

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes

Meeting Tuesday 9th December 2020 – 2100 hrs
Online meeting via Zoom

- 1. Attendance and apologies:** Cllrs A Davidson, S Forde, S McGregor, D Morris; Assoc. Members K Donaldson and G Smith; WCllrs C Purves, W Robertson; and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: WCllr R Watters

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes held on 10th November 2020:** Approved. No comments.

- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1 Community Resilience Planning: Storm Damage and impact from recent flooding

No further action at present. Move this item to reserve items.

Item 2 Portmoak Cemetery:

Former Cllr A Cragoe who has been working on this item, had sent a report of her meeting on 19/11/20 with Willie Grieg of PKC. Cllr Morris summarised the report indicating most of the discussion appeared to be regarding increasing capacity of the existing cemetery with new lairs and casket space, but no further information on cemetery extension. The question of PKC strategy around cemetery extension was raised as discussed at previous CC meeting in Nov 20. WCllr Robertson had contacted W Grieg on this subject. W Grieg said PKC policy was that burials would be done in large central cemeteries, but PKC are still prepared to look at extensions. The CC suspect that PKC will continue to try to centralise. WCllr Purves highlighted that policy cited by Andy Clegg (circulated in July 20) indicated that if 20yrs of lairs can be secured then PKC could potentially go ahead with a Portmoak extension. There was doubt expressed that PKC would accept a separate, new tract of land to be made into a cemetery. There was a short discussion about the results of test digs, and could the CC obtain this information. It was agreed that A Cragoe had worked very hard on this item for which the CC is grateful. A Cragoe has offered to continue to liaise with PKC as a resident, and will report to the CC.

ACTION: Cllr McGregor to follow up with A Cragoe for info re: the cemetery extension.

Item 3 Road Safety Action in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell:

Daryl McKeown had responded with a follow-up email to the site visit on 28/10/20. This was understood to be a first step towards the creation of a more comprehensive road action plan. There were a great many positive outcomes, some guarantees, and some future planning. WCllr Purves read out some key points:

Wester Balgedie: a speed limit reduction will be done between the village nameplates and out along the B919, north of the Balgedie Toll for a short section, to be prioritised as the resources permit. Options for footpath widening will be surveyed and assessed. The B919 Balgedie Toll junction re-alignment will remain on the list of future schemes. The PKC signals programme is fully allocated this financial year. The Balgedie Toll site will be reviewed as part of the preparation for next year's programme and completion possibly beyond 2021/22. Proposal to extend the Footway at the southeast of the village PKC propose to construct a footway across the 10m approx. of grassy verge of the lane along to Leven Cottage. This would not be a land purchase. CC to identify the landowner for permissions.

Easter Balgedie: the speed limit will be lowered to 30mph, to be prioritised as the resources permit (as in Wester Balgedie).

Kinnesswood: a Priority System at shop will be designed to restrict traffic flow approaching the village shop. This would enable the footway immediately outside the shop to be widened. Site survey and assessment will be completed regarding road visibility. Additional speed reduction measures, such as ramps or speed cushions, will be considered as part of the design. A footway bollard had been discussed on the north side of the shop to discourage drivers from over-riding the low kerb and mounting the footway but instead protection of this area will probably be linked to the Priority System.

Scotlandwell: VAS signs - these had been reprogrammed to correspond with the 20mph speed limit. Additional VAS sites, on the hill between the church and the village, facing southbound traffic, had been identified; and these

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have been added to the list of future VAS. These will be installed as resources permit in future years. **20mph speed limit signage:** the size, frequency and prominence of the 20mph speed limit repeater signs will be increased to encourage better driver compliance. This work is now underway as part of PKC ongoing Spaces For People speed limits project. Signs have been manufactured and will be installed. **Village nameplate signs:** at most villages, including the other approaches to Scotlandwell, these are combined to create more prominent signage to encourage better compliance with the lower speed limit. There are two options at this site: 1. Combine the Scotlandwell nameplate signs with the speed roundel signs, or 2. Erect Kilmagadwood nameplate signs beside the speed roundel signs and erect an additional set of nameplate signs for Scotlandwell - either at the top of the hill beside Portmoak Church or at the bottom of the hill entering the village. CC to consult with community on this item. Puffin Crossing in Village Hall and Portmoak Church area: The Urban Traffic Control team (within Traffic & Network) will assess the area to determine if a suitable location exists for a Puffin crossing (or crossings). This will be added to the list of future traffic signals and crossings to be assessed, ranked, and installed as resources permit. **Portmoak Church footpath link:** will be progressed by the Community Greenspace Team as any potential route is separated from the public road and its verge. The Traffic & Network Team will liaise with Community Greenspace about how and where the footpath connects to the A911. **Main Street priority system:** this was discussed on site regarding the position of the current priority system and island. Alternative locations were discussed to see if the island could be used as an extension of the footway to help pedestrians navigate a pinch-point. No suitable alternative was found but this will be investigated further as it may link to the church footpath. **Junction realignment of the A911 to B920 junction:** this was discussed but may create as many problems as it solves. It was agreed that the Traffic & Network Team would do some auto-tracking on a computer programme to identify the benefits and the hazards, but there has not been an opportunity to do this yet. Installation of a mini-roundabout at this junction was discussed, but it is likely there is insufficient space. A request from within the community to move the Western priority system to the other side of the road is included in the list of road safety schemes; but has not been progressed yet as there are still schemes of higher priority to be completed first.

