership. Progress towards agreeing a budget to have effect for the coming financial year remained slow. Ideas for a future work programme were sought. The CC would write to the Partnership Leader proposing support for a permanent car park at Scotlandwell on the Moss access road.

Para 5 Our Community: A strategy and vision for Portmoak. Arrangements were in hand to secure, through disparate local community groups, their input to the “Place Standard Tool”. The outcomes will inform PKC activities including the new Local Development Plan.

- 4. Westfield Restoration and Regeneration Project, Fife (16/03661/EIA).** The CC returned to discussion on this matter. The Chairman summarised the history of developments on this large brownfield site since open cast coal mining had stopped:

1. 2001 - Application for a large development focusing on waste processing including biomass boilers and landfill. This application was eventually determined by Government and consent granted. It was renewed in 2011 for 5 years and had now expired. It is important to note that a condition of this consent capped the amount of waste to be transported to the site and restricted waste transported by road to 40% of the capped amount with the remainder to be transported into the site on the existing rail link.
2. 2007 - Scottish Biofuels made an application for a biomass boiler burning waste and a pelleting plant. The application was approved. An application for an extension had been lodged and approved subject to a section 75 agreement being signed. That had not so far happened. The site of this development is on ground leased to Scottish Biofuels and lies alongside that of the new application.
3. 2016 - Application for the Westfield Restoration and Regeneration Project, Fife (16/03661/EIA).

All three applications proposed waste transport to the site from the M90 (Junction 5) via the B9097 (south loch road) and C50 roads into the site. The current application proposes 500 HGVs, including those serving the Biofuels proposed development, using the B9097 (per 12 hour day 5 days per week). This was a major concern. It represents a tenfold

increase from the 50 per day or so that use the road now. It is very likely that PKC will judge the structure of this road link adequate and able to support this increased load (although a supportive maintenance arrangement may be required). Such an increase in use of the B9097 would very probably produce a significant secondary increase in traffic using the A911 through Portmoak. The potential impact of increased traffic on the B9097 on human health, wild life, tourism and business in the Loch Leven basin needs to be taken into account. There were of course many other concerns: noise, air quality, pollution from boiler stacks as to which SEPA had lodged a comprehensive comment with the planners.

It appeared likely that, if this application progresses, it will in the end gain consent. What would then matter would be the effect of any conditions on that consent and in particular those affecting transport arrangements.

There was an extant branch railway line from the Fife circular route which led directly into the site. A scoping study had shown that it was potentially viable and that there was capacity to move such freight on the Scottish Rail network. Scottish Government policy promoted transferring freight from road to rail where practicable. This in turn had been picked up in the current planning reports of different and complementary organisations: Tayplan; Tactran; as well as Fife and Perth Councils. Depending on its configuration one train taking waste to the site could replace between 50 and 75 HGVs. That figure is doubled if the empty HGVs making the return trip from the site are included.

As a result of pressure from the CC and with the help of Ward Councillors, there will be a meeting on the 13th January to review these matters with both Perth and Fife Planning Departments. Depending on what transpires at that meeting the CC is minded to object, unless a condition is included in any consent requiring the rail link to be reopened before any other development and the use of the road restricted, as was the case with the original 2001 application. The CC will respond to Fife Council in respect of this application by the end of the month.

- 5. Recycling provision Kinnesswood:** A meeting to be convened by WCllr M Barnacle with representatives from the school, community and PKC will examine options for the type of recycling facility and its position.

6. Reports

6.1 Police: There were no matters raised. The CC noted the Area Commander Bulletins of 15th, 22nd, and 29th December and of 5th January. The CC also noted that Sergeant Amanda Nicholson, Community Coordinator, had left to take up a new position. The CC had thanked Sergeant Nicholson and wished her well in her new position. The new "community policing point" for Kinross would be Sergeant Nichola Forrester.

6.2 Treasurer: The General Account at the end of December was £590.70, while the Michael Bruce Way account was £739.62 giving a total of funds on hand of £1,330.32.

6.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a) 16/02070/FLL 26 Gamekeepers Road, Kinnesswood. Alterations and extension. No CC comment.
- b) 16/02143/FLL Craigard, Main Street Scotlandwell. Installation of replacement windows. No CC comment.

- c) 16/02201/LBC 16/02202/FLL Lilybank House, Kinnesswood, Installation of doors. No CC comment.

2. Progress with Developments:

- a) *Former Lomond Inn.* Formal consent for this development to proceed was awaited. Arrangements were in hand to preserve the stained glass windows of the Inn and to re-site a bottle bank recycling provision from the site to elsewhere within the village.
- b) *Glenlomond.* No progress to note. Formal consent for this development to proceed was awaited.

6.4 **Roads:** The CC received a revised Roads Report for 2017. This summarised the key points of the Chairman's letter of 7th December to Mr Jim Valentine, Depute Chief Executive of Perth and Kinross Council, on traffic flows across Portmoak. The Report focused on a requirement for improved signage and speed restrictions on both the A911 and B9097 and on the need for an options appraisal for a safe pedestrian route from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond. These were comparatively low cost interventions. CCllr Calderwood pointed out that the justification of the key points was set out in the letter to Mr Valentine. The response from Mr Young on behalf of Mr Valentine had been disappointing and it appeared that the matter was unlikely to be progressed by PKC. Ward Councillors will be meeting with Mr Young shortly and will raise this matter. They advised that the CC should re-submit its request for 20mph speed limits to Mr Young. The CC will do so. It was surprising to learn that the Council had a stock of electronic speed warning signs but no apparent means of erecting them.

6.5 **Paths:** No report.

7. **Portmoak Matters**

7.1 **Superfast Broadband in Portmoak.** The arrangements for providing this service across almost all of Portmoak served by the Scotlandwell exchange were becoming clear. Impediments to instituting this service at Wester Balgedie now appeared resolved. The CC recommended that routine reports monitoring progress with this programme across Kinross-shire should be shared with Ward Councillors. These reports are held by PKC officers.

7.2 **Portmoak Cemetery.** Evaluation of a possible new site had been completed and found to be satisfactory. The matter now lay with PKC to progress. Ward Councillors commented that there should be funding available to support this development.

7.3 **Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen's Field.** A consensus on the management strategy for the large cypress hedge bordering the path from the A911 to Stephen's Field and between it and the golf course, remained to be confirmed. The Chairman will pursue the matter with Bishopshire Golf Club and the residents of the four properties close to the hedge and golf course.

8. **P&KC Ward Cllr Reports:** WCllrs referred to the growing and large workload of activities across Kinross-shire. The budget for the forthcoming year was under pressure and it appeared that cuts to the Environmental Budget in particular could affect certain local services. The road safety budget should be preserved. It was a concern that there was a "Perth-centric" focus to the budget including, for example, extensive renovation of the Council's offices.

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

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10. AOCB:

11. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 14th February 2017 in Portmoak Primary School.** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 8.40pm.