

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 14th March 2017

at Portmoak Primary School, Kinnesswood

- 1. Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); B Calderwood (Treasurer); S Forde; A Robertson and T Smith; and WCLrs: M Barnacle; D Cuthbert and W Robertson; and 11 members of the public and PCs Atholl Spalding and Dougie Stapleton of Police Scotland.

Apologies: CCLrs: D Morris; and WCLrs J Giacobazzi.

All present acknowledged with great regret the death of CCLr Chris Vlasto and took time to remember Chris. Their thoughts were with his wife and daughter.

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes:** The draft Minute of the meeting held in February 2017 was approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.**

Para 3 Our Community Kinross and Earn Partnership. The CC had submitted an application to the fund operated by the Partnership for support to provide and improve parking facilities for visitors to the Portmoak Moss and the core paths which run through it.

Para 3 Arrangements at Whitecraigs and Stephen's Field. The CC had responded to an inquiry from a new resident to Whitecraigs who had been concerned at the lack of maintenance to the plot of land adjoining her property. The CC confirmed that it awaited a response from the owner, builder and developer, A & J Stephen, on that and other related matters.

Para 8 The Devil's Burden Race. The Chairman and representatives of the CC had had met representatives of Fife Athletic Club to review the recent conduct of the Race as it passed through Portmoak. Changes in the descent routing to Kinnesswood together with new toilet provisions are to be considered by the Club.

Para 8 Scottish Natural Heritage. Representatives of the CC would meet shortly with Neil Mitchell, Reserve Manager, Loch Leven NNR.

- 4. Management Plan for Portmoak Moss – Woodland Trust.** The CC welcomed Gary Bolton, Site Manager for the Woodland Trust. He explained that every five years the Woodland Trust reviewed management plans for its sites looking back at progress and forward to the future. This public management plan is available on line and briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. This was a site of significant biodiversity and of importance to the community. While conservation of the raised bog is successful the large area of old and established woodland (mainly Sitka and Norway Spruce) alongside it is coming to the end of its life. In the next few years this would be removed and eventually replaced with indigenous species. Public access was important and Trust was conscious of the need to maintain paths across the Moss. Resources were limited with more radical changes requiring external funding to be secured. Problems with path access to the Moss from Kinnesswood were identified. Resolution had proved challenging. CCLr Tom Smith would maintain contact and feed back on this matter. The

CC noted that Woodland Trust Scotland is discussing with SNH the possibility of inclusion of Portmoak Moss within the Loch Leven NNR. The CC thanked Mr Bolton for his presentation.

- 5. Recycling provision, Kinnesswood.** Arrangements to find a site for a limited recycling provision (bottle bank) in Kinnesswood were progressing, albeit slowly. Officers from PKC will revisit Kinnesswood shortly and if unable to find an appropriate site will contact the CC for advice. While such a provision would be welcomed by all, it would be particularly valued by those who had no ready access to distant recycling sites.

6. Reports

6.1 Police: The CC welcomed PCs Atholl Spalding and Dougie Stapleton. There had been no significant crime in the Portmoak Area. Across Kinross-shire agricultural theft remained a challenge and recent episodes of sheep worrying were a concern. Area Commander's Bulletins of 16th February, 23rd February and 9th March were noted.

6.2 Treasurer: The General Account at the end of February was £389.27 while the Michael Bruce Way account was £739.62 giving a total of funds on hand of £1,128.89

6.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a) *17/00216/FLL Land 40 metres north of Levenmouth, Scotlandwell. Erection of a dwelling House on Plot 2 (Change of house type).* No Comment.
- b) *17/00366/FLL Iona, Back Dykes Kinnesswood. Installation of replacement Windows.* No Comment.
- c) *17/00002/PAN Land 400 metres west of Tarnhill Milnathort, Erection of a Holiday Park, visitor centre, café/restaurant with residential accommodation and supporting recreational infrastructure.* Information on the proposed development was at present sketchy. Residents were encouraged to attend an exhibition of what is proposed. This is to be held in the Campus on Wednesday 29th March *between 12.30 and 19.30* and on Saturday 1st April *between 10.00 and 14.00*. They were encouraged to leave comments with the Planning Agent representative or to follow up with an email reflecting their comments after their visit. Portmoak CC is to be formally consulted. Subject to confirmation the agents for the applicants will make a presentation of the development proposals to the CC's meeting on 18th April to which all would be invited.

