

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 11th February 2020 at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** CCllrs: Susan McGregor (Secretary); Anne Cragoe (Treasurer); Susan Forde; and Dave Morris; and WCllr Willie Robertson; and 2 members of the public. Cllr D. Morris took the chair.

Apologies: Chairman Graham Cox; WCllr Mike Barnacle, WCllr Richard Watters, and WCllr Callum Purves

2. **Approval of Previous minutes: from 14/01/2020. Approved**

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

Item 1: 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 CC has responded to the consultation in respect of restricted parking on Buchan Avenue. It noted that at the same location PKC had commented that proposals to revise and improve child safety including marked crossings will be presented separately. The revised school bus service from Scotlandwell to Portmoak Primary has alleviated congestion and parking issues to some extent.

The plan from PKC is to put double yellow lines around the corners and scope future changes people might want. The CC has had some contact with PKC who advised they were awaiting comments from local people.

ACTION: Cllr D Morris to follow up with PKC again for revised status

Item 2: Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.

Deferred for production of proposals until March 10th meeting

Item 3: Portmoak Cemetery

Deferred for production of proposals until March 10th meeting

Item 4: Rural Transport (Kinross-shire Community Transport Group)

Previous meetings of the Transport Group have been poorly attended, however WCllr M Barnacle and Cllr A Cragoe attended a recent forum. Community transport have drawn up a proposal. A decision on the route will have to be made dependant on what the community wants. Will require subsidy. There will be another meeting, date to be confirmed at a time which will suit more representatives, which Cllr A Cragoe will attend.

ACTION: Cllr A Cragoe to attend next meeting

Item 5: Loch Leven: To receive WCllrs' Reports on potential future planning considerations / restrictions.

WCllr W Robertson had been seeking more information about the water quality. Scottish Water have advised back in Dec 19 that they are verifying the additional capacity for flood water. Scottish Water say there is capacity, while there are local informal reports that sewage regularly spills over into the Milnathort golf course. SEPA samples are taken at the Sluice Gate at South-East end of Loch Leven, not downstream from the water treatment plants which may not give a clear reading of the sewage overflow situation in the Milnathort locale. Milnathort water plant has huge overflow tanks for flood water, but doesn't seem to be able to cope with a major flood.

The public are requested to report any sewage smell to SEPA and the Kinross newsletter.

Item 6: Hedges: the CC received a new report of a hedge issue: to left of Friar Place in Scotlandwell obscuring the sight line for traffic pulling out of Friar Place.

ACTION: Cllr W Robertson to speak to PKC about this item.

Item 7: Balgedie VAS: *to note progress*

Prior to the last CC meeting, PKC had confirmed this request had been added to the new 2020 budget for VAS signs but there has been no update since then. The PKC budget, has been cut by 4% and the allocations will be announced on 4th March. It is uncertain if the budget will be available for VAS signs: Education and Social Services are priorities. Council have to produce a balanced budget. Road Safety and road repairs may be cut.

ACTION: Defer this item over to next CC meeting on 10th March after PKC budget announcement

Item 8: Kinnesswood Road Safety Initiative:

The CC noted that there was a pressing need for a traffic control measure, temporary if necessary, to be in place for the day the Kinnesswood village shop moves over to the garage after which date all people using the shop will need to cross the road. It was noted that there was no road crossing provision anywhere in the village, despite this being an "A" class road with the garage/shop and bus stops located on the opposite side to where most residents live and park when visiting the existing shop. It was agreed that crossing from the garage side was dangerous, with blind corners to either side. In addition garage staff had reported incidents with vehicles travelling at speed and cyclists who could not be heard when approaching around the corner to the south. It was recognised that there was a need to identify what local people want as both temporary and permanent solutions. There was discussion that the council will not spend a lot of money if no local agreement is in place on how to proceed. There was mention of South Queensferry Conservation area and the widened pavements and traffic calming in place there. WCllr Robertson commented that the pavement widths, in both Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell, are very narrow in places and pointed to the 20mph speed trial that is due to happen in the next financial year which will help. The CC requested if this could be brought forward, but this possibility is unclear. The 20mph trial will likely be policed with speed trials and monitors on the road.

The CC agreed that while the 20mph speed trial is positive, a temporary measure needs to be in place for the date the shop relocates. Temporary measures could include rumble strips and more signage, but it was thought that budgets would not stretch to additional spend until the 20mph speed trial can be assessed. It was pointed out that walking on the narrow pavements is dangerous when two vehicles are passing and wing mirrors etc overhang the pavement. Reducing the traffic to single flow along stretches of the main road in both Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell might be the only effective solution.

A member of public commented that parked cars on Main Street have the effect of slowing the traffic and it was agreed that the careful parking of cars along the street might be the only option to slow down the traffic, facilitate the crossing of the road by pedestrians and to make the pavements safe to use in the absence of any funds from PKC to meet Community requirements for road safety improvements. It was noted that these requirements had been communicated repeatedly to PKC over many years.

The CC commented that relying on the garage staff escorting school children across the road would put extra pressure on them. Cllr S McGregor suggested that ensuring road crossing safety is not the actual responsibility of the Buchans.

Cllr D Morris commented that he had picked up a tourist map in Edinburgh which specifically showed the A911 as a route, but not the B9097 road on the South side of the loch. Traffic was being directed to travel through the small villages while a better alternative was ignored..

The CC and WCllrs commented that reclassification of the A911 has been requested, and denied repeatedly.

ACTION: Cllr D. Morris to request a meeting with PKC roads department to discuss what temporary traffic control measures can be put in place from the day that the shop moves across to the garage.

