

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes

Tuesday 13th April 2021, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

1. **Attendance and apologies:** Cllrs ADavidson (Acting Chair), SMcGregor (Secretary), DMorris, KDonaldson; WCllrs CPurves, WRobertson. Plus 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr S Forde

2. **Approval of previous Minutes held on 9th March 2021:** A note was made that the PCC Secretary had attended meeting on 09/03/21

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

Item 1 *Portmoak CC – PKC By-Election for PCC:* The Secretary had been advised by the PKC Community Services team that the by-election would not be held until after the upcoming council elections. WCllr WRobertson thought the by-election would be not before July '21. **ACTION:** Secretary to write to PKC and CC WCllrs to ask for by-election planning to be put in motion and a date request.

Item 2 *Portmoak Cemetery:* former Cllr ACragoe had been able to provide an update on the cemetery extension project. Trees had been felled at the cemetery with the intention of creating 6 lairs, (not the previously discussed 10 lairs), however, there was some dubiety about the suitability of the locale for the lairs. Focus has returned to possibility of land purchase for the extension and PKC were understood to be investigating.

Item 3 *Road Safety Action in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell:* PCC were aware of recent police speed checks, which seemed also to have been well received by the local community. New speed sensors have been placed on the A911 to monitor to speed adherence following the 20mph trial. WCllr CPurves had spoken to Daryl McKeown at PKC regarding resource for the A911 Route Action Plan proposed in 2020, but resource is thought to be limited at present.

Item 4 *Glenlmond sewage: migration of responsibility to Scottish Water:* Cllr ADavidson clarified that the Glenlmond sewage system is fully operational but it does need ongoing maintenance, so Glenlmond Village still want Scottish Water to adopt the system for maintenance and future upgrading. There have recently been issues people parking cars at the access to the sewage plant compromising access for essential work. A chain barrier is to be placed at the access to the sewage works which the Residents' Committee will be able to unlock to permit legitimate access.

Item 5 *Construction of hill track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood:* DMorris is to pick up with the landowner now the weather is improving. No meeting date has been proposed.

Reserve items: updates where available

Item 6 *Glenlmond Snow clearing & gritting*

Item 7 *Easter Balgedie – Wester Balgedie footpath and flooding*

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

Item 9 *Kinross-shire Forum Meeting*

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

Item 11 *Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond:* PCC were keen not to let this item languish. WCllr WRobertson commented that in the last meeting with TRACKS this item was still on their to-do list but no route had been decided. PCC had originally asked for PKC assistance to identify the best route, but at last discussion PKC had requested PCC to identify a route on which PKC would then do a feasibility study. Two of the three members of the CC who were engaged with project had now left PCC. PCC will pick up on the last action point. **ACTION:** PCC to discuss this item at the CC Management Meeting and start to move this item forward again.

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Item 12 *Rural Transport*

Item 13 *Loch Leven water quality*

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

4. **New Matters arising:**

Item 15: *Glenlomond Water Supply*: Cllr ADavidson outlined the issue: Glenlomond water comes from Lomond Hills and is piped down past the village then pumped back up to the village. There seems to be a problem with the pump. Scottish Water (SW) are regularly cutting off water supply to the village to enable maintenance. These water outages are both scheduled and unscheduled and the longest has been 7hrs. There is discrepancy over how long an outage must be before water is supplied to the village. SW have stated conflicting information at different times. WCllr WRobertson previously wrote to the SW Emergency Officer who confirmed there is no timescale for providing water during supply outages. Supply outages also cause problems with repressurising of domestic heating systems in addition to not being able to access drinking water, flush toilets or use domestic appliances. **ACTION:** WRobertson will raise this item again with PKC and Scottish Water.

Item 16: *Parking around Portmoak Primary*: the Head of Portmoak Primary had reached out to PCC about the issue of parking around the school. Cllr DMorris was able to fill in some history on the issue of some years which is well documented in previous PCC minutes. **ACTION:** Cllr DMorris will contact the Head of Portmoak and report back.

Item 17: *Sheep attacks: use of local paths and control of dogs*: A member of the public with connections to a local farm attended the meeting and highlighted recent sheep attacks out of which one sheep had to be euthanised as a result of its injuries from a dog attack. A recent RSPCA survey was mentioned which highlighted that chasing livestock and wildlife/other animals was one of the top 5 problems reported by dog owners (<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/kind>). The Scottish Outdoor Access Code was also mentioned in which the responsibilities are given to which dog owners should adhere <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all/dog-walking> . New legislation means that there will soon be fines of up to £40K that may be levied on dog owners whose animals are out of control. Dogs may be seized and farmers are permitted to shoot dogs if they are attacking or worrying livestock. PCC wanted to highlight that there are sheep and livestock grazing in fields in many parts of Portmoak and the animals are not always visible at the start of a walk in a field. Dog owners should keep their dog under strict close control or on leads. Ground nesting birds may also be affected during the months of April – July. Dog poo should be picked up and disposed of in a bin as it can leave parasites in the ground that affect livestock. **ACTION:** WRobertson to request Police add a note to their Newsletter report on this issue. PCC Secretary to highlight issues to subscribers and via local social media.

