

Portmoak Community Council

Notice of Meeting & Community Council

Tuesday 10 May 2022, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

(request Zoom meeting details via email to Secretary@Portmoak.org)

Minutes

1. **Attendance & Apologies:** Cllrs A Miller (Chair), D Morris (Vice-Chair), S McGregor (Secretary), K Donaldson; S Forde, D Paterson, G Smith, and 3 members of the public

Apologies: A Davidson (Treasurer); WCllrs WRobertson, RWatters, NFreshwater, and DCuthbert.

2. **Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 12 April 2022:**

SForde: request to circulate minutes as early as possible in month. The Secretary apologised for delayed circulation of Apr22 minutes to email subscribers, though Minutes had gone into Newsletter, and out on social media.

DMorris: Item8: WCllrs reports: Cllr DMorris wished to highlight that WCllr MBarnacle was retiring after 23yrs of dedicated service for which PCC would like to thank him for his considerable contribution during this time.

Minutes Proposed: SForde; Seconded: KDonaldson

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

Item 1 Kinross-shire Committee (KC) – update

The Chair had attended the online KC meeting in April at which significant discussion concerned pollution and the significant algal blooms in Loch Leven. These are currently quite extreme, due in part to lack of rainfall, but also due to pollution and nutrient load entering the loch. There was a discussion around the possible reasons for this, a likely combination of both increase in effluent attributable to the large amount of new housing being built in Milnathort and Kinross, but also likely additional pollution from agricultural run-off. Sandy soils in the area were contributory to soil erosion in water run-off and dust clouds during dry seasons may evidence a need for changes to agricultural practises locally. Further, it was noted the Milnathort drainage system has historically been unable to cope with sewage and flood water during periods of extreme rain, allowing untreated sewage to enter Loch Leven. Chair commented that a change is needed in the overall emphasis, where treatment occurs at primary plants and that Scottish Water, SEPA and Developers should be required, under legislation, to mitigate. The Secretary suggested that, in the water treatment industry, treatment of effluent may be often be reactive and further regular testing with proactive treatment should be implemented to prevent high levels of phosphates and pollution being released. KDonaldson speculated that upgrade of the sewage treatment plants seemed overdue. Minutes of the KC: there had previously been dissatisfaction at the release dates for KC meeting minutes. Under PKC policy, meeting minutes are only released within a week of the subsequent meeting. This was deemed unsatisfactory to permit relevant discussion at CC meetings. Cllr DMorris advised that, in contrast, Fife Council policy requires officers to produce draft minutes within 1 week after any meeting. It was felt that WCllrs need to address this issue with PKC policy makers. WCllrs had asked that because this is a pilot scheme, that the pilot be extended by a further 6 meetings.

Minutes of the KC Transport Committee from Mike Barnacle had been circulated by the Secretary. The Chair indicated he was unaware of this Committee. A member of the public who had once sat on the KCTC clarified that this was an established committee which has met for a number of years. Cllr DMorris also knew of the committee. It was agreed that establishment of the Kinross-shire Committee pilot scheme is a higher priority at present, and perhaps the two should be integrated given the devolved powers of the KC.

Item 2 Road Safety Action Update: WCllr WRobertson had circulated the confirmation from PKC Roads that speed cushions that had been removed from Kinnesswood would be re-positioned at the Causeway entrance to Scotlandwell. Also confirmed was the 40mph speed restriction along the Scotlandwell -Bowhouse stretch of the A911 will be put in place, as voted for by the KC. PKC had warned, however, of ongoing delay in projects being completed.

Cllr DMorris commented on his comparative observation between roads in Scotland and those in Norway where road benches are used right across roads, often in combination with pedestrian crossings, in many situations to