4. Reports:

a. **Police:** the local police liaison were not in attendance.

1) Local Report

Woodmarch Hall, which is undergoing renovation, had suffered a burglary in which equipment had been stolen. This was not in the last police bulletin but should appear in next ones.

2) Area Commander Bulletins: 15th, 22nd and 29th Jan, and 5th Feb 2020 (CIRCULATED)

b. **Planning:**

a) New applications:

(a) **New Application.** 20/00026/FLL Installation of solar panels at Kinaskit Cottage Main Street Kinnesswood (Expiry: 14/02/20)

ACTION: No comment

(b) **Progress with Developments.** Westfield Community Liaison Committee: update on public availability of minutes of the Westfield Liaison Group meetings

Liaison committee minutes should start to be directed to Secretary at CC (email alteration needed) and the CC can then continue the previous practice of uploading them onto the Portmoak CC website. Draft minutes appeared many weeks after the last Liaison meeting and that caused some difficulty in reporting back to the CC.

A Member of the public who lives near the development commented that there are only 3 houses in the postcode, they live right at the entrance to the development and they feel they are never informed about what is going on at the site. It was agreed that it might be useful for the liaison meetings to be open to members of the public to be able to attend if they wish..

Cllr D Morris reported that Hargreaves & Brockwell had jointly agreed to fund a feasibility study into the development of an off road multiuse path along the B9097 between Westfield and the M90 it was hoped this study would commence within the next two months.

ACTION: Cllr D Morris check whether the liaison meeting agenda and minutes can be circulated earlier and whether members of the public can attend the liaison meetings.

- c. **Roads:** The CC noted: To consider progress with current developments.

Potholes: **A911 between Wester Balgedie to fork for Kinross / Milnathort**

Cllr S McGregor confirmed that the potholes have been reported via MyPKC as directed at last CC meeting. WCllr W Robertson confirmed that repairs are due very soon, but probably delayed due to the bad weather. Additionally commented to PKC that the drains should be off the roads as on the B9097. The drains are very dangerous to cyclists. It would help if CC can write to PKC to sort the drains as soon as possible and recess the drains into the verge.

ACTION: Cllr D Morris to write to PKC on this item and CC Ward Councillors.

- d. **Paths Group:** little progress due to weather. The CC agreed the Michael Bruce Way is extremely muddy due to wet weather and the cattle on the hill, Cllr D Morris had spoken to George Lawrie about this. A more hardy breed of cattle are being farmed and they are now able to be out on the hill in the Winter. The best solution would appear to be to keep cattle off the hill and in lower fields if possible during the worst of the winter weather..
- e. **Treasurers report:** No movement on Michael Bruce Way Account: Balance £2021.48.
General Account received a £113.70 top up grant from PKC. Balance: £695.80
The CC and previous CC Treasurer are arranging removal of previous signatories and setting up new Bank of Scotland account with new signatories

5. Ward Councillors Reports:

WCllr Willie Robertson reported that he had asked for funding from the Community Investment Fund to pay for the equipment required to start up a Speedwatch scheme. The request for a Kinross-shire based Speedwatch scheme had come from the last meeting of the Kinross-shire Forum. The CIF refused to give money to set up a Speedwatch scheme as they did not think that it was an inequality issue and that was where they were tasked to spend their funds. Willie will raise this matter at the next meeting of the Kinross-shire Forum.

WCllr W Robertson, WCllr R Watters, WCllr C Purves, and Cllr S McGregor had attended a meeting for The Community Investment Fund: The Community Investment Fund has been established to support community-led projects at a ward level, which seek to improve equality across Perth and Kinross. There is £50K to be allocated to spend on local projects. The fund was very oversubscribed. All money has now been allocated. No project applications from Portmoak specifically.

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

- (a) Town Twin requests.

There was some interest in Portmoak being more involved in the Kinross-shire twinning scheme with Gace in Normandy. Any members of public additionally interested in being liaison should reach out to the CC.

ACTION: Cllr W Robertson to pass on contact details for Treasurer and Secretary to the town Twinning group for notices about forthcoming town twinning events.

- (b) Local crime.

The CC noted burglary at Woodmarch Hall, as above.

7. AOCB:

(a) Bank of Scotland, Kinross branch closure:

The CC noted the former CC Chairman M Strang-Steele had sent a very good letter of complaint to Bank of Scotland regarding the closure. The closure of banks are usually subject to local consultation, but this does not seem to have happened in the Kinross area. The proposed Bank Buses replacement was not necessarily a good solution as it offered no privacy for banking and could be difficult to access for less able or disabled members of the public. The CC agreed that they should also complain to Bank of Scotland and query the closure.

It was flagged that as far as the CC are aware, people can use the Post Office for withdrawals and deposits, this applies to all banks

WCllr Robertson said that the Ward Councillors agree that the bank closure is a disaster, and they have written to complain, but that they don't think there is anything more that they can do to change the banks' policy. MSPs have tried to change the banks' policies, but to no avail.

ACTION: CC to write a letter of complaint to Bank of Scotland.

(b) Completion of footpath between Wellside Park and the Village Green

The CC noted that the path has been completed by PKC and it is an excellent job. The path was completed in about 10days. A pile of earth that is left is to be used for planting. A member of the public had complained that there had been no notification of the work commencing, but there was a PKC notice displayed about the forthcoming work.

(c) Thank you: an email of thanks had been received at the CC from a person who lost their dog Digger, a golden retriever, in the Moss on Sat 1st Feb to the people of Portmoak who helped them to be reunited with their dog on Sunday. The owners were very thankful and praised the community spirit.

8. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 10th March 2020 at Village Hall