

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 10th September 2019

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CClrs: B Calderwood (Deputy Chairman and Treasurer); R Cairncross (Secretary); G Cox and S Forde; and WCllrs: M Barnacle and W Robertson; and 6 members of the public.

Apologies: CClrs: M Strang Steel and D Morris; and WCllrs C Purves and R Watters; and Police Scotland.

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th August were approved.

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

Item 3 School Access: to achieve clear access for large vehicles (including emergency vehicles) to the School and, separately, to secure safe access routes for children. Ward Councillors referred to the visit to Portmoak and to this site of the new CEO, Karen Reid, in March 2019. She had been accompanied by officers and ward councillors. They had concluded that it was correct to submit a report on proposals to improve access and child safety to the Environment and Infrastructure (E&I) Committee. WCllr W Roberson had written to Jim Valentine, Chief Operating Office, to raise the matter of the non-presentation of the report, but had had no response. **ACTION: WCllr W Robertson will write once more to Jim Valentine with a copy to Angus Forbes, Convenor of the E&I Committee, seeking that a report be presented to the Committee.**

Item 3 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond. There had been no progress. The CC had secured permission of the land owners for PKC to carry out the required option appraisal of possible routes. **ACTION: WCllr W Robertson acknowledged that the failure of PKC to respond to the CC was both embarrassing and reprehensible. He would contact Daryl McKeown (PKC Roads Department) and Dave Stubbs of PKC Greenspace.**

Item 3 Resilience - being better prepared for risks. Community Emergency Plan. CClr G Cox reported that arrangements to advance the programme would take place from November.

Item 3 Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils. The CC noted the timetable for CC elections. Nominations are required by 4.00 pm on 26th September 2019.

Item 3 Portmoak Cemetery. No progress to report. Despite good will in the community to secure a response it was disappointing that PKC has been unable to progress matters to date.

Item 4 Rural Transport. A meeting of the Kinross-shire Community Transport Loop Group would be held on 26th September. Unfortunately the CC would not be able to field a representative on this occasion.

Item 4 Heart 200. Following an approach from Mark Ruskell MSP, seeking information on the impact of this venture on constituents, the Chairman had responded identifying the potential adverse impact at the junction of the A911 and the B919 at Balgedie Toll. The CC has long recognised this as a dangerous junction and had invited Mr Ruskell to write to PKC in support of improvements to the junction.

Item 4 Vehicle parking adjacent to Traffic-calming Islands. The CC noted the report of WCllr R Watters that, in the view of PKC, there are no measures to deal with this other than the possibility of waiting restrictions. The CC took the view that imposing waiting restrictions would be excessive and that in the first instance painting to restore the green track and white lines to safeguard the passage of cyclists would be a help. **ACTION: The secretary to write to PKC accordingly.**

Item 4 Hedges: 1) Woodmarch; and 2) Bruce Road/A911 junction. The owners of Woodmarch had yet to be contacted while those at the property at the Bruce Road/A911 junction were aware of the matter and would take action. Both would need to be taken forward to a conclusion and would remain under review. *3) Overgrowth on the path from Easter to Wester Balgedie alongside the A911, 4) Hedge growth impeding passage on the footpath from Easter Balgedie to Kinnesswood, and 5) impeded site lines to the left at the junction with the A911 and the road to Wester Balgedie.* **ACTION: the CC would pass these matters to PKC but acknowledged that if resources are limited then other solutions may be required.**

4. Kinnesswood Village Shop. Lesley Botten, a resident of Kinnesswood, was welcomed to the meeting and reported on the open meeting at the Village Hall held on 5th September to find out how the community might respond to David and Ishbel Buchan's offer to sell the Kinnesswood shop to the community. Some 73 folk attended and participated with enthusiasm in a programme "compered" by Dave Batchelor and aimed at identifying community opinion. Suggestions were wide ranging and focused on encouraging more diversified shop use (with local fresh fruit and vegetables) and selling local crafts and/or including some sort of a café or hub or activity centre. Anonymous pledges towards start-up costs amounted to £21,000. While 27 people said they could volunteer to work in the shop if it was run by the community, a range of other skills was also offered. It was acknowledged that time was short. Seven people have offered to form an initial steering group to investigate possibilities further. This will meet shortly. Going forward there could be a relationship with the nascent Kinnesswood Community Trust.

