

# PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CCLrs M Strang Steel (Chairman), R Cairncross (Secretary), B Calderwood (Treasurer), S Forde, and D Morris; and WCLrs C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters; and 10 members of the public.

The Chairman reported the recent resignation of Cllr Andrew Muszynski. The Council had benefitted greatly from his membership and we were grateful for the contribution he had made. His departure highlighted the difficulty that many younger folk face in combining challenging work responsibilities, often at a distance from Portmoak, with the duties of a community councillor.

**Apologies:** CCLr G Cox; WCLr M Barnacle; and Police Scotland.

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June were approved.
3. **Kinnesswood Village Shop.** Preparing for the Future. The Chairman welcomed Ishbel Buchan whose presentation reflected her own views and those of her husband, David. The Shop would no longer operate from the turn of the year and, unless arrangements to allow it to continue to trade were made, it will close and be put on the open market. Although the garage too will close in due course, there were no plans for doing so at present. Both David and Ishbel had mixed emotions about reaching such a decision driven by the reality of impending retirement. The Buchans have had strong links with Kinnesswood extending back over four generations and have the interests of their loyal staff and the community they serve much in mind.

Before placing the property on the open market the Buchans felt that the community should have an option to take the Shop into community control. This would be an option for the community to determine and pursue. While there are different models through which that might be achieved the Buchans felt that early notice of their intention was important to allow a community plan, were it to happen, to get off the ground. The Buchans would be willing to assist if required in supporting the preparation of such a plan. In discussion there was an acknowledgement that this was sad news. The hard work that the Buchans had undertaken down the years in maintaining this important community service was recognised.

Looking to the future time was short. It seemed that an early meeting of Kinnesswood and Portmoak folk to assess potential interest in a community run endeavour was a first and essential step. A local resident undertook to see if that could be organised shortly. This was also a matter that could be explored at a forthcoming meeting of the Interim Kinnesswood Community Trust.

4. **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.* The key question was "Was this matter on the Agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the PKC Environment and Infrastructure (E&I) Committee" The answer was no. **ACTION: WCLr C Purves would follow this up with both the Chairman of the E&I Committee and the relevant officers.**

*Item 3 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.* No further progress was reported although a meeting with officers on the matter was anticipated. There had been no progress towards completing the agreed option appraisal but TRACKS had been approached on the matter. It was pointed out that a "Paths Order" made by PKC could enable a path to be constructed without land purchase. **ACTION: WCLr C Purves would raise the matter with officers.**

*Item 3 Resilience - being better prepared for risks. Community Emergency Plan. ACTION: Report deferred until meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September.*

*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 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

*Item 3 Portmoak Cemetery.* Progress was scant. Comment from PKC on a potential site is still awaited.

*Item 4 Rural Transport.* There had been around 250 responses to the questionnaire. The matter would be taken forward by the PKC Transport Committee which would meet shortly. Cllr S Forde would represent the CC on the Committee. In view of the restoration of the dedicated school bus from the Scotlandwell area the timetable of the 201 Stagecoach bus will be reviewed.

*Item 4 Road Safety Project Assessment Criteria:* The CC noted the E&I Chairman's response to Chairman's letter on this matter. The CC had identified significant flaws in the approach adopted. His response indicated that the criteria as drafted had been approved by the Committee but would be reviewed in due course. Therefore the adopted approach would influence the priority accorded current road improvements. The CC Chairman had written again to ask that his comments be taken into account when the review takes place.

*Item 4 Heart 200.* The Chairman reported that the organisers of Heart200 had written in support of the CC's concerns around increased visitor traffic passing through the Balgedie Toll junction. Their views had also been shared with PKC Road Safety officers.

*Item 4 Vehicle parking adjacent to Traffic-calming Islands. ACTION: WCllr R Watters to report.*

*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.

*Item 5 Pavement improvements in Kinnesswood:* WCllrs confirmed that pavement surfacing would focus mainly on the "north" side pavements.

## 5. Reports:

1. **Police:** 1) No local report; and 2) The CC also noted the Area Commander Bulletins of: 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June and of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and of 7<sup>th</sup> August.

A potential community **Speed Watch Scheme** supported by trained local volunteers was noted. The arrangements were as yet provisional with support funding provided through PKC. Equipment could be shared across Kinross-shire CCs. The CC would keep the matter under review. WCllr Robertson is confident that there will be volunteers to operate the scheme.

2. **Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 31<sup>st</sup> July was £700.00 in the General Account; and £1,144.55 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,844.55. The new financial year would run from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August. The CC would meet that requirement by having accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 ready for audit shortly.

### 3. Planning: to include:

#### a) New applications:

1. **19/00976/FLL** 1 Gamekeepers Walk, Kinnesswood, Alterations and extensions. No CC Comment: PKC Approved.
2. **19/00955/FLL** Woodmarch, Kinnesswood, Alterations and extensions. No CC Comment: PKC Approved.
3. **19/01015/FLL** Land 30m SE of Gate Lodge, Glenlomond, New dwellinghouse. CC objection: PKC refused.

