

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 8th May 2018 at Portmoak Village Hall

1. **Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman), B Calderwood (Deputy Chairman and Treasurer), R Cairncross (Secretary), D Morris, A Muszynski and T Smith; and WCllrs: C Purves, and R Watters; and PC A Spalding, Police Scotland; and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLlr S Forde; and WCllrs M Barnacle and W Robertson.

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May 2017 were approved.

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

None.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report.** The CC received and noted the Chairman's Report for 2018:

There have been three events this year of more than usual significance to the parish, on which I would like to focus. They do not necessarily grab the headlines.

The first is the change in administration in Perth & Kinross Council (henceforth PKC). Last year I expressed the hope that the new councillors could have some effect in changing the culture in PKC in dealing with the communities it is supposed to serve. There is some indication that there is a greater willingness on the part of the new administration to tackle this issue and I hope they maintain that. The effect of this may not be evident in our day to day lives but it will make the task of your council less frustrating in its dealings with PKC and hopefully result in action on the ground. The policy of the administration to focus more on the landward areas of PKC and less on Perth City is to be welcomed. We are dependent on our four ward councillor members for presenting our case to PKC officials and they have been diligent in doing so, with success in arranging meetings for us in particular in relation to roads. We are grateful to them for all their help and advice.

Second is "the Beast from the East" and its successor, which I suppose should be called "Little Beast" or perhaps "April Fool." The Beast brought out the very best in the community with neighbours looking after each other, those who had the equipment doing their best to make sure everybody had access and the three shops going to special efforts to have basic supplies available for everybody. In that they were considerably more successful than the supermarkets, whose distant supply chains could not cope with the weather. I would like to thank all those involved again for everything they did. The episode showed us how important the shops are to us when the chips are down and I do hope that they will all be able to keep going; but that is dependent on us.

There were other lessons too. Your council had already started to think of the preparation of a "resilience plan" for the parish to cope with emergencies and the Beast gave us a practical example to build on. All communities are being encouraged to have such a plan and one or two in PKC already have one in place. An Emergency Resilience Centre and an address book of those able and willing to help are the essentials and we shall be working on these in the coming months. We shall be looking for volunteers!

The third event was the lodging of a planning application by A & J Stephen for the construction of a house on the north west side of Stephen's field, and for the rest of the field to be designated as public open space. Stephens were offering to transfer ownership of the rest of the field to your

council if they received permission for the house. Your council decided that it did not need to hold a ballot of the whole community to ascertain its view of this proposition as the sixty five objections lodged to the building of the house were a sufficient indication of the community's view, and they should therefore lodge their own objection. Perth and Kinross Council subsequently refused the application. What will happen next we shall have to wait and see, but it is the policy of your council to see the field transferred into community ownership.

The Stephen's application was one of the 26 we had to consider in the year. Another was the application for gas turbines on the Westfield site referred to below. This is a significant reduction on the 40 we had to consider in 2016/7 and is perhaps a reflection of the real state of consumer confidence. The fact that no buyer has emerged for the building site on the south side of Scotlandwell also says something about demand for housing. We objected to four of these applications, including Stephen's and the Westfield applications. We anticipate a further application from the owner of the Lomond Inn, where development has not yet started.

I referred last year to the in principle application for a development covering the whole of the Westfield site to which both we and PKC objected. The application has now been approved and although there are conditions relating to traffic and other matters of concern to us they are not as robust as we would have liked. So far there has been no full application for any part of the development but there has been an application for ten gas turbines for the generation of electricity on the part of the Westfield site nearest to our boundary. This was not something envisaged in the in principle application and gave rise to a number of objections from Fife. We have lodged one too. A decision on the application has been postponed on several occasions by Fife Council.

It would appear that the proposal for holiday chalets between Burleigh Castle and Loch Leven is not going to proceed, or at least has gone back to the drawing board.

Planning is not just about applications, and we have been active in making representations on the Local Development Plan, which should receive ministerial approval later in the year. It will be the foundation for planning decisions over the next ten years, so it is important to try to have it aligned with local wishes.

