

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 10th March 2020

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

- 1. Attendance:** CCllrs: Graham Cox, (Chairman); Dave Morris (Vice Chair); Susan McGregor (Secretary); Anne Cragoe (Treasurer); Susan Forde; and WCllrs Richard Watters, Mike Barnacle, Callum Purves, and 20 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllr Willie Robertson. It was noted that WCllr Robertson had recently been in hospital for an operation and best wishes were extended for his continuing recovery.

- 2. Approval of Previous minutes: from 11/21/2020 APPROVED?? – YES**

- 3. PRELIM: Co-option of new members**

New members need to be ratified by PKC. Papers not signed at CC meeting. Dispensation from PKC to allow Portmoak CC to co-opt extra members within the 6 month initial period.

Ann Davidson: proposed: Susan Forde	seconded: Ann Cragoe
Graham Smith: proposed: Dave Morris	seconded: Susan Forde

- 4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.

The Chairman raised a verbal proposal. 2 options have been narrowed down for the path link. If everyone is agreeable the CC will represent options to PKC for scoping a feasibility study:

1. South side of road: from Scotlandwell to Church with crossing at church.
2. North side of road: from Scotlandwell to Church

The Chairman invited views from the Community: a resident asked had the option of single lane traffic and traffic lights up to the church been considered? This was not one of the options initially considered. At present the CC intend to move forward with the 2 options. The WCllrs agreed they should be happy to take proposals forward to PKC. *ACTION: Chairman to draft proposals for WCllrs to take forward to PKC*

Item 2 Portmoak Cemetery.

PKC have been looking for a larger site for a new centralised cemetery for the Kinross and Milnathort area, this would not be in Portmoak but would possibly be easier to maintain. The CC had approached Will Greg, Senior Bereavement Officer to discuss the land adjacent to the cemetery. If the land could be acquired by compulsory purchase, if necessary, then the infrastructure is there already. The criteria is to have land sufficient to cope with burials for up to 20yrs. However, if there are successful digs and tests at other locations then another location may be available sooner.

The CC commented that they would prefer to see a cemetery extension which would be relatively simple as there is land adjacent to the existing cemetery. Council can use compulsory purchase powers. Failing that, it was noted that, if Scotlandwell could set up a Development Trust, then they could possibly use new powers available under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (section 5) to purchase land for a cemetery extension. The CC have had informal discussion with local people; there are strong feelings against a centralised cemetery and there is a strong desire to have a path on the South side to connect to the cemetery. If both path options (north and south sides) are pushed forward it requires a short section of path to extend to the cemetery. It was noted that PKC were unlikely to attach the highest priority to funding a crossing point with stop/go lights by the church. A crossing point might be better in the centre of S-Well, which then connected to a short path up to cemetery on the south side. If the main link between the villages was a path on the north-side it should be possible to achieve this without intruding onto farmland adjacent to the wooded embankment.

Comments were invited from the public on the 2 new potential cemetery locations within Portmoak: 1. Extension of existing Cemetery 2. On land south of road between Easter & Wester Balgedie

WCIlr MBarnacle said WCllrs have a common policy that we prefer local cemeteries to be extended rather than centralised. *ACTION: Proposal scope to opportunities. Return to Community for comment*

Item 3 Rural Transport.

WCIlr MBarnacle explained his main objective is to establish the Kinross-shire group. Main reason for delay is that Milnathort does not have a rep. WCIlr Barnacle will attend Milnathort CC meeting and try to ask them to put forward a representative and then call another meeting. The point of group is to establish a small local service that complements other services. The CC commented that the services do require integration. Members of the public commented that the bus timings are not good in Kinross; there is not enough time to do basic errands between the buses, or there are hours and hours stranded in Kinross. Also, that the morning 201 time has changed and now gets to Milnathort after X56 for Perth departs. Another person pointed out that also young people need access to training and courses etc. and perhaps it would be useful to work with schools for input in that area. Fewer buses mean extra cars on the road. WCIlr CPurves agreed one deficiency was the approach letter had not been taken up by younger people. The High School had been asked for representation. *ACTION: WCIlr MBarnacle to attend Milnathort CC meeting then call another meeting Transport meeting.*

Item 4 Loch Leven Water Quality.

