

# Portmoak Community Council

## Draft Minutes of Meeting held on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Portmoak Primary School

**1. Attendance:** CCllrs : M. Strang Steel; R. Cairncross; T. Smith; S. Forde; J. Bird  
B. Calderwood. WCllrs : D. Cuthbert; M. Barnacle and 3 members of the public.

**Apologies :** WCllr J. Giacomazzi; CCllrs M. Parkin and R. Williamson.

**2. Previous minutes:** Were approved and signed by the acting Chairman, CCllr M. Strang Steel.

### **Presentation:**

Mr John Irons of P&KC gave an explanation of the Community Pay Back Scheme, highlighting areas where it had already been of benefit to communities in Perth and Kinross. He answered questions.

The CC would use the scheme, if available tasks were in accordance with its remit.

The Chairman thanked Mr Irons for his attendance.

### **Police Report:**

Sgt Williams informed the meeting that there had been a number of thefts from out-buildings, and particularly the theft of plant and diesel from commercial premises. She asked all residents to be aware of anything suspicious, and warned that wearing a fluorescent jacket was not an indication of bona fides.

A male has recently been arrested in relation to theft from a motor vehicle in the area.

Sgt Williams gave details of the Community Tasking and Co-ordination Group which could help with problems requiring a co-ordinated response, including road problems. Details would be forwarded to the CC about this organisation. CCllr Tom Smith indicated that the P&KC Roads Department should however be initially informed of any road problems.

## **3. Matters arising**

### **3.1. A911**

Refreshing of the surface painted road signage on the A911 from Milnathort to Auchmuir Bridge is still in hand with P&KC Roads Department.

Improved signage and road markings at the Wester Balgedie junction with the A911 were to be considered following a site meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012 between P&KC Roads Department and the CC and WCllr Giacomazzi. P&KC is to inform the CC of progress.

It was also noted that the drain covers on the A911 are collapsing again. This had been reported to P&KC and an acknowledgement received.

It was noted that resurfacing work had started at Drum, and it was expected that this would continue to the B9097 South Loch Road in the summer.

Replacement reflective signs at New Gullet Bridge are required. CC to check that P&KC is aware of these missing signs.

### **3.2. Flooding on road between Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond**

A legal solution to this problem is still proceeding on the initiative of WCllr Giacopazzi.

### **3.3. Stephen's Field.**

Contact with A & J Stephen Ltd is being maintained. A letter was sent to Mr John Stephen on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013 requesting a meeting to review progress with outstanding matters raised during the meeting with him in October 2012. No reply as yet.

### **3.4. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership**

Contact with the LLLP is being maintained, and they are now copying the CC in on their activity reports. The LLLP had previously explained their intention of linking the Lomond Hills to other Fife areas using paths through Portmoak.

There is an 'open' afternoon at Rothes Halls on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013, between 1pm and 6pm, to show these proposals.

### **3.5. Lomond Country Inn**

It is believed that missives have been concluded for the sale of the Lomond.

### **3.6. Content of Police Reports**

These will now include information about solved crimes.

### **3.7. Britain in Bloom – Silver Gilt Award Signs for Scotlandwell**

This matter is still in hand with P&KC in conjunction with the replacement of the Scotlandwell village name sign at a new northern A911 location.

### **3.8. Wall at foot of Field on A911 at "Greenacres" Kinnesswood**

The wall remains unrepaired and partially collapsed. The Chairman has again spoken to the owner. It was suggested that this item could be removed from the minutes since it was a maintenance problem. However, a member of the public said that the wall was unsafe, it spoilt the appearance of the entrance to the village, and it should be repaired.

### **3.9. Developer £400 Contribution for Scotlandwell Trees**

Scotlandwell in Bloom have now heard from P&KC. Tree and hedging types have been agreed.

### **3.10. Wester Balgedie to Easter Balgedie Footpath**

In January 2013, TRACKS and P&KC had submitted an application to Sustrans for part funding (£49,403) of a sealed-surface path costing £98,807, with matched funding to be sought from P&KC Community Greenspace (£14,822) and SITA Trust (£34,582)

The Chairman had written to all concerned parties, including the P&KC Access Officer, to stress the need for this vital piece of missing infrastructure, and had confirmed the CCs support.

