

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes

Meeting Tuesday 9th March 2021, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

1. **Attendance and apologies:** Cllrs A Davidson (acting Chair), D Morris, S Forde, K Donaldson, and W Cllrs C Purves, and W Robertson, and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr G Smith

2. **Approval of previous Minutes held on 9th February 2021:** W Cllr C Purves noted a correction to the number of lairs being created in Portmoak Cemetery: the correct number is 6. The minutes were approved with this correction.

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

Item 1 Portmoak CC – PKC By-Election for PCC and next steps following Nov '20 resignations

The CC had not received any update from PKC about the proposed date of the by-election. W Cllr C Purves commented that Glenfarg CC were also facing a by-election and given the forthcoming Scottish Parliament elections the PCC by-election may be held after this in May 21. PCC by-election date to be confirmed.

Item 2 Portmoak Cemetery:

The Secretary had spoken to A Cragoe who was continuing with the cemetery extension project. There was no update for this meeting but A Cragoe had a meeting with Willie Grieg on 10/03/21 so there would be an update for the PCC meeting on 13/04/21.

Item 3 Road Safety Action in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell:

W Cllr C Purves did not have an update from Daryl McKeown regarding the A911 road plan. The installation of 20mph repeater signs between Scotlandwell & Kilmagadwood will be completed but no time estimate on this. Cllr D Morris enquired about any forthcoming budget increase for active travel coming through from the UK government to proactively promote walking and cycling. It appeared that £430m was being allocated to Scotland. W Cllr C Purves confirmed PKC did receive notice about extra money coming through across Scotland, of which £15m was for active travel in PKC. W Cllr W Robertson mentioned he was in Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust but had received no indication yet of when money would come through. There are a lot of projects in PKC but the money hasn't come through for these yet. It can take a while for money to filter down to project level. The CC asked that the Westfield path network report could be flagged for allocation of funds as it is in the final stage of preparation. Cllr D Morris indicated that, at this stage, the report was confidential because landowner contacts had been limited due to Covid 19 restrictions, but he agreed to ask Hargreaves whether the report could be sent in confidence to the four ward councillors so that they were aware of the Westfield network possibilities when considering the active travel budget options.

Item 4 Glenlomond sewage: migration of responsibility to Scottish Water: Because of pandemic restrictions and the severe winter weather, actions had not progressed substantially. The village Residents' Association were currently waiting for quotes to do some urgent maintenance work with the long-term objective ultimately to get Scottish Water to adopt the sewerage system.

Item 5 Construction of hill track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood: there was nothing further to report on this item at present.

Item 6 Glenlomond Snow clearing & gritting: Glenlomond village have bought in coarse salt and sand to be able to grit and salt the road themselves. W Cllr W Robertson suggested the village should approach PKC to obtain hand push gritters which may be available from PKC. **ACTION:** W Robertson to send A Davidson the contact details.

Item 7 Easter Balgedie – Wester Balgedie footpath and flooding: There was a brief discussion about the continued flooding of the footpath along the A911 between Easter and Wester Balgedie as a result of soil washing off the adjacent fields during heavy rain. The CC were appreciative of the efforts of local residents and farmers who had

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undertaken to dig gulleys and remove mud and silt to clear the footpath. The CC will approach local farmers and PKC once the weather improves.

Reserve items:

Item 8 *Friar Place hedges blocking sight lines and requiring maintenance (ACTION: review May2021)*

Item 9 *Kinross-shire Forum Meeting. Next meeting on 24/03/21*

Item 10 *Community Resilience Planning: Storm Damage and impact from recent flooding*

Item 11 *Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.*

Item 12 *Rural Transport: ACTION: Secretary to attend upcoming meeting on Thu 18th March*

Item 13 *Loch Leven water quality*

Item 14 *SEPA / Scottish Enterprise River Leven Catchment Project*

4. New Matters arising:

Item 15 *New Rail Link at Kinross*: There was a discussion about the potential project which had been featured in the Kinross Newsletter. MSP Liz Smith & WCllr CPurves were in support of this project and felt there was a strong case for this, with benefits to commuters, and bringing tourism to Kinross, and benefits to hospitality trade. A proper feasibility study is required to assess cost. WCllr WRobertson expressed concerns about the excessive cost and that priorities were health and housing. The route had not yet been confirmed but there was probably going to be only one station at Kinross and no more local stations. The CC commented that the Newsletter had suggested that it was possible for the public to voice their opinions on the project, but WCllr Purves confirmed there was not a public consultation at present. Any comments in support or objection could be made by writing to MSP Liz Smith. The CC commented that a direct rail link could potentially bring pressure on local housing and detrimentally on the Loch Leven environment from new house building, WCllr Purves suggested these impacts would be assessed in the feasibility study.

Item 16 *Sledging at Bishopshire Golf Club, Kinnesswood*

The CC had heard comments of upsetting confrontations between residents, with children who were sledging, and Bishopshire Golf Club members during the recent snowy weather. Bishopshire Golf Club had not approached the CC at all, but the CC Secretary had reached out to the Secretary of the Golf Club and another officer at the Golf Club to discuss the incident. The Golf Club Secretary had said the golf club accepted people sledging there and had taken measures to mark out the greens which they would prefer locals did not sledge across due to the damage caused and costs incurred in repair. Concern had also been expressed about dog walkers who were leaving excrement bags in rough ground alongside the fairways. Access rights and responsibilities apply across golf courses in Scotland with advice contained within the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. (<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot>) **ACTION:** Cllr D Morris and the Secretary to discuss issue and establish if any further action is required.