The Chairman commented that the phosphate level is very high at present. WCIlr W Robertson was leading this and proposing an embargo on building in the local area.

WCIlr R Watters explained there was telemetry added at the sewage works in Kinross and he has been trying to get hold of figures. The big questions are around when mixed sewage and road drains overflow at the sewage works into the water courses this has an effect on the phosphates. In the last survey (approx. 2 yrs ago) largest concentrations were coming out of the South Quaich. In 2019 there was a blue green algae bloom. In May-June 2019 there was very good clarity in the water. Scientists are monitoring the situation and it will be interesting to see what happens in 2020 following the stormy weather. People who work on the loch say the clarity is very good and fish levels are high. However, it would be good to see the drains separated so sewage and rain water were not going in to the same conduits, but in old drain systems this is difficult to ascertain.

WCIlr MBarnacle had made a couple of points in newsletter last month one thing highlighted was items for discussion on working group Environment policy 7 which covers Loch Leven. On WCIlr W Robertson's point on phasing we should be looking at that to see the cumulative effect of housing.

The CC commented that there were areas that were land with grass and are now tarmacked with all the building, there is no mitigation for covering land with houses and tarmac and what happens to the run off.

A local resident commented: how often is the water monitored? WCIlr RWatters commented the hydrological centre in Edinburgh pay for daily tests for algae bloom and phosphates at different places around the loch. The hydrology data may be available weekly and the science is the key to what is happening locally. The loch is very heavily monitored. Another resident commented that any house built has to have a SEPA assessment. It should be simple to ask for a SEPA assessment. Another member of the public countered that Hydrology had previously told WRobertson they hadn't done monitoring for a long while. SEPA sent a huge spreadsheet that was difficult to read. They take samples regularly at outfall of loch, but not anywhere else. Spreadsheets were sent to Dalkeith Hydrology but no response yet. Scottish Water should be monitoring but they had also replied with a spreadsheet. The question is that in extreme overflow situations there is a lot of sewage going into the loch. That all said, SEPA's spreadsheet also stated they were not certain the info. was accurate. A member of the public commented that the loch has been absorbing phosphates for years from housing, agriculture and the Mill in Kinross. If the sewage system is broken there is a problem that needs dealt with immediately.

ACTION: This item will stay on the agenda for next month.

Item 5 Balgedie Toll VAS.

Despite the CC requesting the Wester Balgedie VAS signs and receiving confirmation from PKC that they had been added to budget request list, WCIlr CPurves confirmed that the request had not in fact been on the list. CPurves has now requested VAS signs and they are confirmed on PKC list. All financial budget has been

allocated. There is no further allocation for VAS signs. Potential in June budget that more money could be allocated and signs progressed. CPurves said there is a forthcoming meeting for road safety projects regarding measuring ranking, to see what the allocation is. This will become available on-line for transparency. And the Heart200 will be considered as an additional road safety concern. Question also on A911 re: side gully creation. PKC are in discussions about moving drains to the side where 80% of the ironwork is on the road.

Item 6 Kinnesswood Road Safety Action

20MPH speed limit: trial has now started. The signs have been changed. VAS signs have been switched off pending re-setting from 30 to 20 mph. Speed surveys will be repeated.