One of the effects of the new PKC policy is that there is more money available for roads. The flashing signs on the roads into Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell are one result of this. They are already having a beneficial effect. It is to be hoped that these new funds may also allow improvements, perhaps traffic lights, at the Wester Balgedie junction to be put on the PKC agenda, as lack of funds was the reason given by officials for not taking action. We are also aware that the state of our road surfaces after the Beast is at least as bad as that in the rest of the UK. The roads department is well aware of our concerns but we have to take our turn when other parts of PKC have the same issues. We understand that the resurfacing of the A911 between the golf club and Scotlandwell will take place later this year. We still await the promised action plan for the A911.

The other major roads issue is related to the school. There are two aspects to this. First is the question of cars being parked in such a way that access for school buses and large vehicles which may be needed in the case of an emergency is impeded. The PKC roads officials are looking again at how this problem might be resolved. Secondly there is the question of safe access for pupils on foot. The crossing point on Bruce Road/Bishop Terrace has no legal status and PKC officials are looking at the possibility of warning signs for motorists of children crossing. Of course a zebra crossing is the best answer. The crossing at Buchan Avenue is not ideal and the Headteacher is considering alternatives.

Progress on the acquisition of the car park site at Moss Road, Scotlandwell has been stymied by title problems but a possible solution is being considered.

From roads to paths. A priority for your council for some time has been the provision of a safe route for pedestrians and particularly schoolchildren linking Scotlandwell with the hall, whence it can link to the path from Kinnesswood. A meeting, not the first, has been held on site with PKC officials and by the end of this year I hope that at least a route will have been decided upon and budgeted for. The paths group has carried out its usual, essential task of keeping clear existing paths and maintaining the Michael Bruce Way. Many thanks to Tom Smith for coordinating this, and to the Woodland Trust who assume responsibility for the part of the MBW on their ground. It should be noted that Loch Leven's Larder have recently obtained planning permission for a new circular path down to the Heritage Trail and back to the Larder.

At last a site has been found for a glass recycling point in Kinnesswood to replace the one lost at the Lomond Inn. So successful has it been that PKC are now looking at providing a further site with possible sites under discussion. From dead bottles to dead people. The possible site for an extension to the graveyard which I mentioned last year is not a possibility and so we are still looking for a suitable site elsewhere. Please let me know of any suggestions.

I am disappointed to report that the follow up I anticipated last year to meetings with the River Leven Trustees and SNH has not occurred. I shall be contacting both again to remind them of our existence and interests.

Finally, broadband. Despite having fibre optic cable running along the A911 right through the parish many of us have a very unsatisfactory service. I understand that Kinnesswood is in the process of being wired up for a proper service but many of us have little prospect of that from BT. Thanks to the initiative of Andrew Mitchell, a resident at Classlochie, there is an alternative to being linked to the fibre optic cable. Broadband can be obtained via either radio or white space TV. This will take a bit of time to roll out, but there have been successful pilots in the area, and there is scope for it to help many parts of Portmoak when relay stations have been set up.

My fellow councillors have put in a power of work this year as we have had a number of extra meetings on particular issues and I thank them for that and for their help and support. I hope they will forgive me if I single out Robin Cairncross again for his crucial work as secretary in coordinating us and keeping the paperwork right. I regret that Alison Robertson has decided to retire at the end of this meeting; she has been full of stimulating ideas and her experience of the ways of councils and the NHS has been valuable. We shall miss the regular bulletins from the metropolis of Stornoway! That leaves a vacancy on the council and if anybody knows someone who would be interested in filling it they should contact the secretary.

Malcolm Strang Steel.

In discussion WCllrs confirmed that any changes to the Kinnesswood settlement boundary which might be included in the forthcoming Local Development Plan were thought unlikely. The CC would be consulted were they to be considered.

- 5. Treasurer's Annual Report.** The Treasurer reported that at the year-end 31st March 2018 there was: £284.80 in the General Account; and £1,192.48 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,477.28. In the No3 Holding account there was £1,500.00.

6. Approval of Annual Accounts

The accounts for the year to 31 March 2018 had been subject to independent examination and as such submitted for approval by the Community Council prior to their submission to Perth & Kinross Council. The accounts were duly approved by the CC and the Treasurer instructed to submit them to Perth and Kinross Council and to obtain the funding grant for the year to March 2019.

The full Income and Expenditure of the CC's accounts can be found on the CC website.

7. Office Bearers for 2018-19

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The following office bearers were appointed for the year 2018-19:

Chairman: CClr M Strang Steel

Proposed by CClr D Morris and Seconded by CClr T Smith.