5. **Reports:**

a. **Police Reports**

- (1) The Local Police Report: the police had sent apologies in advance that they were unable to attend but supplied a report. This included reports of bogus workman claiming to be from Utilities companies knocking on doors; residents are asked to be vigilant, ask for ID, and be careful with divulging any personal details. There had also been speeding offences picked up locally and one person stopped for dangerous driving.

b. **Planning**

- (1) New Applications:

(a) *21/00357/ Change of use from agricultural land to form garden ground and alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and outbuilding at West Feal Barn Auchmuirbridge.*
Public comments by 16/04/21

The PCC noted that the application was much the same as previous application Ref. No: 20/01902/FLL which had been withdrawn, the intended use has been changed. Previously the CC had decided to make no comment, but after the meeting there was additional information provided about problems with reversing traffic on the access road which is also Core Path PTMK/121. The PCC agreed CC should object to the application on basis that the implications of traffic use are unacceptable, unless there is a planning condition of forward gear travel only along the access route and a traffic circle is put in place at the site to allow large vehicles to turn.

ACTION: Cllr DMorris to draft objection letter for Sec to send.

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- (b) A Planning Application via TRACKS would be made on behalf of PCC for planning permission for a footpath linking The Loch Leven Heritage Trail to Lochend Farm. The route was over Lochend Farm and a short section over the Gliding Club. Work unlikely to commence before 2022. TRACKS would prepare the planning application but it would be submitted by PCC in order to reduce costs.

(2) Planning Decisions

(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee

KDonaldson commented on tree clearing, no other work appears to be happening at present. Cllr DMorris confirmed no Liaison group meeting updates. With regard to the path network project contact with local landowners had been sporadic so far but Cllr Morris was in discussion with Hargreaves as regards making the report more widely available. A member of public had written to the Secretary asking about rail connections for moving refuse to the site. Cllrs were able to advise that in the original planning rail transport had been discussed, but the cost had been prohibitive to bring Westfield rail link up to the correct standard.

(3) Previous Applications:

20/01958/FLL | Erection of a dwellinghouse | Land 40 Metres North West Of Bonaly Cottage Main Street Kinnesswood: The PCC noted this application at the Lomond Inn site had been withdrawn due to an issue regarding connection to the water supply. There is a probability that another application will be submitted.

- c. **Paths Group:** The planning application for the Paths Group Notice Board sign at Buchan Avenue car park had been approved. The CC would pay for the invoice for the building of the notice board.

- d. **Treasurer CC Accounts:** Michael Bruce Account: £1477.60. Portmoak CC: £662.80
Payment for Zoom monthly subscription invoice would be made. The Secretary to submit invoice.

6. **Ward Councillors' Reports**

WCllr CPurves: talked about the PKC budget which had been confirmed in mid-March. The budget had secured good benefits to Kinross-shire. Firstly there was to be formed a local Committee for Kinross-shire which will see some powers of policy & budgets devolved. Representatives from local CCs will be involved in the Committee. WCllr Purves suggested this was a positive step to give more control & influence over local issues. There will be a meeting of the forum looking to get this up and running asap and the WCllrs were keen to not let this opportunity go past. Local investment to tackle road issues within P&K and the largest ££ commitment to this issue to date.

WCllr WRobertson: agreed the PKC budget was good for Kinross-shire, with the Committee for Kinross-shire a good thing. WCllr Robertson anticipated the committee would also raise the profile of CCs in the area which would hopefully attract people to join CCs and allow them to see the difference they can make locally. Additionally there had been a bid for £160K for repair of erosion, damage and improvements to the LLHT, Nature Scotland and TRACKS were involved. Finally there was a freeze on Council Tax.

7. **Matters notified to the Secretary:** Nothing additional

8. **AOB:**

1. *Website accessibility:* In Feb21 the Cabinet Office (Government Digital Services) had highlighted that Scottish Community Council websites are classed as Public Sector and therefore need to comply with accessibility regulations. PCC website is managed by a volunteer in the local community who had undertaken this project and had successfully updated the PCC website to meet requirements for accessibility backdated to 2018. Older documents could be made accessible by request. The Secretary expressed huge gratitude for the work undertaken by our volunteer to complete this essential project.

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2. *Litter on LLHT*: The Secretary highlighted the issue of litter on the LLHT. Members of PCC felt that litter bins should not be placed on the LLHT, and that the onus of disposing of their litter responsibly should be on the public using the trail to take their litter home and not discard it. Coffee cups and lids from local coffee shops were a common occurrence, in particular Loch Leven's Larder in the Carsehall area. **ACTION**: WCllr WRobertson agreed to write to Loch Leven Larder to highlight the problem and seek their cooperation to help avoid the issue.
3. *Google maps access inaccuracies*: Cllr ADavidson flagged the issue of Google maps inaccurately indicating Glenlomond as an access point for Glenvale, and also access via Grahamston Farm to the LLHT, and requested help with obtaining signage for these locales that indicate no vehicular access. **ACTION**: PCC to write to Dave Stubbs at PKC to request signage stating no vehicular access
4. *Dead Tree on Dryside road above WBalgedie*: Glenlomond residents were concerned that the tree will come down and block the road. WCllr WRobertson suggested contacting the landowner.
5. *Notice board at Kinnesswood bus shelter*: Kinnesswood In Bloom intend to use the notice board to put up some art work on the board this Summer, incorporating art done by local school children and residents.

9. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 11th May 2021 – online meeting

10. The Chair closed meeting at 2100hrs

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