

## Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 in the Primary School.

**1. Attendance :** CCllr's M. Parkin (Chairman) J. Bird, R. Cairncross, T. Smith, S. Forde, D. Williamson, WCllr Baird and five residents.

**Apologies :** were received from WCllr W. Robertson and CCllr M. Strang Steel

**2. Previous minutes:** were approved and signed.

### **3. Police Report**

The Chairman thanked the two officers who attended the meeting and invited them to stay, which they declined due to operational demands.

There had been four cases of house-breaking during September in Scotlandwell and a person had been apprehended.

### **4. Treasurers report:**

Income since the last meeting was £35, expenditure £78 leaving a total of £1505 in the bank made up of £600 in the General account and £905 in the MBW account. Copies of the accounts were made available. The Chairman wished to record his recognition of the funding that Portmoak Community Council received from P&KC.

### **5. Matters arising from previous meetings**

#### **1. Stephens Field**

The CCs solicitors are presently in touch with solicitors acting for A & J Stephen Ltd, and the acquisition of the field is proceeding. Under AOCB it was noted that A & J Stephen had agreed to repair the fallen five bar gate at the entrance to the field from Bishop Terrace.

#### **2. Road Signage**

Cllr Kathleen Baird and the Chairman made a survey of road signs within the parish on 26th July and a status report was compiled by the Chairman for action with PKC and forwarded to Cllr Baird that same day. WCllr Baird reported that the Horse sign on the Mawcarse road had been pointing in the wrong direction but had now been changed. A resident raised the question of the double bend sign leading into Auchmuirbridge that perhaps required renewing.

It was noted that residents can report road problems via 'Clarence'. If this is done via telephone the caller is routed direct to Edinburgh City Council but if reported via e mail then a reference number can be received and the progress on the problem can be logged.

However, CClr Smith informed the meeting that he had reported a number of problems via 'Clarence' and was then unable to find out the progress on the problems. One of the issues reported had been the hedge between Easter Balgedie and Kinnesswood which had been reported as a safety hazard to pedestrians forcing them into the road.

CClir Cairncross asked what the P&KC policy was re sightlines since the problems with these might increase if hedge cutting is removed from the P&KC budget. WClir Baird would seek answers to these problems.

Post Meeting Note:

- a) The hedge alongside the road between Easter Balgedie and Kinnesswood is privately owned and the owner will be contacted and notified of the concern for users of the path.
- b) The double bend road sign at Auchmuirbridge is in place but may require refurbishment

### 3. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter Area

Following his initial approach to P&KC in May, the Chairman had again contacted Andrew Warrington of the Public Transport Unit at P&KC on 2nd September, and a meeting between all interested parties and Mr Moray Fraser of P&KC will be organised shortly. It is anticipated that P&KC will provide a new roof for the Shelter, and may assist with other improvements being considered by the CC, and also by Portmoak organisations such as Kinnesswood in Bloom. It was noted the nesting birds would soon be moving to a warmer climate.

A resident asked if the ownership of the area had been determined. The Chairman replied that this had not been determined, but as the repair of the roof was the prime consideration, perhaps together with some minor improvements, ownership of the area was not an issue at present.

### 4. Build Outs

The defect with these is that each has only one warning sign, to inform oncoming same-side traffic, whereas there should be two such signs, back to back, so that traffic coming from the opposite direction is also informed. The Chairman had conveyed this information to WClir Baird for action. WClir Baird informed the meeting that reflective tape would be placed on the back of the single bollards. The Community Council accepted this as a solution.

## 5. Water Level in Loch Leven

A response from Mr Keith Miller, Clerk to the River Leven Trustees, was received on 12th August, to say that the information he needed to respond in full had not yet come to hand, but he had been expecting this within a fortnight and would be in touch again. Nothing received from Mr Miller at 13th September.

## 6. Convention of P&K Community Councils

The Chairman attended a meeting in Perth on 20th July at which there had been considerable discussion on the way forward, and the Convention was proceeding. Next meeting of the Convention will be held on 5th October.

## 7. Wall Opposite Portmoak Hall

In consultation with the Chairman, local residents had decided that the most acceptable and suitable finish for the wall was grey cement rendering. The options of harling or painting had been rejected. It was asked that this rendering should also be applied to the top of the wall as well as the sides, to prevent ingress of rain. Prior to this however, the longer bolts promised to properly secure the handrails would have to be fitted.

It was noted that the contractor had been asked to complete the outstanding work and that it would be confirmed if these bolts had been replaced.

## 8. Proposed Forum of Kinross-shire Community Councils

Following Cllr Barnacles presentation in favour of this proposed Forum at the July CC meeting, the Chairman had subsequently responded to Cllr Barnacle at length, and had also spoken to Cllr Barnacle regarding a modified format for such a Forum.

The first meeting of this proposed Forum, to discuss how best it might operate to mutual CC advantage, and to establish the basis of its relationship with PKC, will be held on 27th September 2011. The Chairman and CCllr Dr Robin Cairncross will be attending.

An exchange of information between the Kinross-shire CC's would be useful but other issues need to be clarified.

