

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 12th December 2017

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

- 1. Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chair); B Calderwood (Deputy Chair and Treasurer), R Cairncross (Secretary), S Forde, D Morris, T Smith, A. Robertson; and WCLrs: M Barnacle, and R Watters; and 15 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLr A Muszynski; and WCLrs C Purves and W Robertson; and PC D Stapleton, Police Scotland.

- 2. Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the CC meeting held on 14th November 2017 were approved subject to the following amendments:

- a. Item 6.1 Police - replace scrambled text with "There had been a further accident on the C50 at the Manorleys turn off. Only one car was involved. There had also been a major burglary at Manorleys farm. The police had the matter in hand. It appeared that there had been a reconnaissance as the thieves knew what they were looking for."

- b. Item 7 WCLr M Barnacle - amend "site zonings in Portmoak" to "site zonings in Kinross-shire."

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 5 School access - policy on parking. The CC was concerned that PKC had indicated that it would not re-open this matter until it could be demonstrated by the CC that there was support from local residents for parking restrictions. It seemed extraordinary that the challenge here could continue unaddressed and that there was unfettered parking right up against the school gates. WCLr Barnacle would raise the matter with PKC Roads Department and assist them in preparing a paper to put to a committee of elected councillors for a decision.

- 4. Loch Leven's Larder – planning applications** 17/01738/ADV (Display of signs); 17/01621/FLL (Alterations to car park, play area and landscaping); and 17/01885/FLL (Erection of mixed use barn – retail cook school and function venue).

Robin Niven of the Larder explained that the aim of the proposals for a new 2km pathway, an extended landscaped car park together with improved catering and retail facilities and a mixed use activities barn, was to provide visitors with an interesting and varied experience encouraging them to enjoy the Larder and its setting and to stay longer and to return. Casual walkers, cyclists or motorists together with those participating in more formal occasions would be accommodated. The two storey "barn" would cater for functions such as weddings on the upper floor while the lower level would sustain a variety of culinary and craft activities.

The CC had some concerns about potential noise but it was thought that any noise of an evening would be at a significant distance from residents' housing. Mr Niven said that a noise impact assessment was in course of preparation. The CC was aware that an increase in traffic consequent on these developments could impact on the already dangerous junction at Balgedie Toll. Mr Niven supported the short term solution of traffic lights at this junction.

The CC would write in support of the development but seek that: a) the need for traffic lights at the Toll junction be specifically considered now by PKC and b) the provision of a bus halt within the plans for the new internal traffic circulation be considered.

- 5. Car park on Moss Access Road.** Discussions continue with the aim of enabling confirmation of the transfer of ownership to the CC.

- 6. Reports**

6.1 **Police:** In the absence of PC Stapleton the Local Report submitted recorded: a sheep worrying incident at Scotlandwell; caution advised if approached to engage in door to door selling; and that the annual Drink Driving Campaign started on Monday 4th December and will run through until early January. The Area Commander's Bulletins of 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th November October and of 6th December were noted.

6.2 **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 30th September was £439.20 in the General Account; and £ 1,042.23 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,481.43.

6.3 **Planning:**

1. New applications: None advised.

2. Progress with Developments

a) 17/01596/IPL. Land 50 metres south of 9 Bishop Terrace, Kinnesswood. Erection of a dwelling house in principle. (Stephen's Field). A further meeting held on 4th December between A & J Stephen, Perth and Kinross Council and representatives of the CC determined that a further appraisal of options was required. Once concluded the parties would meet once more.

b) Fife 16/03661/EIA) - Westfield Opencast Site Planning in Principle. To note progress : a) CC Request to Scottish Ministers to Call-in the Application; b) Fife Council - Draft Decision Notice; and c) Letter from Fife Council to Applicant - Hargreaves/Axis of 2nd November.

The CC had still to hear formally from the Minister concerned but others who had approached the Scottish Government had now heard that Scottish Ministers will not call-in the application. WCllr Watters reported that, although local Ward Councillors and the Leader of the Council had written to Ministers in support of a call-in, this had not been sufficient to alter the position of an officer-determined PKC position not to request a call-in. As a statutory body, were PKC to make such a request, it could trigger a call-in. PKC legal department was considering the validity of this position. There was scope for our MP, MSPs and others to put pressure on PKC to reverse its decision. Noted that West Fife councillors were unhappy that they had not been involved in the decision making process.