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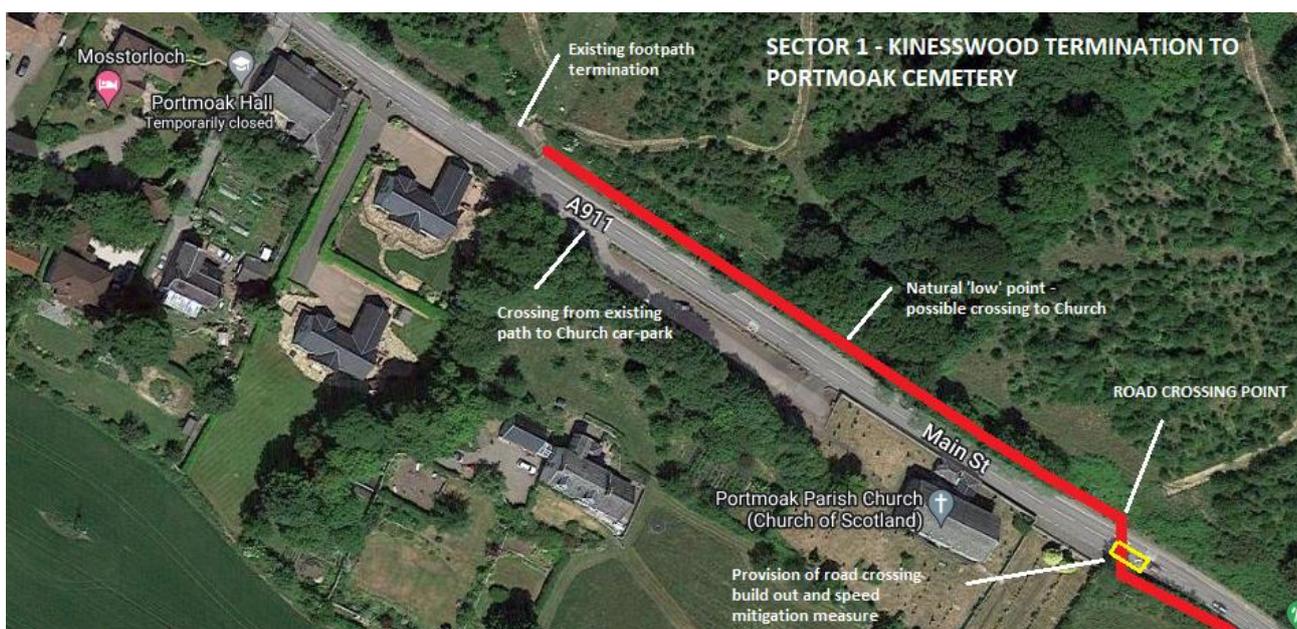
reduce traffic speeds rather than speed cushions. Also in Norway, there is usually a wide pavement that is physically separated from the road for use by pedestrians and cyclists. PCC should insist that such road safety measures are included in the A911 route action plan. CllrDPaterson agreed with this suggestion, pointing out also that speed cushions do not slow the speed of vehicles with wider wheel bases, such as tractors, lorries, and vans which were able to straddle the speed cushions. Chair highlighted the commonplace use of raised speed tables in areas of Fife such as Ballingry. PKC seemed isolated in non-adoption of these more effective measures, as speed signage in isolation was clearly failing.

Item 3 Glenlomond sewage, and Water Supply to Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie: The Treasurer had confirmed no significant update this month.

