

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 12th March 2019

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CClrs M Strang Steel (Chairman), R Cairncross (Secretary), G Cox, S Forde, D Morris, and T Smith; and WCllrs C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters; and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: CClrs B Calderwood and A Muszynski; WCllr M Barnacle; and Police Scotland PC D Stapleton.

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the CC meeting held on 12th February 2019 were approved.

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

Item 3 School Access - policy on parking and safe access routes for children. WCllr Purves confirmed that the matter would be reviewed at an officer-councillor meeting with officials on Wednesday 13th March. Angus Forbes, Convenor of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, would participate. The PKC CEO's visit to Portmoak last month included a visit to this site.

Item 3 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond. The ball was firmly in PKC's court to take forward the agreed option appraisal of potential routes. The matter would also be raised at the officer-councillor meeting set for Wednesday 13th March.

Item 3 Resilience - being better prepared for risks. Community Emergency Plan. The programme for taking forward the Emergency Plan was in hand.

Item 3 Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils. PKC had approved the CC's proposals in principle for boundary changes, subject to re-confirmation by Kinross CC. To help take the matter forward the CC would seek comment on a map showing the potential boundary changes from both Kinross and Milnathort and Orwell and Kinross CCs. **ACTION: CC to approach both Milnathort and Orwell and Kinross CCs.**

Item 3 Portmoak Cemetery. No progress.

Item 4 Rural Transport. The CC noted that a questionnaire seeking solutions to the rural transport challenge had been circulated with the current edition of the Kinross CC Newsletter. The CC would facilitate local circulation of the questionnaire when copies are made available. **ACTION CC to distribute copies of the questionnaire within Portmoak.**

Community Investment Fund. The Chairman had joined a panel to recommend to the Kinross Action Partnership how this year's allocation of £50,000 should be distributed.

4. **Report on Visit of PKC CEO, Karen Reid, to Portmoak:** In a busy visit WCllrs had conducted Ms Reid to to see:- access problems at Portmoak School and the need to ensure safe walking routes for children in the vicinity of the School; narrow pavements in both Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell and the footpath route from Scotlandwell to the Church and beyond. They had proceeded to visit the B9097 at RSPB Loch Leven to look at the underpass development (to which PKC had contributed £150k) and to review the implications for the B9097 arising from commissioning the Westfield development. WCllrs reported that where possible there was a wish to promote a *can do* or *yes* ethos within PKC. Arising from this there was a place to develop a "local action plan."

5. **Reports:**

1. **Police:** The CC noted the local report from PC D Stapleton - there had been no local crime. The CC also noted the Area Commander Bulletins of: 13th, 20th, and 27th February and of 6th March.
2. **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 28th February 2019 was £362.80 in the General Account; and £1,144.27 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,507.07. The "Holding Account" No. 3 now held £0.00. The Chairman reported that, with the termination of the CC's longstanding programme to take Stephen's Field into community ownership, it had been faced with an historic liability to meet outstanding legal expenses. PKC had recently agreed to assist the CC in meeting this liability. Details will be made available in the CC accounts in due course.
3. **Planning:** to include:
 1. Report on visit of WCllr Roz McCall, Convenor, Planning and Development Management Committee. The CC had been pleased to welcome Ms McCall to the monthly meeting of its Management Group. This had been a pleasant, thoughtful and constructive visit covering a wider range of topics including: the operation of the Council's Scheme of Delegation (which governed the process by which local planning applications were determined); and whether there should be more than one "Planning Committee." It was evident that across Scotland's Local Authorities there was a range of practice with some authorities taking an objection from a community council as a reason for referral to a "planning committee". WCllrs were of the view that this was a matter that PKC could consider but that it would need to be supported by a sound case. The matter would be explored with other PKC community councils. **ACTION: the Chairman will write to all PKC CC Chairmen seeking their views on a) whether a CC objection to a planning application should trigger a referral to the Development Management Committee; and b) whether there should be more than one such committee, as there was elsewhere – such as Fife Council which has three area planning committees.**
 2. New applications:
 - a) 19/00193/FLL Benarty, Wester Balgedie. Alterations, Extension and New Garage. No Comment.
 3. Progress with Developments:
 - a) **18/00667/FLL**. Former Lomond Inn, Kinnesswood. No progress.
 - b) **FIFE 17/03377/FUL Westfield**, Erection of gas-fired generation peaking plant. Fife Council had now granted approval subject to conditions. Of note were those relating to a potential noise disruption.
 4. LDP2, Consultation on Supplementary Guidance: The CC will finalise its comments shortly.
 5. Removal of Public Comments on Planning Applications from Public Access: Along with Kinross CC, the Kinross Civic Trust and others the CC had written to PKC in support of WCllr Purves' original letter of concern. PKC had now received a copy of the reply to WCllr C Purves confirming revised arrangements. It will now amend its timescale for withdrawing this information from one year to four years. This will allow the time for a planning permission to expire (3 years), a renewal to be submitted, as well as time for an appeal (to Scottish Government as well as the Local Review Body), time for that decision to be made and any appeal to the Court of Session. All letters will remain on public view through the PKC Public Access system for the same period of time. The CC acknowledged this was a positive and practical response though it did not answer the point of principle raised here. There was a question of whether or not this did indeed depart from the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Chairman would look further at this matter. **ACTION: Chairman to explore the role of the GDPR in this particular situation.**

