

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, May 8th 2012 at Portmoak Primary School

1. Attendance: Cllrs M. Parkin (Chair) R. Cairncross, T. Smith, R. Williamson, S. Ford, M. Strang Steel and J. Bird.

Ward Cllrs: W. Robertson, M. Barnacle, D. Cuthbert, J. Giacomazzi and 12 residents.

Apologies : There were no apologies

2. Previous minutes: Were approved and signed.

3. Police Report: The Police sent a report via e mail.

There were no incidents to report since the last meeting. Speeding continues to be monitored.

4. Treasurers Report: There was currently £904.00 in the CC's two accounts.

5. Other Reports

5.1 Roads and Paths

Members of the CC are meeting with P&KC on Friday 11th May to discuss core path issues.

5.2 Planning

There were three applications submitted since the last meeting,

12/00537/FLL Alteration and extension to house, 1 Bishop Terrace, Kinnesswood

12/00605/FLL Alteration and extension to house 28 Gamekeepers Road, Kinnesswood

12/00658/FLL Land south west of Newlands Farm; erection of 3 wind turbines

The CC would not be objecting to these three applications, but would be making comment regarding the erection of the wind turbines.

Cllr Cairncross made the point that approximately a third of the planning applications in Portmoak were in the three conservation areas, and the area available in Portmoak for windfall housing was significant.

Cllr Cairncross also reported and that his attendance at the P&KC Planning forum held on May 2nd had been very informative.

5.3 Ward Cllr reports

WCllr Robertson gave an update on the problems of finding the owner of Well Road in Scotlandwell, and subsequent negotiations regarding the access to the Wash House.

Cllr Robertson also reported that TRACKS were working with Sustrans to consider the options for a link between Easter and Wester Balgedie

WCllr Robertson then described the problems associated with identifying the continuing route of the Heritage Trail, especially in the area between RSPB Vane Farm, heading towards Kinross. The RSPB preferred route was close to the B9097, and approximately five metres from residents back gardens at New Hall cottages. This was of concern to the residents, who had come to the CC meeting, and they expressed their concern. Proximity to the B9097 also made the Heritage Trail easily accessible from the B9097, and it was thought that vehicles stopping to allow walkers to access the trail in this area would be a problem, due to the speed and volume of vehicles on this stretch of road. A local farmer also spoke of the danger of vehicles stopping on the B9097, where there are a number of hidden dips.

A representative of the Ramblers Association, referred to their preferred route for this part of the Trail, which would bypass New Hall Cottages, and there appeared to be general agreement among the residents present that this route would be preferable.

Cllr Robertson pointed out that at this stage, the adoption of the Ramblers Association route, as an agreed alternative, would be unlikely, because of time constraints surrounding funding and planning consents.

Cllr Robertson went on to say that TRACKS are under pressure to achieve planning agreement for the project before the funding decision deadline in June this year, and he would attend a meeting on 11th May with the RSPB to discuss a modified route, that might overcome the proximity to New Hall cottages, as well as the B9097 issues previously mentioned.

It was also noted that Portmoak CC had not been given information regarding the planning application for this Portmoak part of the Heritage Trail, and CCllr Cairncross undertook to investigate this omission.

In answer to a resident who asked if the CC was actually going to object to the proposed TRACKS route, the Chairman said that this was a matter for discussion by the CC when in possession of the full facts, and following the outcome of Ward Cllr Robertson's meeting with the RSPB.

It was noted that these issues had been discussed between various parties over the past two years, but this was the first time that the CC had been involved, and the CC would have welcomed an earlier opportunity to discuss plans for the Portmoak section of the Trail.

WCllr Robertson agreed to notify a number of groups, including the CC, regarding the outcome of his meeting with the RSPB on 11th May.

WCllr Barnacle had written to P&KC requesting a review of the 20 mph area around Portmoak Primary School, and had suggested a 20mph flashing sign operating at school opening and closing times.

5.4 Matters arising from previous meetings:

5.4.1. Mini Roundabout or Build Out at Wellside Park.

The CC was continuing discussions with P&KC Roads Department, who were in turn presently investigating the situation regarding the obligation of the Wellside developer to construct a Mini Roundabout at the Wellside Park entrance. The CC will monitor this.

It was noted that the 30mph signs on the B920 had been moved further south to accommodate both the Wellside Park development and any likely future southerly development beside the B920.

5.4.2. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter

P&KC had promised to consider some remedial and maintenance work on the bus shelter and a site visit is awaited. The Chairman had spoken to Kinnesswood in Bloom, who had suggested that P&KC could usefully screed the floor, which was badly eroded.

5.4.3. Blocked drains at Newlands Farm, Chairman to contact P&KC

5.4.4. Flash Flooding at Wester Balgedie is still a concern. The provision of proper drainage between Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie is being investigated by CClr Cairncross.

5.4.5. Soft Verge signs at B920 Scotlandwell. The Chairman is to contact P&KC Roads Department.

5.4.6. Gritting on Bishop Terrace, Kinnesswood. A gritting lorry had dealt with roads in Kinnesswood, but not Bishop Terrace. P&KC were asked why Bishop Terrace had been omitted, and the reason was that the lorry had been required to refill with grit. When it returned, conditions had improved, and gritting of Bishop Terrace was no longer required.

5.5. AOCB

5.5.1. The Dundee Courier had written asking if the CC wished to be involved in a proposed new section involving news and current issues sourced directly from Community Councils. It would have to be determined which edition(s) of the Courier would be involved. The Chairman will progress this.

5.5.2. P&KC Roads dept. had written to the CC asking for a report on their gritting and snow clearing services during the previous winter. A report will be sent.

5.5.3. CClr Forde noted that the hedge alongside the access road adjacent to area H54 at Scotlandwell required attention and she would contact Clarence to report the situation.

5.5.4. A resident also raised the problem of an overgrown hedge that blocked the line of sight for vehicles leaving Bruce Road in Kinnesswood. The Chairman will deal with this.

6. Communications received since last meeting.

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

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

The next Meeting will be held on June 12th 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Primary School.

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