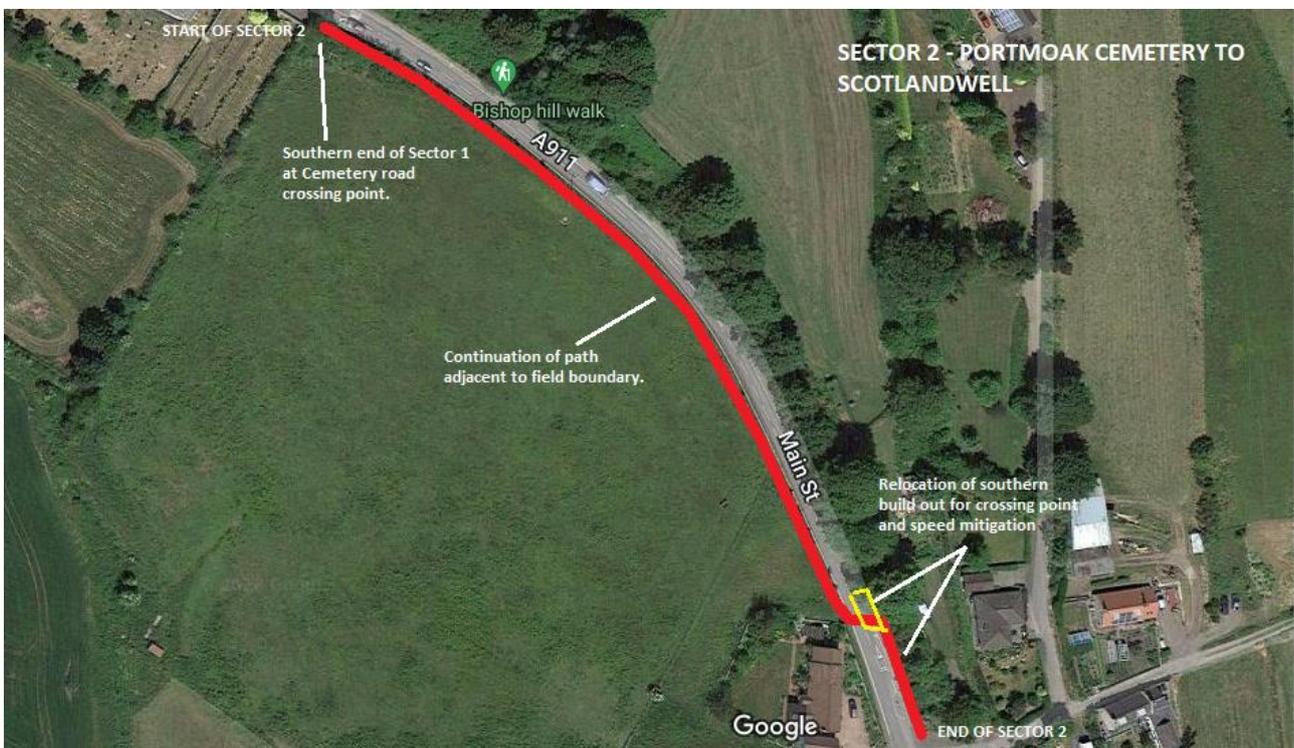
Item 4 Glenlomond tree felling & clearing at entrance to village: the sale of the Glenlomond development site was reported to have fallen through. The site owner has now fenced off two plots which are intended for sale. There has been no further damage to the part of the site close to Dryside Road. The village has organised tree planting around the old bowling green, and installation of planters and a bench at the entrance to the village as the first part of the 'Phoenix project' funded by the Community Investment Fund.

Item 5 Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path & Kinnesswood Completion: In April, the Chair, Vice Chair and KDonaldson met to walk the route. The core aim was the long-standing requirement to provide a safe public path connecting the villages of Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood, and particularly, provide the residents Scotlandwell, a means of safe access to the Cemetery, Portmoak Church and the Village Hall. The Chair had subsequently created a route plan with map showing a 'best option' route for each sector and summary of the various factors considered when choosing the alignment. This was circulated to PCC members and WCllrs for review. Unfortunately, due to timing with elections, the outgoing WCllrs had not been able to all give their full assent to the route before they stepped down. As WRobertson and RWatters have been re-elected, it is hoped they will continue to fully support the proposed scheme, and that the new WCllrs will also. Following a feasibility study, next steps will involve investigating funding options, from a variety of sources. There was PCC agreement that the WCllrs' full support should be sought to drive this project forward in the short term. Cllr SForde highlighted the Church of Scotland's intention to close and sell Portmoak Church, suggesting this could help in securing the route of the new path. Cllr DMorris agreed in part that in the future it may be helpful to have another parcel of land for a more direct route.

PCC have defined the best-option route as shown below, with Sector 1 extending from the existing Kinnesswood path termination to the Cemetery, and Sector 2 extending from the Cemetery to Scotlandwell. PCC invite anyone who has comments to submit them to the Secretary at Secretary@Portmoak.org or raise them at the next PCC meeting at Portmoak Village Hall on Tuesday 12/07/22 (no June meeting).



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ACTION: Secretary to circulate route details to subscribers and collate response.

Item 6: Wester Balgedie Farm development – correspondence to PCC from Developer: The Secretary had received correspondence from the Developer who had chosen not to hold a pre-planning Community Liaison meeting, but had engaged directly with Wester Balgedie residents to discuss the pre-planning designs. The developer had shared the designs with PCC. The Chair thought if Developer was engaging with the locals pre-planning by courtesy then this was an approach that was to be commended. DMorris did not feel that the CC should take a pro-active approach on a development that was not yet live for planning approval. Instead if any concerned parties have comments either before or after planning is submitted, they can raise these to PCC through the usual channels.

Item 7: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: Cllr SForde had instigated the issue of the play facilities needing upgrade. WCllr WRobertson had raised issue to PKC, who had in turn confirmed an upgrade was budgeted this year. On the matter of the grass cutting, PKC Community Greenspace attested grass cutting was being completed every 2 weeks, though this was refuted by attendees who lived locally to the Well Green. The Green is a washing green and would have historically been cut regularly. Given this is the only play area in Scotlandwell and needs regular maintenance, the pilot ‘wilding’ programme was considered inappropriate. ACTION: WCllr WRobertson to arrange a meeting with PKC to discuss the play facility upgrade, Well Green maintenance, and to raise an agenda item on the KC for discussion.