The Chairman opened the discussion up to public. Any other ways to introduce road safety in Kinnesswood? e.g. build outs or traffic calming. A member of the public raised concerns that for the school children waiting for the high school bus the space to queue up is really narrow and congested (with people). Was there any way to create a better space for them? The CC commented that a pull-off for the buses is part of what the CC were trying to secure. Now that the shop is continuing to be run in-situ, for the time being, the issues associated with closure seem to be less pressing. The issue of road safety in the village continues: an incident had been witnessed outside Kinnesswood shop with two vans approaching at speed in opposite directions, one van mounted the pavement but still collided with the other van, with the wing mirrors smashing together. A temporary solution is required to be put in place the day that the shop closes and moves to the opposite side on the road, into the garage, before a permanent solution is put in place in due course.

5. Reports:

a. Police: no representatives from the Police were in attendance.

1) Local Report

The Chairman commented that there seems to have been an increase in the amount of local crime. Also that reporting was occasionally inaccurate. The Secretary commented that in correspondence with Police Command this week, suggested there had been a change of local Police Representative.

ACTION: Secretary to follow up with Police as to new representative and arrange attendance at future CC meetings.

2) Area Commander Bulletins: 13th Feb, 20th Feb, 4th March 2020 (CIRCULATED).

b. Planning: to include:

1. New applications:

(a) Forestry proposal, Stevens Field: application – on public register until 18/03/20

www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk/public-consultations/ password is: pTr3mulu515 (case sensitive)

A consultation request had been received from Scottish Woodlands regarding a forestry creation scheme at Stephens Field in Kinnesswood. on behalf the landowners, A&J Stephen. The scheme is to plant about 6 hectares of woodland, covering most of Stephens Field, excluding the area on which A&J Stephens have previously applied to build a house. Purpose of the woodland to enhance biodiversity, lock in carbon, provide commercial woodland, improve landscape and enhance public access.

The CC have prepared a draft response which was outlined to the attending public: the draft comments how important Stephens Field is to the community, and there have been previous efforts to bring the whole of Stephens Field into community ownership, this being a planning requirement attached to the final phase of the Whitecraigs housing development. This is an area of ground which is expected to be of interest to the Kinnesswood Development Trust. This is a forestry consultation, not a planning application, but also subject to local community consultation under forestry regulations and grant aid requirements. The CC are not opposed to some planting of trees in Stephens Field, over a long period of time, in low density and preserving views. But there are other sites around the area that could be better for woodland creation and fast growing species. The CC would be opposed to planting in ways that would

obscure views from Michael Bruce Way, a Core Path. Views would be obscured by growing of sitka spruce and other species. Further the plans outline extensive gorse removal proposed. The path networks are likely to be extended by the community in future and existing plans do not show the full extent of the existing network or future possibilities.

Comments from the public included the unanimous view that commercial woodland development, involving dense planting, closed canopy forest and timber extraction, was not appropriate in such a location where amenity values were so important. There was support for a KDT purchase of the whole site. Mention was made of the value of non-wooded habitats on the site and the need to maintain its "open" character. Views varied as to whether no future planting should take place or if some "light touch" planting should be permitted. There was no objection to future dialogue with Scottish Woodlands about the project proving they accepted that any forestry scheme in this location had to meet the local community requirements.

There was some comment about the exclusion of the area of Stephens Field that had previously been subject to repeated but unsuccessful efforts by A&J Stephen to secure planning approval for a house construction in this area. It was explained that the proposed forestry scheme was not expected to have any bearing on such efforts as existing policy in regard to settlement boundaries in LDP2 precluded such development. So any forestry scheme was unlikely to improve the likelihood of A&J Stephen gaining such a planning approval in the foreseeable future.

The Chairman indicated that the PCC submission to Scottish Woodlands would take into account the substantive discussion that had just taken place and thanked those present for their many contributions. In response to a further question he explained that individual comment to Scottish Woodlands could also be made and contact details would be included in the minutes.

