

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 9th April 2019

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CCllrs M Strang Steel (Chairman), R Cairncross (Secretary), B Calderwood (Treasurer), G Cox, D Morris, A Muszynski; and WCllrs M Barnacle, W Robertson; and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: CCllrs S Forde, T Smith; and WCllrs C Purves and R Watters; and Police Scotland PC D Stapleton.

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

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

Item 3 School Access - policy on parking and safe access routes for children. The CC noted that, in respect of school access and possible associated road markings, a Report is to be presented shortly to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee for decision. In respect of the safe walking routes for children in the vicinity of the school (improved red strip and possible build-out at the school) a separate design brief has been commissioned. A protocol advising drop-off/pick-up and parking in the vicinity of the school is a matter for the school and local community to develop.

Item 3 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond. WCllr W Robertson advised that PKC Road Safety Officers had confirmed that completing the outstanding option appraisal of eligible routes was on their list to deliver within the current financial year. WCllrs will monitor progress.

Item 3 Resilience - being better prepared for risks. Community Emergency Plan. The project was progressing. Consideration is being given to bidding for funding from SSEN for backup communication facilities.

Item 3 Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils. Agreement on the new boundaries as they affect Loch Leven had been sought by the Chairman. WCllrs confirmed that Kinross CC had so agreed and the matter would be reviewed by Milnathort and Orwell CC shortly.

Separately the CC learned that the necessary improvements to traffic flows at the *Balgedie/Carsehall junction* had been identified as eligible for support from what is now an "earlier budget." However, that budget has been incorporated into one large "road safety pot" in the new budget for the current financial year. Unfortunately this project has been overtaken by other priorities. The matter should be revisited. **ACTION: for CC.**

Item 3 Portmoak Cemetery. No progress. PKC had yet comment on the suitability of a potential site.

Item 4 Rural Transport. Questionnaires had been distributed to homes around Portmoak. It was agreed that the young (teenagers and above), the elderly who may not be able to drive and those trying to access employment merited particular attention. It could be useful to meet specifically with teenagers through the school, with the elderly at a number of venues and to hear the views of local employers and their employees.

Item 5 Removal of Objections and Other Comments on the PKC Planning Portal from Public Access. The CC noted further correspondence between Kinross Civic Trust and PKC. There remained a need to clarify and confirm PKC's interpretation of the GDP Regulation in respect of this matter.

Item 8 New arrangements for the provision of school meals. The CC noted that there had been a lively debate at the School Parent Council on the matter. The policy appeared to be in conflict with the values accorded to healthy eating.

Minute of 12th February Planning Performance Framework Feedback. The CC noted the response from Scottish Ministers to its recent letter. This had been disappointing. It reported that the Planning Bill currently before Parliament had initially included provisions to put performance reporting on a statutory basis and various other measures designed to improve performance but that Scottish Ministers had been disappointed by the removal of these provisions by Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee. The letter did not directly address the issues raised by the CC. The CC would seek assurances that they would be taken into consideration.

ACTION: for CC.

4. Reports:

1. **Police:** 1) The CC noted the local report from PC D Stapleton. There had been a daytime housebreaking and theft in Kinnesswood. He also reported that there had been a recent spate of break-ins to residential properties and garages in the Kinross-shire area over the past 2 – 3 weeks. In addition there had been a daylight theft of scrap metal from the Gliding Club. This was of particular concern as the thieves had placed lives at risk by crossing live take-off and landing areas. 2) The CC also noted the Area Commander Bulletins of 13th, 20th and 27th March and of 3rd April.
2. **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 31st 2019 was £0.00 in the General Account; and £1,1441.41 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,1441.41. The "Holding Account" No. 3 held £0.00. The Treasurer reported that, with support from PKC, an historic legal liability had been resolved. The CC would retain a full administrative grant for the forthcoming financial year.
3. **Planning:** to include:
 1. New applications: There were no new applications.
 2. Progress with Developments:
 - a) **18/00667/FLL.** *Former Lomond Inn, Kinnesswood.* While there is already planning consent for the construction of 5 dwellinghouses, a new planning application to modify that consent had recently been submitted. Instead of building on the shell of the old inn at Plot 1, the new application would instead seek its demolition and its replacement with a new build. The application also included provisions to modify the plans for the dwellinghouse at Plot 5 (site of the former annex). Once PKC is satisfied with the application and it has been validated, it will be presented for consultation and comment. The CC was aware of the recent removal of slates, apparently to store them for reuse. It acknowledged that that could result in damage to the property.