2. Progress with Developments:

- a) *Westfield Restoration and Regeneration Project, Fife (16/03661/EIA).* Arrangements for a further consultation involving Kinross-shire were anticipated.
- b) *Former Lomond Inn.* Permission for part demolition of site buildings (16/00325/CON) had been granted and was effectively concluded leaving the original Inn. Formal approval for the development had yet to be confirmed (16/00326/FLL). Until that had happened new build would not commence.
- c) *Glenlomond.* No progress was noted. Formal approval for the development had yet to be confirmed (16/00751/FLL).

6.4 Roads: The Chairman reported that he had written to Charles Haggart, Traffic and Network Manager, PKC, responding to his letter of 14th February making it clear that the

CCs Comments made to PKC on the 7th December were the culmination of three years careful consideration and community consultation. He clarified: why provisions were needed to advise HGVs of the unsuitability of transiting Portmoak along the A911; what speed restrictions were sought along the A911; that, with the possibility of a significant development at Westfield, safety measures along the B9097 should be kept under review; and why the promised option appraisal was needed to establish a safe foot path from Scotlandwell to the Church and beyond. The CC considered a suggestion from WCllrs Robertson's that the embankment on the west (loch-side of the road) could be widened to make a safer foot path. It would write to PKC in support of this.

The Chairman noted that, while there was still a need to modify arrangements for certain build-outs, these had become increasingly acceptable across the community. The CC wished to look at the possibility of installing a further build-out at Woodmarch to enable safe pedestrian transit at that point.

Access to Portmoak Primary School. The CC had advised PKC of its view that:

- a) the proposed solution should be permanent and not just for an hour when the school opens or closes (large and emergency vehicles require access at all times); and that
- b) restricted parking areas must include the stretch on the left hand side of Buchan Avenue approaching the School and immediately opposite the sharp right hand turn leading to the car park. This is necessary for large vehicles to make the tight turn at that point.

Consultation on the proposals had revealed that some residents of Buchan Terrace had objected to the proposed parking restrictions in relation to their homes. Local residents were present and able to explain their concerns. In essence with the increasing size of a variety of service vehicles the road was plainly too narrow. These difficulties pertained irrespective of children arriving at or departing from the school. A number of alternative options were identified: build a new loop road and school access above the car park; reverse the current one way traffic flow; block off the entrance to the carpark from Buchan Avenue obliging all vehicles to enter from Bruce Road; and require all parents driving their children to school to park in Whitecraigs and to drop-off and pick-up their children there. There were disadvantages to each option and discussion was inconclusive. At the suggestion of WCllr Robertson, representatives of the CC would examine new arrangements introduced at Arngask Primary School, Glenfarg.

6.5 Paths: CClr Tom Smith reflected on the loss of CClr Chris Vlasto who had been an energetic and productive member of the Paths Group Team. He also reported that he had attended a PKC meeting for community council path groups and had found it very helpful. The Paths Group Team had an interesting agenda focusing on the development and maintenance of paths across Portmoak. It was looking for new members from across the community. If you are interested please contact CClr Tom Smith on 0159 284 1160. The Team would look at accessing support for certain tasks from the community-based programme to rehabilitate offenders.

- 7. Hustings for PKC elections.** In advance of the Perth and Kinross local council elections on Thursday 4th May, Portmoak CC planned to hold a "Hustings" in the Village Hall on the Tuesday 11th April at 7.00PM. The Hustings would be chaired By Louise Batchelor. Full details would be made available at the beginning of April.

8. Consultation: The Future of the Scottish Planning System. The CC would submit comments.

9. P&KC Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr D Cuthbert confirmed that the PKC budget for the coming year was going to be a little larger than had been expected. As a consequence the Road Safety Team was no longer under threat. There would also now be limited funding for new pavements (e.g. possibly to cover a new safe pathway from Scotlandwell up to the Church and beyond).

WCllr M Barnacle reported that the restricted speed limit on the A911 at Wester Balgedie would be extended to the west with count down markings on the approach to it. New signage is in the process of being installed on the Dryside Road and the increase of run-through traffic on the same road would be raised with Fife Council. As a member of TACTRAN he was aware that TACTRAN too wished HGVs to use appropriate SAT NAV software.

WCllr W Robertson confirmed that he had written to Transport Scotland seeking a reassessment of the case for new slip roads to the south at Junction 7 of the M90. Given the economic upturn in the Milnathort area an economic assessment was now sought. The CC was supportive of this approach.

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

1. Drainage at The Green, Scotlandwell. A meeting with PKC officials was to take place the next day to seek remedies for the problem.
2. Aerospace Astronomy Evening – Community Benefit Launch, 7.30PM Thursday 16th March at the Loch Leven Community Campus.

11. AOCB: None.

12. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 18th April 2017 in Portmoak Village Hall.** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 8.57pm.