ACTION: CC will send in a representation against the plans to Scottish Woodland. Also notify KDT so they can also discuss and make comment, if they wish. Members of the public who wish to make comment should write into Scottish Woodland preferably by the end of 18th March as follows:

Ref.: Kinnesswood: New Woodland Creation - initial scoping. Grid reference: NO 178 029;

Email: jane.sayers@scottishwoodlands.co.uk

Or by post to: Scottish Woodlands Ltd, Sandpiper House, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth, PH1 3EE

(b) 20/00189/IPL | Erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle) | Land 30 Metres West Of West Brackley Farm Cottage Kinross – comments until Fri 13 Mar 2020

The CC agreed the plans did not look contentious. Local people have not objected.

NO COMMENT

(c) 20/00231/FLL | Demolition of agricultural buildings, erection of 2 dwellinghouses, a garage and change of use and extension to agricultural building and land to form ancillary accommodation and associated works | Land 50 Metres West Of Wester Bowhouse Leslie - comments until Fri 20 Mar 2020

The applicants attended the CC meeting to discuss the application which appears to meet the criteria for building in the countryside. They plan to build a passive house, barnstyle vernacular which is in-keeping with existing building. Original objection to planning at the site was that the building was too intensive, so now only 2 new houses are proposed. Old sheds are made up of a stone building. Sheds are collapsing at present. It is a use for redundant non-domestic building.

The Chairman invited comment. A local resident commented that they did not object, but there is longer history regarding planning at this particular site: In 2008 the planning permission given to build 3 houses in place of another farm building. The site is on the most dangerous place on the A911. The neighbours complained bitterly about the number of car accidents at the corner. In 2008 the planners did recognise the problem and the condition of granting permission to development was that a pick-up and drop-off (especially for public buses) be created on both sides of road; this was never constructed and PKC carried out no enforcement action. There is an opportunity with this application to rectify this issue. Maybe not

on both sides, for eastbound traffic there is plenty room, but the westbound traffic there is a need for a space. The resident congratulated the applicants on keeping the old building. The applicants pointed out that there is a drop-off space created and provision on the drawing for this of approx. 11m. The access is farther along the existing exit so is further away from the blind dip and corner. Cllr D Morris commented that any new development of this type should accommodate space for walking or cycling and would be keen to modify the ground in front of house to show a cycle / walking route along the frontage but separated from the road. The Chairman applauded the applicants' engagement with the community as very laudable. The design looks good, but the road is not safe. M Barnacle has been requesting 40mph signs. In terms of the application itself there is no tangible reasons for concern about the building design. The one issue was the road safety: a ribbon development with access near a known danger spot. The CC will comment accordingly.

(d) 20/00154/FLL | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, erection of a replacement garage and installation of a flue | Benarty Wester Balgedie Kinross KY13 9HE – comments until Fri 13 Mar 2020

There were no comments from WBalgedie residents. The CC have NO COMMENT.

2. Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: update on public availability of minutes of the Westfield Liaison Group meetings.

Cllr D.Morris, on behalf of the CC, had attended the Liaison meeting on 28 Feb and had organised some additional meetings to plan the potential off road walking/cycling route between Westfield and Ballingry and the vicinity of the M90. The Chairman of Liaison Committee, Malcolm Strang Steel, was also in attendance at this CC meeting. Brockwell & Hargreaves have agreed to fund a feasibility study for an off-road walking-cycling route and this is being progressed in discussion with George Lawrie. The minutes from the Westfield Community Liaison meetings appear on our CC website and Hargreaves are considering using the Kinross Newsletter to put out additional info. The Liaison Committee meetings are not open to the public, but any queries from individual citizens can be raised directly with Hargreaves. Any outstanding problems can be raised with the CC. Earlier in the day there had been a site visit to Earls Gate at Grangemouth where the new Brockwell/Hargreaves Energy from Waste facility is under construction. This provided a good insight into the issues that will arise with a big construction site at Westfield.