5. Loch Leven: arrangements for assuring and sharing information on water quality. On the 7th November the boundaries of the CC will extend to encompass approaching half of Loch Leven including St Serf's island. In seeking to interact with the current bodies with an interest in the Loch the CC had been surprised at the number involved. This work had coincided with a number of blue/green algal blooms which had culminated in public warning notices advising no human or animal contact with the water and restricting fish consumption. WCLlr W Robertson had acknowledged that communication about the status of the Loch was not always clear and had sought further information on the levels of water pollutants and whether they were increasing. There were a number of questions that could be of interest to the public:

- *Phosphorus concentrations:* has the rise in phosphorus concentrations recorded by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in 2017 continued?
- *Climate change:* Looking forward, what is the likely impact of climate change: a warmer and wetter climate punctuated by extreme events e.g. heavy rainfall and flooding? Is the Loch getting warmer?
- *Green/blue algal blooms:* What is the relationship between the occurrence of blooms and water temperature and/or phosphorus levels?
- *Informing the public:* Is the process of informing the public of blooms clear and robust?
- *Waste water treatment plants:* Are these plants effective and able to accommodate excess drainage following heavy rainfall without compromising function?
- *Housing:* Does PKC hold to its policy of "Reallocation of 10% of the housing land requirements for the Kinross Housing Market Area to the Greater Perth Housing Market Area for environmental reasons"? If so can that be reconciled with the new more "flexible" approach to meeting the Kinross-shire housing requirements proposed in the forthcoming PKC Local Development Plan?
- *Public interest:* How are the interests of the wider community, businesses and the tourist and leisure industry recognised? What is the economic cost if water quality is compromised?

6. Reports:

1. **Police:** 1) Nothing of significance to report; and 2) The CC also noted the Area Commander Bulletins of: 14th, 21st, and 28th August and 4th September.

2. **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 31st July was £700.00 in the General Account; and £1,621.07 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £2,321.07. The new financial year would run from 1st September to 31st August. The CC would meet that requirement by having accounts to 31st August 2019 ready shortly. These would be presented to the CC at its October meeting.

3. **Planning: to include:**

a) *New applications:*

19/01236/FLL 22Gamekeepers Road, Kinnesswood. Erection of an ancillary building. No comment.

19/01382/FLL Land 60M SW of Lomondmuir Farm. Erection of 4 Glamping Cabins and associated works. Jonathan Sloan, applicant, was welcomed to the meeting and explained what was proposed. Farming often now requires a more diversified business plan and this part of the farm was not only the least productive but was suitable for such a development. The site would be accessed from the core path and right of way "Dryside Road." The four units would not be readily visible, would enjoy suitable landscaping and would be commissioned over a period of time. Waste disposal would be compatible with Loch Leven Catchment Area requirements. The cabins would be built on site and would provide employment during construction and thereafter. The CC would comment following a site visit.

b) *Progress with Developments: Westfield FIFE:* A meeting of Westfield Liaison Group held on 28th August had included a useful visit to the extensive site. In discussion thereafter between community and ward councillors, council officers and representatives of Hargreaves Land and Brockwell Energy the following points arose: 1) once preliminary work had been completed, there was every intention to press ahead with the Energy from Waste plant through a three year construction programme starting in mid 2020; 2) although there was planning consent to erect a gas peaking plant (up to ten gas engines with a generating capacity of 19.96MW), the preference was now to move to install significant solar panel generating capacity. Although some three years off, contracts to support 70% of the waste processing capacity had already been agreed. The option to secure possible "community benefits" was acknowledged. On site billboard signage would be erected shortly. Full minutes of the meeting would be circulated shortly to CC members. The next Community Liaison Group would be 20th November 2019 at 18.30.

4. **Roads:** The CC noted that despite a visit from the "drain sooker" two problems remained: 1) on the B920 leaving Scotlandwell the drain on the left behaved as a "spring" as water was backed up and could not reach the ditch running alongside the Moss Access road; and 2) on the A911 at Wester Balgedie opposite the Toll, despite drain clearance water still accumulated. **ACTION: The secretary to contact Garry McConnell, PKC.**

5. **Paths Group:** To note:

a) *Path from Lochend to Heritage Trail.* There had been significant progress and a meeting of interested parties will be convened by WCllr Willie Robertson shortly.

b) *Dryside Road, Access & Maintenance.* CCllr D Morris will take up the issue of clearance of vegetation.

7. **PKC Ward Cllr Reports:**

WCllr Barnacle reported that: consultation was underway on five supplementary guidance documents which related to the Local Development Plan; Tayplan had ceased to function; and that a PKC priority listing of road improvements had been circulated. This included a "puffin crossing" in Main Street Scotlandwell and possible traffic lights at the Balgedie Toll junction.

Councillor Barnacle will pass the listing to the CC and will forward information on the site of the “puffin crossing”.

8. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor. *For Information:* NHS Tayside, “Transforming Tayside” with associated consultations on orthopaedics and mental health services.

9. AOCB: None.

10. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 8th October 2019**. The meeting closed at 9.35pm.