## 9. Pedestrian Footpath between Easter and Wester Balgedie

Cllr Robertson had previously asked George Lawrie of TRACKS about the creation of this missing link of the pedestrian pavement on the A911 between Easter and Wester Balgedie, and the Chairman had asked Cllr Robertson if any response from TRACKS had been received. A response from Cllr Robertson is awaited although WCllr Baird reported that the issue was discussed at the last TRACKS meeting.

The possibility of a roadside pavement / path has been discussed in the past as residents of Wester Balgedie do not have the facility of safely walking into Kinnesswood via the A911. It was also noted that the absence of a footpath was also a danger for people using the Heritage Trail and attempting to return via the A911 to the car park at Loch Leven's Larder. Cllr Baird indicated that it was not likely that such a path could be provided from the latest P&KC reduced capital expenditure budget.

## **6. Subcommittee reports**

### **Paths, Pavements and Roads**

A culvert on the Michael Bruce Way was being washed away and contact had been made with the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust to assist in the repair. Signs had been erected by them warning walkers of the problem. The land owner had been informed and it was now necessary to arrange a repair.

It was suggested by Cllr Smith that a list of paths, together with an overview of their condition within the parish would be useful, and he would undertake to complete this.

### **Planning**

Cllr Cairncross reported that matters raised with Mr Nick Brian of PKC Planning and Mr Ian Innes of PKC Legal Services were ongoing. Progress was being made.

The CC recommended that no objection be made to the following applications:

11/01375/FLL 6 Gamekeepers Court Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9LZ Alterations and extension of house to install french windows and first floor balcony

11/01243/PN Mid Bowhouse Leslie Glenrothes KY6 3JH Erection of an agricultural building

11/01323/FLL "Benarty" Wester Balgedie Kinross KY13 9HE Installation of solar panels

11/01359/FLL 3 Wellburn Scotlandwell Kinross KY13 9JQ Modification of existing consent (09/01558/FLL) to extend dwellinghouse (in retrospect)

11/00919/FLL The Wash House and Historic Well at Well Road Scotlandwell Alterations and Refurbishment of wash house to form interpretation centre

11/00920/LBC The Wash House and The Historic Well at Well Road Scotlandwell Alterations and Refurbishment of wash house to form interpretation centre (Listed Building Consent)

11/01123/FLL 3 Middleburn Cottages Kirkness Cardenden Lochgelly KY5 0HH Change of use of garden ground to industrial storage and erection of a steel frame garage with lean-to log store.

11/01173/FLL Land 360 Metres North Of Kirkness Farm Cardenden      Erection of a Pumping Station, formation of access, and ancillary development.

The CC recommended that an objection be made to the following application:

11/00922/IPL Colzie House, Easter Balgedie

Kinross KY13 9HQ      Erection of a dwelling-house (in principle)

An updated rolling list of all applications may be found on the CC website.

### **Ward Councillor Reports.**

WCllr Baird explained that there was a Community Environment Fund whereby communities could apply for up to £10,000 of matched funding.

Two play-parks had been closed in Kinross-shire in an effort to reduce the maintenance budget.

Cuts in P&KC expenditure are being seen in terms of staff and budgets.

### **7. AOCB**

#### **1. Scotlandwell bus stop.**

Cllr Forde expressed concern that the Portmoak primary school buses are stopping in an area which is short of space for waiting schoolchildren and this is causing concern with parents. The Chairman had made a site visit and suggested that a movement of the bus stop to a position between Jamesfield and Bankfoot Park, where the pavement was wider, would provide more space and solve the problem.

WCllr Baird said that this situation should be taken up directly with the school and she would endeavour to obtain the contact name and pass on to Cllr Forde.

Post Meeting Note: WCllr Baird has forwarded the necessary contact information.

#### **2. Election of Community Councillors.**

Following a nationwide review of community councils, certain changes have taken place with regard to the future election of community councillors. Elections will now be administered by P&KC and will be held for all community councils on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011 and the term of office for community councillors will be four years. In the event that more nominations than vacancies are received, an election will take place by postal vote.

Portmoak is allowed eight community councillors, and the present seven are pleased to stand for election again at the November election

Further details, including nomination forms, can be obtained from the P&KC website or from the community council's own site [www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)

### 3. Speed limit review.

This year a nationwide survey and report has been conducted on all class A and B roads. The report identified three particular areas within Portmoak and the P&KC Public Space Management team have written to the CC asking for comments.

The three areas for change in Portmoak are as follows:-

1. Proposed 40mph extension on the A911 between Wester and Easter Balgedie.

(No comment from the CC)

2. Proposed 30 mph speed limit extension from Scotlandwell towards Kinnesswood terminating at the North side of the Hall car park.

(The CC thought it more appropriate to continue the extension towards Kinnesswood until an adequate distance past the turning to Kilmagadwood)

3. Proposed 40 mph speed limit at Auchmuirbridge from the North side of the entrance to Arnot Mill cottage continuing towards Leslie and terminating just past the garage to Bridgend Cottages.

(No comment from the CC)

It was not understood why the South side of Scotlandwell was not included in the proposals and WCllr Baird would seek clarification on why this was omitted from the recommendations.

### **8. Communications since last meeting**

The secretary has a list of communications received since the last meeting.

Any new subjects received are raised under AOCB.

The meeting finished at 8.34 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday October 11th 2011 in Portmoak Hall.