

# Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CCLrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman), R Cairncross (Secretary), S Forde, D Morris, A Muszynski; and WCLrs: M Barnacle, C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters, PI K Chase (Police Scotland) and 14 members of the public.

**Apologies:** CCLr B Calderwood, A Robertson; and T Smith; and PC D Stapleton (Police Scotland).

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the CC meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were approved.

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

*Item 3a. School access - policy on parking.* WCLr Purves reported that the Council's Environment and Infrastructure (E&I) Committee will consider a Report addressing access to the school and associated restrictions on parking in the near future. Its scope would not include consideration of safe access routes for children in the vicinity of the school; this matter would be taken up separately by the CC in consultation with the Head Teacher. A "Protocol" was in preparation to act as guide to parents and carers dropping-off and picking-up children at the school. There would be wide consultation. The contribution of the "Gap Site" in Buchan Avenue in mitigating any parking restrictions required evaluation. Unfortunately it had not to date been possible to determine who in the Council is responsible for this Council owned site. The Report to the E&I Committee will be shared with the CC before it is presented to the Committee. PI Chase commented that all the schools in his area had similar traffic problems.

*Item 5.4a Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church Hall and beyond.* Adverse weather had forced the cancellation of the meeting to review this matter. A new date was being sought. The CC asked that, in addition to roads engineers, an officer from the Planning Department should be part of the PKC team. It did so recognising that there were issues concerning the path which went beyond engineering matters. Although there were other roads matters at the School and along the main street of Kinnesswood, this meeting would deal solely with the path from Scotlandwell and its associated site visit.

*Item 7.a Devil's Burden Race.* CCLr D Morris would arrange a meeting with the race organisers to take forward concerns already noted.

4. **RSPB Loch Leven: Underpass commissioning arrangements.** Uwe Stoneman, RSPB's Tayside Reserves Manager was welcomed to the meeting. He confirmed that the Underpass would go ahead with work commencing shortly after Easter. This was a significant achievement and will provide an important means for allowing greater access for all people to both the Heritage Trail and the RSPB Loch Leven nature reserve. It is an investment for the future and a long term gain for the community. Mr Stoneman thanked the many donors, including PKC, who had made the underpass possible. Fifty percent of the cost had been met by a grant from Sustrans. Work will commence on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April and be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> July. A temporary single track roadway will be constructed controlled by traffic lights. No road closures are planned, but any necessary will be short term and notified to the community via the RSPB Tayside and Fife and Visit Loch Leven Facebook pages and the Kinross CC webpage.

5. **Resilience – being better prepared for risks**

- a) **"Community Emergency Plan.** The Chairman explained that the CC was in the process of considering how best to develop its own Resilience Plan. There was encouragement from

Government, PKC and SSE to do so. The current situation had been put to the test by the recent snow. The community had risen magnificently to the challenge and the Chairman wished to thank all those who had helped out, whether with snow clearance, helping less able neighbours with supplies and generally keeping an eye out for each other. Special mention should be made of the Kinnesswood and Lochend shops and Loch Leven's Larder who had kept everybody supplied whilst the local supermarkets had been unable to do so. He then asked for contributions from those present to say what had succeeded and what failed in the emergency, to assist with the formulation of the Plan. Already there was a recognition that the Plan would have to meet various scenarios, that it would require "community buy in" and that there was a significant challenge in coordinating and supporting a range of information. The recent snow had focused minds on a how preparation for events like this could be better. Matters might have been much more challenging had the snow been accompanied by a prolonged power cut. The CC are to meet with Resilience officers from PKC on the 30<sup>th</sup> April to explore how best to take this project forward.

**b) The Kinnesswood Shop: Contribution and challenges.** The Chairman invited Ishbel Buchan to explain the role of the Kinnesswood Shop and how that had been challenged during the time of the snow. In advance of the weather deteriorating the Shop had been stocked up so that it could support the immediate needs of the community. Comparing takings with those of the previous week there had been an increase of between 200 and 460% on days when the village had been effectively cut off. Many visiting the Shop were doing so for the first time and were surprised to find that essentials at competitive prices were available. Once the event was past takings had dropped back to what they were before. The regular turnover of the shop was not sufficient to sustain it without the support of the associated garage. Unless custom increased markedly in normal times the community should recognise that the Shop is likely to close. The Resilience Plan should therefore not assume that the shop will still be available in the next emergency.