4. **19/01029/FLL** 22 Gamekeepers Road Kinnesswood, Erection of ancillary building. No CC Comment. Application Withdrawn.
5. **19/01084/FLL Land** 50m SW of Liathach, Leslie. Erection of 2 camping pods etc. No CC comment.
6. **19/00917/FLM** Lathro Kinross, Erection of 195 houses, CC Objection.

b) Progress with Developments:

1. **Lomond Inn, Kinnesswood: Applications.** The CC noted that the applications to demolish the Lomond Inn and to replace it with a new build dwellinghouse had been granted planning consent. Cllr D Morris commented that the planning officer's report to the Committee appeared to make no attempt to modify the proposals to take into account any representations made by the Community Council or any local residents. It appeared to be a decision that was entirely officer led and caste doubt on the value of any representations made on PKC planning applications.
2. **Westfield FIFE: Energy from Waste Plant.** 1) Application for SEPA Licence. The Chairman had attended a meeting, along with representatives of other CCs, with the senior SEPA officer concerned. The application ran to about 1,250 pages. The meeting was well-conducted highlighting the importance of: a) assurance that only non-hazardous waste would be accepted; b) the arrangements for the removal of hazardous waste from the site would be carefully monitored; and c) monitoring of a range of physical and chemical parameters being rigorously discharged. The matter of smell emanating from the site would be pursued. The CC will submit formal comment. 2) A Meeting of Westfield Liaison Group will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> August and will include a site visit.

4. **Roads: To consider progress with road safety improvements:**

- a) *The B920 Bridge over the New Cut.* The concern that the damaged bridge had been left abandoned for too long had elicited a response from PKC that, subject to habitat surveys, it will be repaired in October.
- b) *Traffic lights at Balgedie Toll.* The CC had been approached by Mark Ruskell MSP in respect of constituent concerns about the impact that the proposed Heart 200 route may have on the local environment and community. The Chairman will respond setting out the CC's concerns in respect of the Balgedie Toll junction, offering a meeting and asking the MSP to write to PKC supporting the CC's wish for action on the junction.
- c) *Resurfacing B920 around its junction with the B9097.* This would commence 16th September for 2 weeks.
- d) *Recent flooding.* Blocked drains in Scotlandwell (a recurrent problem) and at Wester Balgedie between the Balgedie Toll and the Queens View junction (again a recurrent problem) will be pursued with PKC Roads department.

5. **Paths Group: To consider:**

- a) *Path from Lochend to Heritage Trail.* There had been significant progress and, subject to a formal response from the Scottish Gliding Centre, a meeting of interested parties will be convened by WCllr Willie Robertson shortly.
- b) *Dryside Road, Access & Maintenance.* Cllr D Morris will take up the issue of clearance of vegetation.
- c) *Access on Bishop Hill.* No action reported.

6. **PKC Ward Cllr Reports:**

*WCllr C Purves* reported that: a) within the new Local Development Plan (LDP) improvements to the A911 could be compromised if they were not supported by an “Action Plan” for the road. Unfortunately officers were reluctant to commit to preparing such a Plan if there was no funding to support the proposals for improvements! b) the Government’s Reporters had rejected policies aimed at establishing clear guidance on house quotas instead preferring a more flexible approach to house quotas. c) new information aimed at wider use of community broadband per fibre was now available from PKC.

*WCllr R Watters* reported that a) a further bid for the Men’s Shed to acquire the old learning centre in Swans Acre was underway; and b) PKC would take forward plans to look critically at what in practice might be done to respond to the “climate emergency”.

*WCllr W Robertson* reported that: a) the potential closure of the Bridge of Earn GP surgery could mean many patients moving to the Kinross GP practices increasing pressure on them, and b) that in the wet and warm weather we have experienced it has been a challenge to keep growth of vegetation in hand. The Heritage Trail was being “encroached upon” and would need further maintenance to keep the paths clear.

**7. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor.**

**1) For consultation:**

- a) Scottish Land Commission: Consultation by 30th September. For individual response.

**2) For Information:**

- a) Local Development Plan2: To note PKC’s response to the Government’s Reporters’ request seeking comment on the CC’s views on the provision of “mixed” housing.
- b) Scottish Government Land Reform - Fact Sheet for Community Councils.
- c) Local Development Plan2: To note PKC’s response to the Government’s Reporters’ request seeking comment on the CC’s views on the provision of “mixed” housing.
- d) Draft Report “Regional Parks”.
- e) Scottish Ambulance Service “New Clinical Response Model”.
- f) Scottish Government Register of Community Benefits.
- g) New Broadband Community Scheme: Fibre to Premises.
- h) PKC Policy on Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders TTROs.
- i) Community Investment Fund: Funding Update.
- j) Kinross Community Campus (Self Evaluation) Consultation.
- k) SSEN Transmission Business Plan, Consultation: Invitation to regional roadshow, Friday 16th August McDiarmid Park, Perth.

**8. AOCB: None.**

**9. Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019**. The meeting closed at 8.50pm.