Item 8: Rookery at Scotlandwell Washhouse: Chair attempting to establish whom or what Department at PKC responsible to address and advise in respect of this item. Any action would have to remain on hold at present until the end of the Summer as it is still nesting season.

4. New Matters arising:

Pavement width at the Lomond Inn: Secretary to measure pavement width to check adherence to planning width of 1.2m.

Reports:

a. **Police Reports:** there was no recent update

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

- (a) 22/00674/FLL Erection of a dwellinghouse (revised design - change of house type to plot
- 3) Land 20 Metres North Of Bonaly Cottage Main Street Kinnesswood. **PCC: no comment**

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- (b) 22/00671/FLL Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, formation of balcony with raised decking area, steps and associated works. 24 Whitecraigs Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9JN. **PCC: No comment**

(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.
Follow up to Ardbeg Homes Community Meeting held on 27 April 22
The Chair thanked Ardbeg Homes and the various attending representatives for the opportunity of the Public Engagement in relation to the H54 Development. It appeared that the event was well attended by the Community. Excepting minor changes to the Design & Access Statement and layout, all documentation was essentially the same as the 'withdrawn' original application. It was the view that the proposal did not address previous documented contraventions of Policy. The affordable housing element was also considered contentious. DMorris pointed out that the Developer did not appear to be aware of the main sewer running through the site. It was conceded however, no live application was in place and therefore any comments represented an evaluation of the revised proposals relative to the original withdrawn scheme. Based on the information provided, PCC expected to maintain their objection to development of H54.

(b) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: KDonaldson would attend a Liaison Committee meeting next week. Commented on the speed of the large lorries on the road, and also mud on the road. Onsite: a lot of landscaping, scrub clearing. The Secretary enquired as to the routing of heavy vehicles along the B9097 and what if anything might be done to limit this? Cllr DMorris remarked that the intensity of heavy vehicles will not fully commence until the start of the incinerator, and these issues were all discussed at the time of planning, and no mitigation put in place. Cllr DPaterson commented anecdotally that large vehicles have for many years travelling to and from the Westfield site, at a frequency of 6/7/hour leaving Westfield.
On the subject of off-road path, DMorris updated that Hargreaves were not amenable to creating an off-road path, and PKC were not helpful either on this matter. So this project had been shelved.

6. Paths Group update: Cllr DMorris updated in brief: there was a lot of gorse being cut back, and this will continue in to the Summer. Volunteers are still invited to give even a little time to assist with this valuable local work. Please contact: Anne on 07547 457046.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts: no change to PCC accounts. No confirmation from Credit Union re: new accounts

8. Ward Councillors' Reports: no updates

9. Matters notified to the Secretary: no additional items

10. AOB:

1. Core Path MTH139 to Orwell standing stones and MTH127 Arlary to Orwell . DMorris to have a tri-partite meeting with WCllrs WRobertson and landowner in June22. Recently DMorris had encountered farmer onsite of the standing stones, who claimed he was trying to maintain the Core Path MTH139 to the standing stones. Regarding the cross-field path MTH127 the landowner did not believe there was a Core-Path across the field. PCC to continue to address the reinstatement of the two Core Paths.

2. Springfield Farm Honesty Box for eggs: A member of the Public highlighted repeated theft of produce and money from the honesty box at Springfield Farm. Eggs can now be bought by going to the house at Springfield Farm (along the lane and to the left).

3. PCC Meetings, Online versus face-to face meetings: The Chair raised the item and there was support for both formats and for a mix of these going forwards, particularly for in-person meetings where important items needed to be discussed. Proposal to schedule July22 PCC meeting at the Village Hall where the Kinnesswood to Scotlandwell path completion could be discussed.

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4.. PCC June meeting (14/06/22): The Chair will not be available for June PCC meeting. The VC was unsure of his availability, **agreement to cancel June 22 PCC meeting.**

5. Election Hustings: The Chair and Secretary had started to look at organising this event after the April 22 PCC meeting. It was ultimately decided that as only a scant 3 weeks was available to organise a large-scale event with the cooperation of multiple Community Councils, and between schedules of all candidates, there was insufficient time to complete this.

11. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 12 July 2022, at Portmoak Hall