

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes

Tuesday 14 September 2021, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

- 1. Attendance and apologies:** WCllrs RWatters, CPurves; Cllrs ADavidson (Treasurer), D Morris, KDonaldson, AMiller, SMcGregor (Secretary), SForde; Police Liaison AMitchinson; and 6 members of the public.

Apologies: Dave Paterson

- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes held on 10 August 2021: Approved**

- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1 Road Safety Action Update in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell

CPurves updated a lot of different elements.

Easter & Wester Balgedie: recent changes have been made to the speed limit, but the speed limits and distance they apply in each section are unclear. The CC and WCllr Purves had tried to obtain information from PKC in advance of the PCC meeting, but had not received a response in time. There has been verbal agreement from PKC for speed limit reduction in E &W Balgedie. No notification had been received from PKC in advance of the changes and it is still unclear if the work is complete or not. The CC suggested that correct procedure would be to keep new signage covered until complete and correct.

Scotlandwell: in previous CC meetings it had been suggested that speed bumps from Kinnesswood should be repositioned on the Causeway side of Scotlandwell. WCllr Purves advised that PKC procedure is to review possible new sites and speed cushions will be relocated to the most effective location.

Scotlandwell – Bowhouse buffer: A 40mph buffer appears to have been created between the 60mph and 20mph zones. The changes in this location may not be completed, awaiting clarification from PKC. Residents from the Bowhouse community attended the meeting and reiterated strongly their collective wish to see the whole stretch from Scotlandwell to Auchmuir Bridge changed to 40mph. Cllr AMiller queried the effectiveness of implementation of speed restrictions beyond Bowhouse, suggesting it may encourage unsafe overtaking given that such a proposal would create a restricted speed corridor (<40MPH) from Loch Levens Larder to Glenrothes. Following the meeting on the 17/08/21 between Cllr Angus Forbes, WCllr CPurves, the residents of Bowhouse, and Cllr SMcGregor, Cllr A Forbes now has the police report following the recent accident and fatality. Cllr AForbes will meet with WCllrs first, and then another meeting will be scheduled with residents, hopefully in the next few weeks. At the 17/08/21 meeting Cllr AForbes had outlined the agreed policy of ranking within Council that takes in a lot of different measures including accidents, community feeling, deaths, and cost-benefit assessment. A Forbes position was that if he is to allow an implementation of Bowhouse speed restriction, it effectively overturns the agreed policy. There are many sites across PKC that also need speed mitigation. The outcome of the police report may change the priority of the request.

Problems with Speeding Traffic: Cllr AMiller expressed his concern that the control of speed of traffic through the centres of population in Portmoak villages has not been effective. Cllr Forde highlighted the need to consider changes be done in a sustainable way for the future to encourage cycling, walking, and reduction in car journeys for environmental good. Cllr SMcGregor highlighted the need for the promised route action plan as all the villages and hamlets along the A911 collectively make our community, and that people want to feel safe using the footpaths to travel between the villages and hamlets as they increasingly use active travel and walk and cycle for leisure. It was agreed that the residents of Bowhouse are being denied these options and the increased safety afforded by speed restrictions

A911 Route Action Plan: WCllr CPurves discussed this project promised by PKC to assess the A911 whole route holistically and identify the physical mitigations or VAS that help to reduce speed. CPurves agreed the road speed restrictions are not being done in an effective way and the piecemeal approach may be partly in response to multiple requests made over a number of years. Cllr DMorris expressed lack of confidence in the promised route

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action plan, due to similar RAPs on other roads and minimal action or results. Cllr D Morris was in favour of direct action to raise the awareness of the problem locally, and to ScotGov. He also highlighted a Sustrans project in Skye to create a linked route for walking and cycling all across Skye and suggested that PCC should approach Sustrans about a project for Portmoak similar to the one in Skye.

Item 2 Glenlomond sewage, and Water Supply to Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie

A recent site meeting with the local MSP has been requested, but is yet to take place. There were positive signs that the sewage works may be able to be taken over formally by Scottish Water. Cllr A Davidson will continue to pursue this and advise progress.

Item 3 Construction of hill track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood: drainage, gorse clearing, electric fencing

Cllr DMorris had been out on the hill looking at the track and it seems to have settled down. There were still considerations for flood mitigations and protection against soil erosion.

Item 4 Portmoak Primary parking issues: No movement on this item.

4. New Matters arising:

Item 5: Portmoak Community Council AGM on Tue 12 October: The Secretary notified of the forthcoming PCC AGM. An agenda for the AGM will be distributed in advance in addition to the normal October PCC meeting which will be held after the AGM on the same evening. The AGM and October PCC meeting will be held online.

Item 6: Community Investment Fund determination: WCllr R Watters outlined that applications for the Community Investment Fund are now closed and there was a large number of applications, many for very worthy projects. It was agreed the Secretary will attend the determination meeting on 27/09/21 for the allocation of the Fund.