In discussion there was concern at uncertainty and delay. It was agreed that a public meeting should be held to ascertain how the public would like to see the site developed and whether there is interest in attempting a community buy-out.
 - b) **FIFE 16/0366/EIA** *Planning permission in Principle; FIFE 17/03377/FUL* *Westfield, Erection of gas peaking plant; and FIFE 18/02342/ARC* *Energy from Waste plant.* The Chairman reported that he had been approached by Hargreaves Land to chair an initial meeting on the 1st May in Balingry. This would aim to establish a Community Liaison Group. The membership of the Group had yet to be settled.
 - c) **Reporter seeks comment on LDP2.** The CC had been informed that the Government's Reporter had sought further information from PKC in respect of a comment made by the CC in respect of the new policy 25 "Housing Mix." That was "*The Community Council welcomes this new policy. It recommends more flexibility. For example the*

cumulative build of 20 or more homes over a set period (and not just on one site and at one time) should trigger a requirement to meet an appropriate mix of housing and types.”

4. **Roads:** To note progress.

- a) *Action Plan for A911.* The CC noted that the proposed “Action Plan” for the A911 had been dropped. It was not seen as justified if there was no budget to support its conclusions. The CC noted that along the A911 as it traversed Portmoak there were a number of significant and related issues that would make better sense were they considered as part of an overall “Plan”. With the support of Ward Councillors the CC would press for the reinstatement of the Plan. **ACTION: Cllr Caldwood, with the support of Ward Councillors to press the case for an A911 Action Plan.**
- b) *Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at Easter Balgedie.* A new VAS had just been commissioned at the entrance to Easter Balgedie on the approach from Wester Balgedie. While there was no change in the required maximum speed limit of 40mph at this point evidence supported the modifying effect of VAS devices.
- c) *State of the roads within the Whitecraigs estate.* The poor state and deterioration of some of the roads within the Whitecraigs estate was highlighted. This was attributed at least in part to site construction traffic during the completion of the final phase of Whitecraigs. **ACTION: The matter would be raised with PKC roads department by WClr W Robertson.**
- d) *Poor sight lines looking to the left obscured by large hedge at foot of Bruce Road, Kinnesswood.* Cllr D Morris raised the matter of poor sight lines at the junction of Bruce Road with Main Street. Drivers trying to exit on to Main Street find it difficult to see cars coming from the direction of Scotlandwell because of a large overhanging hedge. **ACTION: The matter would be raised with PKC by WClr W Roberetson.**

4.1 **Paths Group:** No report

5. **Insurance Cover for Resilient Communities.** The CC noted this new Insurance provision which had been aimed at supporting community emergency plans and resilience work. It could be relevant to the cover required by the Paths Group and would be drawn to its attention.

6. **PKC Ward Cllr Reports:**

WClr W Robertson Fly tipping was causing a significant problem. Members of the public should, if they witness this happening, report the matter to the police providing if at all possible the registration number of the vehicle concerned. It was noted that the owner of the land involved may have to bear the cost of clearing the waste material.

WClr M Barnacle reported that: a) he had provided further information to the Government’s Reporter in respect of LDP2; and b) there will shortly be a meeting of the Planning Members and Officers Group at which a number of salient planning issues would be reviewed. He raised the question of whether it was timely to initiate an anti-litter clean up campaign.

1. **Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor:** Solhiem Cup Community Fund 2019. Papers on this had been circulated. Applications were due by 27th May.

7. **AOCB:**

The Gliding Club will have an “Open Day” on Sunday 23rd June to which all would be welcome.

8. **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 14th May 2019.** It will also be the **AGM.** The Meeting closed at 9.15PM.