Secretary: CClr R Cairncross

Proposed by CClr M Strang Steel and Seconded by CClr A Muszynski.

Treasurer: CClr B Calderwood

Proposed by CClr M Strang Steel and Seconded by CClr T Smith

Deputy Chairman: B Calderwood

Proposed by CClr M Strang Steel and Seconded by CClr D Morris.

7. **Calendar or of Meeting Dates.** Meeting dates for the Council through to September 2019 were confirmed.
8. **Date of next AGM:** 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at Portmoak Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 8th May 2018

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

- 1. Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman), B Calderwood (Deputy Chairman and Treasurer), R Cairncross (Secretary), D Morris, A Muszynski and T Smith; and WCLrs: C Purves, and R Watters; and PC A Spalding, Police Scotland; and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLr S Forde; and WCLrs M Barnacle and W Robertson.

The Chairman reported that CCLr Alison Robertson had decided to retire. The CC will miss her stimulating ideas and practical support. The CC would be looking for volunteers to fill the vacancy.

- 2. Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the CC meeting held on 10th April 2018 were approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 3 School Access - policy on parking and safe access routes for children. At a site visit on 16th April CCLs D Morris and R Cairncross met with Daryl McKeown (PKC Road Safety) to review: progress with arrangements to resolve problems of access to the school for large vehicles including emergency vehicles; and the safe passage for children approaching the school on foot and using the “red strip” crossings. Subject to discussion with the School, a Report would be shared with the CC before submission to PKC’s Environment and Infrastructure Committee. WCLr C Purves would monitor progress.

Item 3 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond. At a site visit on 16th April CC members met PKC officers representing strategic planning, road safety and path access together with WCLrs M Barnacle, C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters for an initial examination of options for a 24/7 lit path. The CC would now undertake preliminary work on an option appraisal before further discussion with PKC on how to take the work forward.

Item 3 RSPB Loch Leven: Underpass commissioning arrangements. Work had now commenced. Traffic light controls were in place.

Item 5 Resilience - being better prepared for risks. Community Emergency Plan. On 30th April CC members had had a preliminary and comprehensive discussion with John Handling (PKC Lead on Resilience) and Simon Byford (Chair of the Hall Committee) to explore what would be required to commission and sustain a Portmoak Resilience Plan. There was a wealth of information to assimilate and support available from a number of agencies. A practical plan tailored to local needs would be required. Led by CCLr Andrew Muszynski, the CC would build its Resilience Plan over the coming months. The Community would be consulted and involved as the Plan developed. In a preliminary step the CC would shortly apply for funding to SSE to provide a “hook-up” facility at the Hall and other basic material. This would support an emergency generator supply for what may become a “Resilience Hub” for the community.

- 4. Communication Strategy.**

- a. Revised CC website.* Members of the CC had reviewed the new website for the CC and approved its immediate introduction. They expressed their thanks to the Webmaster, Gordon Vance, for undertaking the revision. It was now easier to access both on PC and mobile platforms.

- b. *General Data Protection Regulations effective 25th May.* Guidance for Community Councils was expected from PKC shortly and should clarify how records of individuals held by the CC should be dealt with. The CC would review its practice in respect of that Guidance.
5. **Comfort Scheme.** PKC offers a number of free to use public toilets through partnerships with local service providers such as hotels, pubs and public buildings. This service is known as the Perth and Kinross “Comfort Scheme.” These facilities are available for public use at no cost, regardless of whether or not they are a customer. With increasing visitors to the Heritage Trail and to many business across Portmoak providing for tourism there was interest in participating in the scheme. WClls undertook to find out if Portmoak businesses were eligible, what the advantages were and if indeed there were any already part of the Scheme.
6. **Glass Recycling Kinnesswood.** The CC noted the popularity of the glass recycling facility behind the bus shelter and the request from PKC to consider an additional site either midway up Gamekeepers or at the school car park. A site at the school car park site was judged unsuitable. It could add to concerns about parking and child safety which were already the subject of a review. The Gamekeepers site was thought remote and may not be used. The CC advised that the existing site behind the bus shelter be evaluated to see if an expanded facility could be accommodated there. The CC would advise Kinnesswood in Bloom of their view and would write to PKC accordingly.

