

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, June 14th 2011 in the Primary School.

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

Apologies were received from WCllrs Robertson and Miller.

2. Previous minutes: were approved and signed after a change was made under the Police Report heading.

3. Police Report

None tendered although communications with the Police during the previous week indicated that there had been break-ins and fly tipping at the allotment site at Scotlandwell.

4. Treasurers report: Zero activity since the last CC meeting, £555.64 in the 2 accounts

5. Matters arising from previous meetings

1. Stephen's Field, Kinnesswood

The Chairman explained that the CC had decided not to wait for further developments between P&KC and the builders and the CC solicitors had been asked to complete the acquisition of the land on behalf of the community.

2. Balgedie Toll to Mawcarse Road.

WCllr Baird informed the meeting that the 'horse' signs and Wester Balgedie signs were still to be completed and she understood that the Kilmagadwood sign had been erected facing the hill and not towards the houses.

A resident raised the question whether the Cattle sign was still required at Orwell. It was agreed the CC would make a survey of signs in Portmoak.

3. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter area.

The Chairman had written to P&KC to say that the shelter roof would probably need replacing before next winter. P&KC had agreed to examine the roof and had also suggested that they would be pleased to liaise with the CC to carry out other agreed works to upgrade the shelter. However, no work could be carried out until the nesting migratory birds had departed in September.

4. Build Outs

WCIlr Baird reported on the progress she had made with the roads dept. and although they had been constructed under a standard design there was still the problem with lack of visibility on the 'reverse' side of the bollards. It was thought that a simple reflective strip could prove beneficial.

5. Water level in Loch Leven.

Awaiting a response from the Loch Leven Trustees following a letter from the Chairman to the Trustees in May 2011.

6. The Convention of Perth and Kinross Community Councils

There was a previous suggestion to dissolve the convention through lack of interest shown by the membership although new ideas had been brought forward to continue the Convention in some way. The Chairman would be attending the July meeting.

7. Wall opposite Portmoak Hall.

There were many problems with the wall and after much discussion there were as many answers as problems. There has been some first aid repairs carried out but these are not considered satisfactory. WCIlr Baird would meet with the roads dept to discuss the issues.

6. Subcommittee reports

Paths, Pavements and Roads

There was presently a fund-raising scheme in operation to provide money for this year's maintenance of the MBW and a lot of discussion took place on how and why the CC had been involved in the project from the start. Callum Robertson, owner of the land carrying part of the MBW, said that no agreement with PKC about maintenance etc had been completed with him although one had been proposed. This means that no one has any obligation to maintain his part of the MBW, nor can carry out any work voluntarily without the landowner's agreement, although PKC will be able to do so when the MBW becomes a core path.'

The Michael Bruce Trust had been contacted and would not provide any funding for the maintenance of the walk. However, the walk was considered to be an asset for the community and therefore the CC would continue to provide some form of management for the walk. The Chairman would look at the question of responsibility.

Planning

Cllr Cairncross explained that there had only been one planning application during the last month, solar panels on a property in Scotlandwell, and the CC would not be making any comment.

The number of planning applications between Jan to June 2011 compared with the same period last year is considerably lower.

Certain long term issues/problems re the planning system are now part of a review system being conducted by P&KC Legal Services together with P&KC Planning services. Cllrs Cairncross and Strang Steel would be meeting with both depts. to discuss relevant planning issues especially in relation to the new development at Scotlandwell. Cllr Cairncross would keep WClr Baird informed of any future meetings with P&KC to enable her attendance.

With regard to specific issues at the Scotlandwell development Cllr Forde stated that what had been agreed on the planning approval notice had not in reality been carried out. Cllr Strang Steel confirmed that what had been agreed on the plans should in fact be what is carried out.

The Vane Farm application, discussed at a previous CC, was still being considered by P&KC.

7. AOCB

1. 'Tayplan' would be organising public meetings to explain the long term planning for the area. There was more information on the Tayplan website.

2. Herbicide spraying.

This had caused considerable comment and problems throughout Portmoak. Resident's property had been destroyed and the law had been disregarded on the SSSI sites.

