

Portmoak Community Council

Notice of Meeting & Community Council

Tuesday 8 March 2022, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

Minutes of Meeting

- 1. Attendance:** WCllrs C Purves, WRobertson, and RWatters; Cllrs DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, SForde, DPaterson; and 5 Members of Public.

Apologies: Cllrs AMiller, GSmith, and DPaterson

- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 8 February 2022:**

SMcGregor: date inaccuracy to correct for approval of previous month's minutes should be "Jan11 2022".

DMorris: correction regarding the Bowhouse BusLaybys, minutes state " , RTK original developers were to install a bus layby on the West bound side of the A911", this should East bound side.

SForde: Proposed. ADavidson: Seconded

- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1 Kinross-shire Committee (KC) – update: WCllr CPurves spoke, there was no substantial update. At the Feb PCC meeting WCllr MBarnacle had indicated an additional KC meeting should take place to discuss and set priorities but this had not yet been scheduled. **ACTION:** CPurves or MBarnacle to update once meeting has taken place.

Item 2 Road Safety Action Update: A911 Route Action Plan: a paper had been sent to Committee for consideration in 2022-23. Cllrs and WCllrs agreed it would be best practise to have a full consultation with residents to have all measures agreed at the beginning of the process. There was a discussion about the types of speed restriction measures that could be used, given that 20mph speed limits appeared to have limited effect, and there was support for physical constraints to be introduced in all of the communities along the A911, and/or 1-way priorities which seem to work well in other small villages. There was agreement to look at all mitigation measures and to approach a route action plan with an open mind as to the solutions

Item 3 Glenlomond sewage, and Water Supply to Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie: The village committee had submitted a FOI request to ScotGov to confirm how many other, similar sewage works had been taken over. ScotGov had pushed back on this request, suggesting the information would be supplied by Scottish Water. A subsequent FOI had now been made to Scottish Water with the same request. There was an expectation of reply before the end of March. **ACTION:** Cllr ADavidson to update on progress

Item 4 Glenlomond tree felling & clearing at entrance to village: Cllr ADavidson provided an update on the vegetation clearance work that had been going on at the entrance to the Glenlomond village site. More clearing has been completed since the PCC Feb meeting. The existing owner who had demolished the nursing home has a buyer for the site. A company has been onsite doing due diligence onsite to establish services. There was particular concern about a small part of the site on Dryside Road, at the entrance to the village, which until recently was growing with rhododendrons and trees, but has now been completely cleared. Villagers were concerned about destruction of wildlife habitat and general pleasant appearance of the village landscape. PKC had been notified and had advised the clearing did not necessarily contravene planning rules. There was suggestion that potentially a wildlife crime may have been committed due to time of year and destruction of nesting sites. Residents were concerned that digging equipment may have exposed services or pipes. The digging equipment has now been removed. Cllr DMorris commented on the possibility for a village Development Trust to purchase the land under part 5 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016. **ACTION:** Cllr ADavidson to investigate legislation and existing Village Committee constitution and find out possibilities.

Item 5 Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: at time of meeting PCC had still to arrange the on-site meeting. The PCC and WCllrs discussed the importance of identifying the best route, and the development of a feasibility

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study. There was agreement that the “best route” has not yet been identified and that in principle the project should be Scotlandwell led. Concern was expressed that Scotlandwell was poorly served in terms of safe connections to local facilities shops and school. There was general agreement that the project should be taken to the KC. **ACTION:** PCC to proceed with onsite visit and identification of “best route” and present option to KC with a view to a feasibility study.

Item 6: Wester Balgedie Farm development – correspondence to PCC from Developer: no formal planning permission has been sought at time of PCC meeting. Demolition of unsafe barns has taken place. There was concern from residents that some demolition of outhouses had taken place and some small trees cut down and photographs had been sent to PCC. The Developer had communicated with PCC in reference to a promised pre-planning meeting to present the development plans to local residents but this was now likely to be delayed towards the end of March. The developer did not believe any demolition or tree removal had occurred.

ACTION: Secretary to maintain contact with Developer and advise PCC on likely date of pre-planning meeting with residents.

Item 7: Additional item Core Paths: Cllr DMorris raised the item apropos of discussion in the Feb22 PCC meeting, picking up on three items: 1. Establishment of MTHT/127 Core path from Arlary to the Orwell Standing Stones: Cllr Morris had visited the site and there is a thin strip of grass approximately along the line of the Core Path from Arlary to the A911 crossing to the MTHT/126 but it is unclear if it is intended to be the Core Path, and the gate at the Arlary end is still locked. Dave Stubbs at PKC has written to the farmer but had not received a response. Issue to be escalated. WCllr WRobertson will wait till mid-March and follow up again with D Stubbs.

2. Core Path PTMK/115 Glenlomond to Glenvale path: lambing season is about to commence. D Stubbs of PKC had suggested to close the path, but Cllr DMorris had highlighted that it is not easily possible to close a Core Path. The Core Path will remain open. D Morris had suggested that PKC should make it clear to anyone walking the Core Path between Glen Vale and Glenlomond (PTMK/115) that dogs should be on a lead through its whole length, throughout the year, partly because of lambing but also because of levels of public use. He also suggested that the “dogs on lead” signs should be on every gate along the route to reinforce this message. PCC agreed with this approach and noted that a dogs on lead policy would help members of the public to remind dog owners of this requirement and to point out that simply saying that dogs had to be “under close control” was not adequate in this situation. **ACTION:** Cllr D Morris to request increased signage on PTMK/115 to PKC with support of PCC