Item 7: Issue of local Affordable Housing

PCC had received a communication from Dunkeld & Birnam CC highlighting concerns about allocation of Affordable Housing (AH) within P&K. PCC have ongoing concerns about the lack of AH being included in local developments. WCllr RWatters discussed the issue: PKC have received in the region of £17M for AH and have a decent policy in place for 25% AH for every development project. The problem arises as the policy does not seem to be being worked correctly and instead Commuted Sum Fees are paid by developers to a central pot within PKC, but AH tends not to be built in Rural locations such as Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell, the housing is built instead in Kinross. Rural locations are not getting the money spent within them. WCllrs are very active in trying to argue for AH throughout Kinross-shire and both WCllr R Watters and M Barnacle have raised the issue within the Planning Committee. PCC members were in agreement that the policy is clear and straightforward, that within developments of 5 or more houses more AH needs to be built on site. And if not on site, then nearby. Last resort should be to pay in commuted sum policy. The matter needs to be taken up with Chief Executive at PKC and the policy implemented from the top down. Cllr DMorris asked if WCllrs would take this up with the Chief Executive, and WCllr RWatters agreed to do this.

5. Reports:

a. Police Reports: A MItchinson attended the meeting and gave a breakdown of some recent relevant police incidents: 27/08/21 suspicious incident in Milnathort potential theft of a trailer by people driving a red Subaru. Police encourage people to note down vehicle registration numbers if they are suspicious of any activity.

05/09/21: a person was bitten by a dog in Milnathort. The Police encourage people to contact them if they are bitten by dog. 13/09/21: Some men had been observed asking about dogs in a car. Again any suspicious activity, make sure to take a vehicle registration number.

Road Traffic: Update: approximately 25 incidents, mostly speeding, dangerous driving, and driving without MOT or license. PCC asked about more high profile speed checking: AMitchinson said police were out on 03/09/21 doing speed checks and they are keen to be out more often.

There was discussion about Community Speed checking as discussed at previous meetings. Cllr WRobertson had been leading on this with perhaps to get 1 or 2 speed guns for Kinross-shire. PC Jim (cardboard cutouts): can be purchased from PKC at a cost. Are quite effective. Secretary to check this detail with PKC.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications: no new applications in Portmoak as of 12/09/21

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(2) Existing Applications:

- (a) 21/00997/FLL | Erection of 22 dwellinghouses, 3 garages and a garage with ancillary accommodation, formation of SUDS pond, landscaping and associated works (LDP site H54) | Land 100 Metres South East Of Cragton Villa Rost Gardens Scotlandwell.

Given the lack of information and detail in the application, PCC were keen to hear from the WCllrs regarding the reasons the application has yet not been declined or withdrawn. Also, considering the overwhelming number of objections from both internal and external consultees and multiple planning policy non-compliance, it seems inconceivable that the application continues to be considered in its current form. The CC requested to know when the application is going to Planning Committee. WCllr RWatter declared that he was on planning committee and could not make comment on the application. The CC assume that the planning officer is waiting for the consultee info. and developer info. before progressing the application, a position which is unsatisfactory in terms of planning policy given the quantity of outstanding information and objections. **ACTION:** PCC to check with the planning officer as to the latest position on the application.

(b) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee
Next meeting on 21/09/21. K Donaldson to attend. Nothing additional to report.

(3) **Paths Group:** a comprehensive update had been provided in Sep. There were no additional details.

6. Treasurer CC Accounts:

PCC Account: £ 499.70

Michael Bruce Way Account: £ 1,372.65

The invoice for the grant of £150 for the Michael Bruce Way has been submitted to PKC

The Treasurer has been processing the 2021 accounts, to be audited and submitted to PKC requesting £700 grant. Credit Union forms need to be signed and witnessed. Treasurer & Secretary to arrange to do this

7. Ward Councillors' Reports

WCllr CPurves: informed that PKC plan to introduce a local committee in Kinross to devolve powers to make better local decisions on things like road safety and footpaths, with the hope that this will help address some problems. WCllrs will be in attendance plus one representative (formal non-voting member) from each CC. WCllr Purves confirmed they have something now that has been deemed to be competent, hoping to get this passed by PKC in Oct 21. **ACTION:** Secretary to add this to agenda for AGM for designation of a CC member to join committee.

WCllr RWatters: motion declaring climate emergency and council to lead by example. PKC have decided to create a commission, including people for private, and public, 25% of the commission will be under 26yrs old. Important that young people should have a voice on the need for action. RWatters has been voted as opposition member. ScotGov are going to be moving towards 10% of transport budget to be spent on active travel (generally thru Sustrans).

8. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Item 8: Portmoak Village Hall reopening and PCC meetings: The Portmoak Hall is now open with use subject to a risk assessment plan circulated by the Hall Committee. For PCC meetings the members suggested to keep online meetings for ease of attendance, and through the Winter and possible rise in COVID cases. With possible once a quarter meetings commencing in 2022. The Treasurer opened the question to the meeting to discuss all the options. The members of the public attending agreed to maintaining online meetings. The AGM will be held online.

Item 9: Kinross-shire Fund awards: Kinnesswood In Bloom and Friends of Portmoak School Parent Council had both been awarded grants. Local organisations are encouraged to make applications next year.

9. **AOB:** Cllr AMiller asked WCllrs if it was possible to obtain the data on the speed trials and VAS through FOI. Interested to know the average speed of vehicles immediately prior to and during the monitoring period following the implementation of speed mitigation measures within the various communities.

10. Next Meeting and AGM: 7.30pm Tuesday, 12 October 2021, Online

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