There had been a number of reasons put forward by P&KC why this spraying had occurred but none was considered to be looking at the basic cause of the problem which was the contract between P&KC and the contractors.

Information was given to the meeting by WClr Baird that P&KC were meeting with a number of residents of Portmoak on 15.6.11 although this information had not been given to the CC prior to the meeting.

WClr Baird agreed to try and receive a copy of the contract between P&KC and the contractors responsible for the herbicide spraying.

WClr Baird informed the meeting that road verge grass cutting would only be carried out once this year.

3. Gorse cutting on the hill.

It had earlier been reported by the owner of the hill that gorse would be cut and burnt (because the SNH approved method was not practical). However, some gorse had been left where it had been cut and not burnt. It was thought that this could create two problems, a future fire hazard from the continual drying out of the gorse and the blocking of the burn.

(It had been reported previously that the main burn running through Kinnesswood had been blocked with fallen gorse and this had caused the burn to overflow into the sheep field and then flooded properties in Whitecraigs. This was cleared by local residents who reacted immediately to the problem.)

However the owner of the hill suggested that the gorse which was lying in this area would disintegrate through time and be dispersed by the animals using the hill. He agreed that it was his responsibility to make sure that the burn did not overflow and create problems to villagers in Kinnesswood and therefore a regular inspection and maintenance programme was required.

There was evidence of certain works carried out on the hill e.g. steps being cut into the steep part of the land behind the water tank at Kinnesswood, which did not have the permission of the landowner. It was agreed that it was not just common decency but obligatory to speak to the landowner before any consideration of such works was contemplated.

4. A resident e mailed the CC with information on problems with a barn at Wester Balgedie and the possible problems of falling timbers and flying tin sheets during states of inclement weather.

The day after the e mail had been received by the CC, CClr Cairncross reported that a JCB had arrived on site and it was thought that the JCB would rectify the above problems. However, it now transpired that the two instances were not connected and the original problem still existed.

Although P&KC had requested the owner of the barns to sort out the problem within a specified timescale it had not been possible to contact the responsible P&KC office to confirm the present situation, possibly, due to the relocation of offices from the County Buildings in Kinross.

5. Recycling point Scotlandwell

The CC had been notified by P&KC that the recycling point at Scotlandwell would cease with immediate effect. The CC had not originally supported the idea of this recycling point.

6. A resident raised the issue of the state of the Causeway in Scotlandwell especially in light of the number of accidents which had occurred on this stretch of road with specific regard to the apparent collapse of the road in certain stretches which seemed to attract vehicles into the verge. This had been reported to the police by the Chairman. WCllr Baird agreed to discuss the issues with P&KC roads dept.

7. A resident raised the issue of when the 40 mph signs were going to be in place and whether consideration should be given to introducing a further speed limit of 20 mph in certain areas.

WCllr Baird agreed to investigate these issues.

8. Communications since last meeting

14.6.11 P&KC Decision List

7.6.11 P&KC Removal of recycling point, Scotlandwell

7.6.11 P&KC Weekly list

7.6.11 P&KC Decision list

2.6.11 Letter from resident re spraying on private ground

2.6.11 P&KC Tayplan

31.5.11 Community Based re-ablement

31.5.11 P&KC Cashback for communities

30.5.11 P&KC Weekly list and Decision list

27.5.11 P&KC Drop in event at Common Grounds

26.5.11 E mail from resident re barn at Wester Balgedie

26.5.11 CPKCC re planning objections

26.5.11 PKCTG Notice of AGM

25.5.11 P&KC Community Capacity Building

24.5.11 E mail from resident re spraying of herbicide throughout Portmoak

18.5.11 P&KC Weekly list / Decision list

16.5.11 Milnathort festival

16.5.11 P&KC Armed forces day

16.5.11 P&KC Community Transport Fund

13.5.11 Tayplan letter

The meeting finished at approximately 8.30 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday July 12th 2011 in Portmoak Hall.

www.Portmoak.org