

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on September 11th 2012 at Portmoak Primary School

1. Attendance: Cllrs : M. Parkin (Chair), R. Cairncross, T. Smith, S. Forde, R. Williamson, B. Calderwood and M. Strang Steel.

WClrs : W. Robertson. Seventeen residents attended.

Apologies : Received from Cllr J. Bird, WClrs D. Cuthbert, J. Giacomazzi, and M. Barnacle

2. Previous minutes: Were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Build Out on B920

As agreed with P&KC Roads Department, a build out with an illuminated bollard has been constructed on the west side of the B920 at the entrance to Scotlandwell, and the village street lighting has been extended to that point.

The soft verges on the B920 are still to be identified by roadside poles fitted with reflective strips, and warning signs are yet to be erected. A recent accident caused by a soft verge, has highlighted the need for this signage.

The refreshing of the surface painted road signage on the A911 is awaited.

3.2. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter

The Chairman had contacted Mr Moray Fraser of P&KC who indicated that work to screed the floor and replace the roof of the bus shelter would be started soon.

3.3. Flooding on road between Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond

The rectification of this problem is in hand with Ward Cllr J. Giacomazzi, following a report to him from Cllrs Cairncross and Calderwood.

3.4. Stephens Field.

Because of lack of progress, the Community Council had contacted A & J Stephen Ltd., and found that the Director dealing with this had stepped down. The CC is now dealing with Mr John Stephen and matters are proceeding. There are issues of access, as well as ownership and responsibility for various pieces of land that require clarification to ensure that full use of the field is possible for the community. There will be a meeting with Mr Stephen to discuss these matters. It is the intention of the Community Council to ensure that when the field is finally handed over in 2013, all arrangements for its future are in place, and no outstanding problems are left for the successors of the present Community Council.

3.5. Lomond Country Inn

The Inn remains empty and unsold. The CC has contacted the owner to indicate that we wish to keep in touch, as this is a substantial piece of property within Kinnesswood, and its future is of interest to the community. The owner had appreciated the concern and interest of the CC.

3.6. KCCN

There had been a meeting of the Kinross-shire Community Council Network on 18th July, when cross border and mutual interests had been discussed. This meeting was very useful, and another will be held before December.

A further meeting was held between Portmoak, Kinross, and Milnathort Community Councils to discuss making a contribution to the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, and these three CCs will be submitting input to this before 26th September.

3.7. Big Lottery Presentation

CCllrs Williamson and Parkin had attended this in Perth on 6th September, with a view to sourcing funds for the development of Stephens Field, but nothing appropriate had been found. Enquiries regarding Lottery Funding are still proceeding.

3.8. Verges Between Scotlandwell and Auchmuir Bridge

These have now been cut.

3.9. Glenlomond Bus Service

A daily bus service to Glenlomond commenced on 13th August, and appears to be being used. The Chairman thanked WCllr Robertson for his assistance with getting this useful service to an outlying area. Provision for the bus to stop in Wester Balgedie is being organised.

3.10. Surfacing of B9097

The surface is deteriorating and is scheduled for replacement in 2013. Patching work will be undertaken as needed.

3.11. Hedge at Bus Stop near Lomond Inn

This hugely overgrown hedge was preventing safe use of the bus stop, and was cut back by Strathtay Gardening in agreement with the CC.

4. Reports

4.1 Police Report

The Police were in attendance and gave their report.

Bishopshire Golf Club – Break-in with intent to steal on 29th July. Under enquiry.

Hollybank House, and Portmoak Hall, Scotlandwell – Theft of lead from both premises. Under enquiry.

Gamekeepers Road, Kinnesswood – Suspicious person trying car door. Person questioned. No further proceedings.

Regular speed checks are being carried out on the A911 between Milnathort and Scotlandwell, and also on other routes. Warnings issued and reports to Procurator Fiscal where necessary.

Operation Tupelo – This will run from 11th to 23rd September to target irresponsible and anti-social driving. The public are asked to contact the police with any long standing concerns, or to report incidents, so that officers can tackle these.

E-mail information to : kinross@tayside.pnn.police.uk

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his attendance.

4.2. Treasurers Report

There had been no income or expenditure in the month, and the balance was currently £1,196.41 in the two CC accounts.

4.3 Roads and Paths

Mr George Lawrie of TRACKS was present, and reported that his attempts to obtain funding for a footpath between Wester and Easter Balgedie, parallel to the A911, had come close to fruition, but had ultimately proved unsuccessful.

There was some debate about the lack of pedestrian access between these two villages, and it was agreed that this was really an infrastructure matter, requiring a proper pavement along the A911, that should be dealt with as such by P&KC. While the effort of TRACKS to establish a footpath was a much appreciated attempt to overcome the problem by another means, it was pointed out that this should not allow a lack of infrastructure to be considered as only a footpath request.

WCllr Robertson suggested that the CC should make this point clear by writing to Mr Brian Cargill who is Senior Engineer (Roads and Safety) at P&KC, and the Chairman undertook to do this.

There was then a useful discussion and exchange about Core Paths, and other paths, and associated issues, when TRACKS were able to bring the CC up to date with their plans.

As part of this discussion, a farming resident raised the problem of path users leaving farm gates open, which was allowing livestock to move about or become lost. He gave several examples, and was backed up by two Fife residents who attended the meeting. There were also cases of walkers with dogs crossing fields full of lambing ewes, and refusing to make detours at the request of farmers.

This led to a request for volunteer Countryside Rangers. It was agreed that land managers and farmers could also become Rangers, with badged authority.

WCllr Robertson agreed to contact Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust and others, with a view to establishing a Ranger Service, and providing warning notices as needed with the authority of the P&KC logo on them, as ordinary farmers signs were being ignored and destroyed.

4.4 Planning

The Community Council had considered the following applications to P&KC.

12/01301/FLL Vane Farm Nature Centre, Kinross KY13 9LX, Erection of a Wind Turbine – Objection made.

12/01139/FLL Greenburn, East Brackley, Kinross KY13 9LU, Alteration and extension to house – No comment.

12/01192/FLL Iona, Back Dykes Road, Kinnesswood, Kinross KY13 9HJ, Alterations and extension to dwelling-house – No comment.

Full Details of Portmoak Planning applications with CC comments can be found on the Community Council website at www.portmoak.org.

4.5. Ward Cllr Reports

WCllr Robertson had nothing to report in addition to Agenda and other items to which he had already made comment and provided advice.

5. AOCB

Annual Meeting with Elected Politicians.

The Voluntary Action Perthshire Group have organised a Question Time with elected politicians, and the Chairman will attend this to represent Portmoak on 14th September.

CCLr Susan Forde raised the matter of earthworks being carried out on the Wellside Park development, as these were causing problems. The Chairman promised to raise this with the developer during a forthcoming meeting.

CCLr Tom Smith reported that water appeared to be being diverted from the A & J Stephen Whitecraigs building site, and this was affecting the path beside the golf course.

Two representatives from Kinnesswood in Bloom asked about the gorse and other growth along the fence between the foot of the golf course and the A911. P&KC had indicated that this was not their responsibility. The Chairman undertook to speak to officials of Bishopshire Golf Club, to ask if they would be good enough to maintain this, to assist Kinnesswood in Bloom. He also suggested that Kinnesswood in Bloom could make this known to the Golf Club, as he was sure they would be willing to assist.

Portmoak Community Council would like to extend its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Mr Mark Dickson, who lost his life in a flying accident at Portmoak Airfield on 4th September. The community is saddened by this tragedy.

6. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on 9th October 2012 in Portmoak Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

www.portmoak.org