4. **Roads (20 mph speed limit):** Subject to confirmation there was an intention to include all of Kinnesswood as one of the places proposed to have a 20mph speed limit. This would be for a trial period lasting 18 months. There was a general welcome for this trial although uncertainty about whether or not it would make a significant difference to the safety of pedestrians on pavements, when compared to other measures such as expansion of pavements and reduction of road space. There was a view that not all places were suited for such speed limits but that Kinnesswood would be a suitable candidate.
5. **Paths Group:** The Action Plan for the Paths Group for 2019 was welcomed and its proposals supported. The Plan will be reviewed in May and an update made to the CC in June. The CC acknowledged that it had the lead in establishing the connecting path from Lochend Farm to the Heritage Trail via Levenmouth. It noted also that, as the MBW may cross through an SSSI, it could be prudent to check with SNH that there is no objection to clearing gorse that may affect the integrity of the SSSI. The new signs on the Dryside Road path could be a model for improving the general signposting of paths throughout Portmoak. The CC welcomed the assistance of PKC Greenspace with the Dryside Road path project. Separately the CC noted:
 - a) a need to improve the path running from the Cobbles to the School. It is much used by children and possibly in need of repair. Potential sources of funding were identified;
 - b) a short section of the path leading from Wellside Park to the Green in Scotlandwell was in need of repair. WCClr W Robertson agreed to pursue this. **ACTION WCClr Robertson;**
 - c) that difficulties in concluding the installation of the new water main running close to RSPB Loch Leven had led to delay in opening the underpass.
6. **PKC Ward Cllr Reports:** PKC had agreed a new budget and WCClr Purves explained why he had been unable to support the proposed increase in expenditure and rise in the Council Tax. It had been a matter of concern that the lead in managing the new Tayside Cities Deal, which had brought substantial new funding, would be taken by Dundee City Council.

The CC noted the decision to replace the current provision of school meals with frozen meals sent from Dundee and that some, indeed, may be imported. WCClrs pointed out that this was a cost saving exercise and that the reasoning to support it could be justified. There would be no detriment to meal provision. The CC was concerned that the decision could compromise the quality of dinners and the focus on health, nutrition and wellbeing at Portmoak School. It acknowledged that its information was partial. It would ascertain the views of the School on the matter. **ACTION: CC to alert the school.**
7. **Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor:** The CC noted:
 - a) Community Empowerment Infographics);
 - b) Community Right to Buy - Free Event, Perth 3rd September
 - c) Cycle Event 12th May;
 - d) Calor Rural Community Fund - Grants; and
 - e) Feedback Council Services - Gritting and Snow Clearing.
8. **AOCB:** The matter of poor road markings on the road past Lethangie as the driver approaches Kinross will be pursued by WCClr Willie Robertson. **ACTION WCClr Robertson.**
9. **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at [7.30pm](#) on **Tuesday 9th April 2019** and the Meeting closed at 9.35 PM.