4. New Matters arising:

Item 1: Portmoak Church Glebe lease to Woodland Trust: Church of Scotland lease of the East side Glebe field (on hill side of the A911) to the Woodland Trust would come to an end in June22. PCC had been approached to establish if there were any objections to the suggestion that the site be offered to the Woodland Trust to purchase. On the question of a land transfer of the Glebe to be sold to the Woodland Trust, the PCC and attendees at meeting were in favour of the sale. **ACTION:** Secretary to communicate PCC opinion to the Church of Scotland

Item 2: Update on Lomond Inn site developments: work has started on one of the house sites. An old stone wall at the North end of the site should be rebuilt according to the planning requirements. PCC had made objections to the most recent planning application (21/0050/FLL and Cllr DMorris had spoken to this representation at the meeting of the PKC Planning Committee. In reviewing all the planning applications affecting the Lomond Inn site over the last ten years, covering both the demolition process and the decision to build large houses on the site, Cllr Morris noted that none of the many representations made by PCC on this matter had any effect on the planning process. Planning officers repeatedly ignored everything said to them by both PCC and individual residents. Furthermore when the main planning application went before the planning committee approval was granted despite the opposition of the two PCC ward councillors on the committee. The other two ward councillors not on the committee were also opposed to the planning application. This crucial decision to approve a controversial proposal for development at the heart of Kinnesswood, in the Conservation Area, was therefore taken by Ward Councillors from elsewhere in Perth and Kinross, without any local knowledge of the Kinnesswood requirements. Cllr SMcGregor indicated that she had also followed this planning process over many years and agreed that the decision at the Planning Committee Meeting appeared to be taken by Ward Councillors with no connection to the area and with a total disregard of the representations made by PCC and local people. WCllr WRobertson commented that historically representation had been listened to by the Planning Committee, but he felt this was no longer the case, and if the Planning Officers had recommended planning approval then the approval was nearly always granted by the committee. CPurves agreed with the point that WRobertson had made. Cllr Morris said there was a long standing problem with the planning committee in PKC which covered far too large

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an area. By contrast the much smaller area covered by Fife Council had three area committees. It was noted that an attempt was made to devolve planning services as part of the new KC arrangements, but this had failed.

ACTION: Secretary to raise concerns to PKC Enforcement Officer re: rebuilding the old wall feature of the Conservation Area

5. Reports:

a. **Police Reports:** the Police Liaison team had not managed to attend the meeting.

a. Community Speed watch program: there was no update on the program at time of meeting.

b.Planning

(1) New Applications: no new applications within Portmoak

(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.

No further updates, or planning applications have been submitted at time of meeting. RWatters flagged the National Planning Framework coming forward which had a specific focus on how to deal with planning applications for land that had peat. Retain item on Agenda for future meetings.

(b) Planning Decisions

(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: Cllr KDonaldson had attended the Feb22. Since beginning of month work has commenced on approach roads. There are machines now working on site itself. DMorris asked about vehicles using the wrong route: Cllr KDonaldson thought most of the heavy vehicles were using the B9097. There was a high level of traffic. ACTION: KDonaldson to continue to attend Liaison meetings and update on progress at Westfield site.

6. **Paths Group update:** PKC Ranger Alistair Macleod and 4 members completed some essential repairs on the hill section of the MBW. Culverts and ditches have been cleared to improve the drainage. Gorse encroaching onto the path was cut back. The Paths Group extend their thanks to Alistair for all his help and providing the Paths Group with a good supply of tools and equipment using the PKC fund to support local paths groups. Volunteers for the Paths Group would be welcomed. Anyone wanting to help please contact Anne on 07547 457046.

7. **Treasurer CC Accounts:** No movement on the accounts since Feb22. Docs lodged for the Credit Union Account

8. Ward Councillors' Reports

RWatters: Community Investment Fund: date to be defined for meeting to allocate final £16k.

WRobertson: update on Lochend to Heritage trail path: TRACKS applied for money from PKC, with the other half to come from ScotGov, but the latter application this was turned down. This initial decision was challenged and unexpectedly overturned, so all the money is in place and work will start in the next financial year, in Summer 2022.

CPurves: gave a brief overview on budget, including: 2.5% likely increase on Council Tax. Reinstatement of posts for Road Safety Officers. Capital funding for road repairs has been put in place. Funds made available for business improvements. Additional sum for local KC to use at their discretion. WCllr CPurves does not intend to contest the next election, so in effect the PCC Mar22 meeting would be the last that WCllr CPurves would attend. The PCC members expressed thanks to CPurves and to Cllr Barnacle, who was also standing down, for their considerable efforts in assisting and supporting PCC actions over the years.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Item 1: Road closures in Kinnesswood: Gamekeepers Road 01/04/22, and Whitecraigs on 04/04/22: Roads to be closed for parking and loading. ACTION: Secretary to circulate info. to subscribers, and on social media.

Item 2: School meals at Portmoak Primary: Cllr S Forde had raised concerns to the members of PCC about changes to school meal provision within PKC but had adjourned early from meeting and was unable to voice her concerns. The Secretary had contacted Head Teacher of Portmoak Primary on the item and had received a thorough response that seemed to allay concerns and gave reassurance that the Head Teacher was monitoring the situation on an ongoing basis. ACTION: Secretary to send WCllrs the correspondence on School Meals.

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10. **AOB: *Portmoak Hustings for forthcoming PKC Elections***: CllrD Morris raised suggestion of organising these basically a forum whereby candidates present their proposals to the public. To discuss at the next PCC meeting. ***Diamond Jubilee Events***: CPurves advised £70k has been allocated to Perth and other funds to larger Towns for Jubilee events. **ACTION**: Secretary to add to the agenda for Apr22
11. **Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 12April2022, Online– PCC agreed to be online.**