7. Reports

7.1 **Police:** PC A Spalding was welcomed and reported on two recent local crimes: theft of a rear light cluster from a white Ford Ranger in Scotlandwell; and the theft of a £4,000 trailer from RSPB Loch Leven. He reminded all of us to consider shed security where valuable equipment is often stored. The Police were supporting an “*older drivers’ awareness*” event at Loch Leven’s Larder on 16th May to which all older drivers would be welcome to attend. Speeding remained a matter of concern and further checks can be anticipated. PC Spalding undertook to pursue whether accident records were duly relayed to PKC as such information was taken into account by PKC in setting priorities for road improvements. He would also raise the matter of accident reports being included in the Commander’s Bulletin. The Area Commander’s Bulletins of 11th, 18th and 25th April and of 2nd May were noted.

7.2 **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 30th April was £344.20 in the General Account; and £1,192.48 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,536.68. The new “Holding Account” No. 3 held £1, 500.00.

7.3 Planning:

1. New applications:

- a. **18/00397/FLL East Brackley Lodge, Kinross.** Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse. No comment.
- b. **18/00526/FLL Benarty, Wester Balgedie, Kinross.** Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse. No comment.

2. Progress with Developments:

- a. **16/03661/CON). Former Lomond Inn:** proposals for part demolition and erection of 5 dwelling houses. A further application was expected shortly.
- b. **17/02227/FLL Levenmouth Scotlandwell: Erection of two houses.** On the 12th April the Chairman had written to Councillor Roz McCall, Convenor of the Planning and Development Management Committee, drawing to her attention that Perth and Kinross Council did not process this application appropriately. The decision to grant consent was

made by the planning officer. The Council's "Scheme of Delegation" for planning application decisions, approved by Scottish Ministers in October 2016, in Para 2 (d) states that "the Development Management Committee will determine all applications for local developments where - d) a similar application at the same site was previously determined by the Committee and the recommendation is contrary to the previous Committee decision." In the CC's view this decision should have been dealt with under that paragraph. To date there had been no acknowledgement of the letter.

7.4 Roads: CCllr Bruce Calderwood reported that limited progress had been made on outstanding road matters. A full report would be made to the forthcoming June meeting.

7.5 Paths: CCllr Tom Smith presented an Action Plan setting out the Path Group's work for the year ahead. He thanked Path Group members Anne McIntyre and Andrew Wilson for their contribution to the Action Plan. There were three priority areas for action: 1. The Michael Bruce Way (MBW); 2. Dryside Way - the Core Path from Easter Balgedie to Glenlmond Road; and 3. Improvement of General Signposting of Paths throughout Portmoak. There was a detailed plan for each area. This year the intention was to take path work forward through targeted work groups. The CC noted that the Woodland Trust had assumed responsibility for maintaining the MBW when it crossed its land and thanked the Trust for the recent repairs to the steps opposite the Church. The Group planned to use a motorised flail mower to maintain the path at Peat Loan as it leaves the Moss. Cattle and weather contributed to the relatively high maintenance of the MBW where it passed above Stephen's Field and the golf course.

8. PKC Ward Cllr Reports

WCllr C Purves reported that: the new Vehicle Activated Speeding signs had been appreciated and that a further one would be erected at Easter Balgedie; and that the Council's Scrutiny Committee is likely to consider a review of planning services. It appeared likely that the Council's "Scheme of Delegation" could be included in the review. A Report on Child Protection provision across Scotland had identified Perth and Kinross as "Best in Scotland".

WCllr R Watters reported on a visit he had made with the Dog Warden to Portmoak Moss. There was significant bagged but un-binned dog waste. The CC supported the proposal to re-site the current red dog waste bin further along the Moss Access road and closer to the entrance to the Woodland Trust. He confirmed that PKC would empty the re-sited bin.

9. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor: *Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils in Perth and Kinross.* Not much was known about this Review but it had the potential to be significant. The CC would participate in the meetings PKC proposed. It also supported the suggestion of WCllrs that a meeting of the Kinross Forum, with representatives from all Kinross-shire CCs, along with PKC representatives could be an effective way to proceed. WCllr Purves would try to set up such a meeting.

10. AOCB. None.

11. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting and AGM of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.30pm** on Tuesday 12th June 2018 in Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.35p.m.