5. Reports:

a. Police Reports

(1) The Local Police Report: PC Ashley Mitchinson was in attendance.

Local incidents included a theft of diesel by siphoning which people should be aware of.

PC Mitchinson was keen to raise public awareness of the **what3words**

app <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app/> which had proved useful recently in locating a walker who had slipped and been injured. Mountain Rescue had used the what3words app in locating the walker. The public can download this app for free. Reminder from the Police to exercise caution and have correct equipment for the terrain and weather if out walking, especially in winter. The Police had been out doing mobile speed checks in villages. Unmarked traffic cars are also patrolling. The CC asked if it was possible to continue increased enforcement of the speed restrictions that PKC had recently applied to the area as it was generally observed that traffic was travelling in excess of the speed limits. The CC also enquired about the volunteer Speedcheck project, PC Mitchinson advised this was not possible at present due to pandemic restrictions, but as restrictions eased the Speedcheck project could potentially start again.

Cllr DMorris raised item regarding a confrontation with a landowner behaving in intimidating way. Another local resident had a similar confrontation. A Police Community Officer was supposed to have followed up but this hadn't happened. PC Mitchinson asked the Cllr to email her directly about this.

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CLlr DMorris also raised concerns that some farmers in Kinross-shire were not treating core paths properly. The right to roam legislation allows for core paths in fields to be ploughed and planted but the core path surface must be restored for ease of public use within 14 days. Failure to do so is potentially a criminal offence. PC Mitchinson agreed to research on this item and report back. The CC voiced their appreciation for PC Mitchinson attending at the meeting.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

- (a) *21/00227/FLL | Installation of replacement windows and door | Old School Cottage Main Street Scotlandwell Kinross KY13 9JA: No comment*
- (b) *20/01855/ADV | Display of information board | Land At Kinnesswood Play Area Buchan Avenue Kinnesswood:No comment*
- (c) *21/00073/ADV | Land 30 Metres East Of Greenacres Gamekeepers Road Kinnesswood: No comment*

(2) Previous Application:

- (a) *20/01902/FLL | Extensions to dwellinghouse and outbuilding | West Feal Barn Auchmuirbridge Leslie Glenrothes KY6 3JL: Note: the closing date for comments on this application is now past but PCC had subsequently been made aware of potential traffic issues along the Core Path that leads to the property in the application. The Planning Application has been withdrawn, but PCC will make a representation about the traffic situation along the road should a similar application be made again in the future. Any future approval should include a planning condition which required all traffic to proceed in a forward gear as the road is 2 miles long, single track and has a lot of walkers and cyclists in view of core path status. In addition, at or close to the property, the condition would require the provision of a turning circle which is suitable for use by all vehicles, of whatever length.*
- (b) *20/01958/FLL | Erection of a dwellinghouse | Land 40 Metres North West Of Bonaly Cottage Main Street Kinnesswood: Note: the closing date for comments on this application is now past The CC has submitted their objection to the application. The objection explained why the planning application breached four policies contained within the Local Development Plan. There had also been 22 objections from individual members of the public to this planning application. There is a new Planning Officer responsible for this application and PCC agreed to send some supplementary information to provide a wider context to this planning application, including the previous planning situation regarding the site as a whole and progress regarding community right to buy efforts.*

(3) Planning Decisions

- (a) **Progress with Developments:** Westfield Community Liaison Committee
CLlr DMorris confirmed there were no updates at present, there has been no further meeting. KDonaldson was able to report there has been clearing of scrub on sides of roads at the site, possibly for landscaping and security are present.

c. **Paths Group:** no action at present, given the time of year.

d. **Treasurer CC Accounts:** The Treasurer reported no movement of any Accounts.

The former Treasurer will work with CLlr ADavidson to try to move to online banking for PCC due to issues of delay in transferring the accounts to the control of the Treasurer. Treasurer to set up a new online account.

6. **Ward Councillors' Reports:** WCllr WRobertson noted PKC are aware of surface issues on A911. PKC are behind with repair schedule given the recent bad weather. Council budget is being released on 10/03/21. A Council tax freeze will operate in 2021/22.

WCllr CPurves agreed the main item was the forthcoming budget. WCllr Purves is optimistic about the budget and will continue to promote value for money, alternative ways of working, and trying to reduce tax burden on constituents. The process of appointing a new PKC Chief Executive is underway and at shortlisting stage.

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7. **Matters notified to the Secretary:** nothing additional
8. **AOB:** Member of the public commented on the Visitor Information sign at the Kinnesswood bus-stop which is very tatty and has no information on it. Suggestion to remove the board or put something on it. **ACTION:** The Secretary to make enquiries.
9. The Chair Closed the meeting at 2105hrs
10. **Next Meeting:** 7.30pm Tuesday, 13thApril 2021