**6. CC Website and communication strategy.** The CC had received a Report on the meeting with is Webmaster Gordon Vance. He provided invaluable help in keeping its website up to date. Key points were:

- a. A new front page for the website which was much welcomed.
- b. Contact lists used by both Webmaster and Secretary to be reviewed.
- c. The Website should be mobile as well as PC friendly.
- d. The CC website to carry website links to other bodies in Portmoak and beyond. The Ward Councillors would consider whether they would include links to the CC website on their correspondence.
- e. Improvements to the Electronic mail box.
- f. A summary panel of current issues on opening page.
- g. The use of social media such as Facebook to be explored.

**7. Cemetery.** The current cemetery at Portmoak church was now "full". The Chairman reported no progress as yet on the quest for finding a site for another cemetery for Portmoak.

## **8. Reports**

**8.1 Police:** The Chairman welcomed PI Kevin Chase who explained that his command was one of three Community Policing Teams in Perth and Kinross and that it included Kinross-shire. His Team was supported locally by a Community Sergeant for Kinross-shire, Sgt Robert Hogg, and two Community Police Constables, Douglas Stapleton and Athol Spalding. He was keen to meet community councils and hear of their particular problems. Crime patterns may vary and while it may appear peaceful in Portmoak there remained issues of farm vehicle theft,

sheep worrying, parking issues around schools and a range of road issues including speeding and accidents. The recent weather had presented some significant challenges and the role of the community in providing support had been crucial. The Chairman advised that we had a particular issue in how to discourage the transit of HGV lorries though Portmoak along the A911. PI Chase was thanked for visiting the CC and for participating in its discussions.

The Local Police Report from PC D Stapleton was noted as were the Area Commander's Bulletins of 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February and of 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**8.2 Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 28<sup>th</sup> February was £439.20 in the General Account; and £ 1,042.35 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,481.55. The new "Holding Account" held £1, 500.00.

### **8.3 Planning:**

1. New applications: No new applications.
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). The CC would consider a recently received response from A & J Stephen and PKC and report back.
  - b) *Fife 16/03661/EIA and 17/03377/FULL). Westfield a) Opencast Site Planning in Principle and b) Installation of up to 10 gas engines.* A decision from Fife Council could be taken within the next two months. It was noted that on 14<sup>th</sup> March the Scottish Parliament would debate issues arising from the burning of waste in incinerators.
  - c) *16/03661/CON). Former Lomond Inn: proposals for part demolition and erection of 5 dwelling houses.* A new application was anticipated.
  - d) *17/02227/IPL Levenmouth, Scotlandwell. Erection of two houses.* The CC had written to PKC setting out its concerns that the decision to delegate the decision for this application was not compatible with the Council's Scheme of Delegation as approved by Scottish Ministers in 2016. The Council had not accepted the CC's concern. The matter would now be referred to the Chairs of PKC's Scrutiny Committee and the Development Management Committee by the CC.

**8.4 Roads: To note progress with the Roads Report for 2017.** The CC commended the efforts of the snowploughing and gritting programmes to keep the roads open during the recent adverse weather. It noted that PKC was working hard to repair significant damage to road surfaces. The B920 as it leaves Scotlandwell was recognised as being particularly bad.

**8.5 Paths:** No report.

**9. PKC Ward Cllr Reports:** All councillors reported on the PKC budget settlement for the next year and, while there may not have been unanimity on whether its outcome was good or not, it was plain that considerable work had gone into minimising and targeting the impact of proposed savings so that services could be sustained or indeed in some instances expanded. The reduction in the education budget had meant that in senior schools teachers in English and Mathematics would need to work slightly longer hours. The allocation of the budget between Perth city and rural Perth and Kinross had been rebalanced to give proportionately more to the latter. New funding had been found for road safety measures including footpaths and a new fund of £100,000 over two years for each ward which the ward councillors could use to fund appropriate projects. This was in addition to local funding provided by Action Partnerships. The CC noted that the Scottish Government had commissioned Glasgow University to look at and report on local decision making and that PKC would be reviewed. It also noted that reporting road defects was made easier by accessing the website "MyPKC".

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

**11. AOCB** None.

**12. Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at [7.30pm](#) on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.