Comments from local residents included: that it looks like it will be late in 2020 that work starts. Just before Christmas one of the subcontractors of Brockwell energy went into liquidation, they are now planning to use a different contractor for Westfield. Instead of starting Apr/May, will probably now start Aug/Sep. Solar panels are still being looked at. Another resident asked if with oil price and market conditions this might have a bearing on the business case of the site. At Grangemouth site they have commercial customers who can use the electricity and steam. What they haven't got at Westfield yet is customers onsite who will require the heat and electrical energy potentially available from the EfW facility..

c. Roads:

- a. Resident's email to Secretary re: additional yellow & black warning strips on bridge at Cut
The CC agreed that this was an idea worth following up to avoid further damage and cost and also to ask whether a "ONE WAY PRIORITY" arrangement could be put in place at this location.
ACTION: WCllr M Barnacle to follow up and request this

d. Paths Group: to note progress.

Paths are very wet so progress has been slowed. A member of the Paths' group in attendance commented that the paths group would welcome more volunteers, lot of track to cover and not enough people. Cattle

have churned up the path. *ACTION: The Chairman repeated the request for more volunteers*

e. **Treasurer CC Accounts.**

Michael Bruce Way: Balance no movement £2021.48

General Account: Balance no movement £695.80

6. **Ward Councillors Reports:** Ward Councillors Reports: the WCllrs did not have any additional items not already covered

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

1. **Scotlandwell drainage:** Cllr S Forde commented there are several problems: 1. immediately opposite Friar Place, either a fountain or a puddle over the road, going into the drain and into the SUDS. SEPA, PKC and Scottish Water have been contacted. 2. At junction of Leslie Road there is a hydrant which is also running. No one know where water is coming from. The pressure is steady and continual. Two ciphers near pub have been cleared. It is an old problem. The answer appears to be to clear the drain down Moss road to the sewage treatment plant. The CC commented that this is not a new issue. Scottish Water say water is not chlorinated so is not mains. Residents are being fobbed off. *ACTION: WCllr RWatters will write to PKC to ask them to communicate with Scottish Water on this issue.*

2. **Superfast Broadband voucher scheme.** WCllr CPurves: the R10 has now been signed so greater clarity and vouchers 30ombs. UK government scheme means whole of Kinross-shire is now eligible. Not certain which houses fall into which category. If anyone being done before 2021, up to 2023 will be able to be assisted with upgrade to full fibre.

3. **Fly-tipping at Lomond Inn site.** The CC and WCllrs commented this is the responsibility of the site owner who should put up a sign. Where ownership of land is difficult to prove the council can be requested to remove rubbish.

4. **Bank of Scotland closure –Liz Smith MSP meeting on Mon 9th Mar. No Portmoak CC attendance.** CPurves attended the meeting which was constructive, but closure is certain. The Bank felt if customers could get to Kinross, they could get to Perth / Dunfermline, but the bank may not have been cognisant of the local public transport issues for some residents. This links to the issue of local transport. There was discussion on how to manage transition to digital banking. The CC commented that there are certain banking issues that need face-to-face contact, mobile banks are not ideal for private discussion. Cllr MBarnacle the WCllrs don't think the response from the bank is good enough and have drafted a letter to this effect. Bank closures are a wider problem. There needs to be a banking facility in Kinross-shire. Parliamentarians should step up to the plate. Local MPs and MSPs are on the case and the government should tell banking centre there should be one banking facility. Banks do not communicate with each other. A Local Resident commented that the Post Office facility in Kinross appears to be overwhelmed with the additional work. WCllr RWatters said Scottish affairs committee recommended Banks could have got together and create a hub in Kinross to save 75% of costs each. But closures have now been announced so that option is uncertain.

5. **Community Resilience Planning:** The CC requested that the community consider those who might be affected: the elderly or lonely, cut-off by illness or paranoia and assist where possible.

8. **AOCB:**

Town Twinning: twinned some of the people coming to stay are now the grandchildren of people who came originally. This year is the year off. Other years are time about.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2133.

9. **Date of next meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 14th April 2020 at Village Hall.**