The CC was reminded that Fife Council had written to the applicant seeking that it convene a Local Liaison Group which could help resolve operational matters and be a focus for pursuing community benefit. The CC would write to the applicant in support of this.

c) Fife 17/03377/FULL). Installation of up to 10 gas engines generating 19.96MWe at Westfield OCCS Fife. To note progress including proposals for an Action Group.

The CC had submitted its objection. Representatives of the CC had participated in meeting at Balingry which established a Fife Action Group to challenge this application and the way that it had been handled. The Group would focus on the validity of the planning process and the relevance and impact (especially noise) of this new power station. It appeared possible that a decision would be made early in the New Year.

3. Progress with Local Development Plan 2. The latest iteration of the draft PKC Local Development Plan (LDP) and Environmental Report was now available for comment. This will affect Kinross-shire. It can be accessed on line at www.pkc.gov.uk/ProposedLDP2 or is available now to see at the Community Campus. The CC will comment before the closing date for comments of 2nd February. Portmoak residents are invited to make their own comments and to visit the "Drop in LDP Event" at the Loch Leven Community Campus on Wednesday 10th January between 3.00pm and 8pm. CC representatives will participate in an "LDP surgery" for community councils on Saturday 20th January in Perth.

6.4 Roads:

- a) *Wester Balgedie/Carsehall Junction - Increased traffic risk.* At a very positive meeting with PKC Roads department, WCllr W Robertson, local residents and representatives of the Balgedie Toll and Loch Leven's Larder and the CC, the gravity of the traffic risk was recognised. It identified that a short term solution lay in the installation of traffic lights. The long term solution was that the Toll should be by-passed and that, with that in mind, relevant land should be safeguarded in the proposed LDP.

The CC was subsequently concerned to learn that, because of budgetary constraints, there was no likelihood of the provision of traffic lights in the foreseeable future. The CC decided to write to challenge this decision and to point out that increased traffic following commissioning of developments at Loch Leven's Larder made it even more necessary that early action be taken at this junction to improve road safety.

- b) *Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.* An approach to the owners of the field between the Church and Scotlandwell had elicited no response. The CC with the support of WCllr C Purves would now look to arrange a meeting of relevant parties in the near future.
- c) *Vehicle Activated Signs - siting of five signs.* Work was underway to establish these signs. The CC through CClr B Calderwood had commented on the options for positioning each sign.

7. Paths: CClr Tom Smith reported no activity this month.

8. PKC Ward Cllr Reports:

WCllr M Barnacle reported that the budget for the coming financial year would be "difficult". There was little room to manoeuvre and cuts to activities may be necessary. Responding to the CC's wishes for improvements to the A911 footpath and to traffic flow challenges could be taxing. It was possible that changes to the Action Partnerships may open the way to greater devolved governance and that Kinross-shire may benefit were such change introduced.

WCllr R Watters reported that members were being sought for the Kinross-shire/Almond and Earn Action Partnership. If anyone is interested please contact WCllrs Barnacle or Watters. Traffic flow studies were being undertaken in Kinross and Milnathort. It was thought that they could be better informed were they to include Portmoak.

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

- a. *Broadband Developments.* The Chairman reported on meetings with Andrew Mitchell of Classloch. The use of wireless technology would give opportunities to improve broadband access across Kinross-shire for those unable to access superfast broadband by way of fibre optic cable. If anyone has difficulties and is interested in a connection they should contact either the Chairman (01592-840459) or Andrew Mitchell (0779 311 1386).
- b. *Portmoak Primary School Report.* The CC warmly congratulated the head teacher, staff parents and pupils on the recent outstanding report by Education Scotland (HMI Report) of the school. The school received rare excellent evaluations in two categories and very good in the other two representing an outstanding result.

9. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.30pm** on Tuesday 9th January 2017 in Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.