Regarding speed enforcement: a member of the public mentioned that police had been seen in Kinnesswood apparently doing speed checks on vehicles. Cllr S McGregor thanked the police for their responsiveness to the CC's request for speed enforcement action.

ACTION: WCllrC Purves to discuss the road traffic action plan with Daryl McKeown.

ACTION: Cllr S McGregor to speak to locals to ascertain who is the landowner of the lane in Wester Balgedie

Item 4 Glenlomond sewage: migration of responsibility to Scottish Water

Cllr A Davidson reported some good news: an expert drainage company had completed an assessment of the village and identified some unused drains in village from previous buildings, now demolished, which could be repurposed and reactivated to channel surface water. This would buy Glenlomond a bit of time with re: to the sewage work. The Village Committee have commissioned someone to look at the long-term options for upgrade of the sewage works as Scottish Water have demanded that the system be upgraded to standard before they will adopt it.

Item 5 Friar Place hedges blocking sight lines and requiring maintenance:

Cllr Forde reported no progress on this item

ACTION: Cllr Forde to email Gary McConnell and meet on-site to point out the specific issues.

Item 6 Public Consultation – Use of Open Space, in Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood

The consultation period was now finished. The CC expressed some concern about open space and recreational use by young persons possibly being compromised by flower bed development.

ACTION: Cllr Morris to speak to PKC on this item and find out the results of the PKC survey.

Item 7 Construction of hill track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood

Cllr Morris had provided an update report that had been circulated to the CC and subscribers. This confirmed that the landowner had failed to make a "Prior Notification and Approval" request to PKC before construction started, as required by planning regulations. He had, however, received consent from Scottish Natural Heritage (now Nature Scot) for these works to take place within the Site of Special Scientific Interest and had also discussed the proposed works with the then chairman of the CC, Graham Cox. The statement in the Nov report on this hill track construction was therefore incorrect in suggesting that there had been no consultation with the CC.

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The CC noted that the surface of the track had improved considerably during the drier weather and PKC and the landowner had agreed on some limited drainage work to be carried out during the winter period on a few muddy sections. The CC welcomed the recommendation that further discussion should take place with the landowner in springtime to see if agreement could be reached on final restitution of the path surface and the extent to which the route should be available for vehicular use, or not. In the meantime it was noted that it would probably not be necessary to proceed further with the suggested retrospective planning application as had been proposed at the previous meeting.

Item 8 Kinross-shire Forum Meeting on 2nd Dec 2020: Cllr Morris and the WCllrs had attended the meeting. WCllr M Barnacle had provided extensive information. 3 relevant outcomes:

1. Discussion about Regional Parks. It was noted that there had been longstanding discussions about extending the Lomond Hills Regional Park to include Bishop Hill and the Loch Leven area, as was originally proposed as a joint Fife/ Perthshire initiative in the 1970s. PKC seem to have been reluctant to do this, possibly due to burden on Finances e.g. Rangers etc. Cllr Morris to investigate the extent to which Regional Parks can attract external money from the Scottish Government and other sources before further representations are made to or within PKC..
2. Affordable housing: general agreement between participants that good mechanisms are not in place to promote affordable housing. Portmoak always seems to see large size luxury housing being built. e.g. Lomond Inn site (5 new houses proposed), Levenmouth (10 new houses being built/proposed) with no affordable housing being constructed anywhere in Portmoak in recent years. Although some Developers have to pay significant sums to support affordable housing this goes into a central pot in PKC with no requirement that it is spent in Portmoak. The CC also noted that planning officials appeared to be far too willing to approve large houses without any recognition of the way in which this unbalanced the housing stock in Portmoak, with no new property available for young people leaving home or old people wanting to downsize. Ward Councillors agreed to take this up at policy level in PKC. [This was irrelevant to the affordable housing issue and should have been taken as a separate item in AOB]
3. Speed Watch Scheme: WCllr Robertson explained the Speed Watch Scheme which had been abandoned as Police Scotland were formed but the Police are now keen to resurrect it. Problems with speeding occur all over Kinross-shire. In the Speed Watch Scheme, volunteers are issued with a speed gun ostensibly to collect data. Excessive speeding vehicles are then flagged to the police for follow up and a warning. Costs are high for the equipment. Request to PCC to indicate if they were in support of Speedwatch scheme. Problem areas for speeding can then be targeted, to make maximum use of funds.

Reserve items:

Item 9 *Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.*

Item 10 *Rural Transport*

Item 11 *Loch Leven water quality*

Item 12 *SEPA / Scottish Enterprise River Leven Catchment Project*

4. New Matters arising:

Item 1: CC resignations and next steps: this item was fully discussed at the start of the CC meeting and agreed that the CC meeting would proceed. The Secretary had discussed the issue with the PKC Elections and Community Councils Officer who had indicated that the resignations would trigger a CC by-election and the reduced numbers may make the CC unable to make representation because the CC was now composed of three elected, one coopted and two associate members. The by election was triggered by the elected members falling below the required minimum for Portmoak of four elected members. The W Cllrs indicated that there may have been an incorrect interpretation of the Scheme of Establishment guidance by the Officers as regards the ability of the CC to make representations as the coopted member had voting rights so the total able to vote on any issue was four. W Cllr Purves offered to discuss the circumstances with the Elections & Community Councils officers and provide clarity. The CC welcomed this as the best way to ensure the correct action was taken for the benefit of the Community. **ACTION:** Callum Purves to discuss situation of resignations and current CC membership with Elections & Community Councils officers and advise next steps.

Item 2: Covid-19 Resilience – local volunteer support: The CC had taken some steps to contact the volunteer coordinators in each of the villages to confirm that volunteer support for anyone who was ill or isolating was still available should residents need it. Information on contact details had been circulated at the start of the pandemic, but if any resident would like information about who to contact in their area they should feel free to reach out to the CC at secretary@portmoak.org and the CC will pass on details of the local volunteer contact.

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6. Reports:

a. Police Reports

- (1) *The Local Police Report*: no update was received, but the CC had had contact with the local Police liaison team and were grateful for the renewed contact and support.

b. Planning

(1) *New Applications*:

- a. *20/01611/LAW | Alterations to dwellinghouse (proposed) | 4 Findatie Farm Cottage Kinross KY13 9LY*: Cllr Morris had looked at this application which has the suffix “-LAW”; this apparently meant that this was an application for a “certificate of lawfulness”. The WCllrs confirmed they had seen this type of application before but usually in the situation where a developer wanted confirmation that they had permitted development rights to carry out a specific development, ie that they did not require planning permission. 20/01611/LAW application is to create a dormer window which does not appear to fall within the scope of permitted development rights.. A previous application which had been determined in Oct20, had been rejected by PKC planning as the dormer window was contrary to the Development Plan with respect to the place making criteria. It appeared to that the details supplied in respect of the current application were identical to those of the previous, rejected application. This application for a certificate of lawfulness might therefore be a convenient way of sidestepping the planning process. The CC decided to make an objection to PKC, pending confirmation from WCllr Purves that the CC is able to make such a representation, given its reduced numbers. Otherwise individual Community Councillors or members of the public can make their own representations.

(2) *Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee*

Cllr Morris confirmed there had been no recent meetings of the committee, but he had been in some discussions with Hargreaves and the consultants about the proposed Westfield path network with an expectation that a report would be available by Feb21.

- c. **Paths Group**: No progress to report due to recent bad weather

- d. **Treasurer CC Accounts**: The Treasurer reported that the bank have not yet added the new PCC Treasurer as a signatory, mostly due to Covid19 restrictions around the procedure for signatories to be present. As such there was no update on Bank accounts for this month.

5. Ward Councillors' Reports: WCllrs Purves & W Robertson reported no further items

6. Matters notified to the Secretary: no new matters

7. AOB: nothing to report

8. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 9th February 2021