In addition, the Chairman had made contact with the Climate Challenge Fund and lodged a formal Expression of Interest in Funding from them. He had also discussed the Footpath with a CCF Development Officer. Funding from the CCF is conditional upon a project being able to demonstrate CO2 reduction. Discussions are continuing.

### **3.11. Position of Scotlandwell A911 Name Sign**

The CC has advised P&KC Roads Department that the preferred location for this sign is adjacent to the new 40mph sign on the A911, north of Scotlandwell. The sign has not been installed as yet.

### **3.12. HGV Traffic in Portmoak**

Following the discussion at the December 2012 CC Meeting, attended by Elizabeth Smith MSP, the Chairman had received an update from her to say that she had met with the Road Haulage Association and other relevant organisations, following receipt of useful information from all our four Ward Cllrs, and she would be reporting in more detail at the March CC meeting.

### **3.13. Access to the Green from Wellside Park**

Verbal confirmation had been received from both WCllr Giacopazzi and Willie Rennie MSP that this link would be constructed. The CC is still working on the provision of a car park on Moss Road. This item will be on the agenda for the CCs April meeting, to be held in Portmoak Hall. It is hoped that there will be a good representation from Scotlandwell residents at that meeting.

### **3.14. Grit Bin for Portmoak Church**

At the request of a resident, the Chairman had asked P&KC for a grit bin to be installed in the Church car park, but this had been refused as this ground was not the responsibility of P&KC.

### **3.15. Westfield Windfarm Community Benefit Fund**

The Chairman has written to Infinis Plc., who are constructing the Westfield Windfarm, to suggest that Portmoak CC should be involved with the management of this Fund.

### **3.16. Gritting and Snow Clearing**

Wester Balgedie to Glenlomond road. The solution is to have the Glenlomond road upgraded, so that it would be gritted and cleared at weekends as well as weekdays, in accordance with P&KC priorities for snow clearance.

Although P&KC operates a Farmer Assistance Scheme, under which farmers are provided with equipment to clear snow from public roads, it was noted that not one farmer is part of the scheme in Portmoak. The CC has been asked by WCllr Robertson to provide him with names of people in Portmoak who would be willing to be part of the scheme.

### **3.17. Vandalism on Golf Course**

In response to a previous complaint from a resident, the Chairman had contacted the Golf Club Secretary, who had no knowledge of any recent vandalism

### **3.18. Munduff Hill Weather Dome.**

After consultation with the Meteorological Office, the Chairman reported that the weather station dome on Munduff Hill was painted white for operational reasons, and could not be any other colour.

## **4. Reports**

### **4.1. Treasurers Report**

Bank balances at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 were General account, £417.16 and MBW account, £355.75 Total £772.91

### **4.2. Roads and Paths**

Road and path issues had been dealt with previously.

### **4.3. Planning**

Three applications had been considered by the CC and it was agreed that no comment would be made on any of these. This was the decision of the entire CC.

1. 12/02066/FLL Alteration and replacement of Radome, Meteorological Station, Munduff Hill, Auchmuir Bridge.
2. 13/00077/FLL Land East of Whitecraigs, amendment of site boundary to allow footpath.
3. 12/01765/FLL Erection of three Wind Turbines at Tillyrie Hill, Milnathort.

### **4.4. Local Development Plan**

WCllr Barnacle was asked to comment on the progress of the Local Development Plan.

Before the Local Development Plan can be approved by Scottish Ministers, and adopted by P&KC, the unresolved issues raised during the consultation period of the Proposed Plan are subject to examination and comment by a Reporter from the Scottish Government's Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA). A summary of these issues, compiled by P&KC Planners, is submitted. It is then for the Reporter to decide whether to call for further representations, or to hold a public enquiry.

A special P&KC Meeting was held on 23 January 2013 to debate amendments proposed to the draft plan, before its submission to the DPEA. Of the amendments promoted by Portmoak CC, only the amendment relating to restrictions to the height and density of the proposed housing development on the B920 to the South of Scotlandwell was accepted by P&KC, and the draft plan will be amended accordingly.

Regarding another Portmoak submission, to retain the boundary at Kilmagadwood, it was agreed to remove this submission from the list on the basis that this change was purely a planning boundary, and not a settlement boundary.

#### **4.5. Ward Cllr Reports**

Nothing more than previously dealt with.

#### **5. AOCB**

5.1 A resident had raised the issue of low broadband speeds in parts of Portmoak. The Chairman had agreed to investigate this with a view to improvement.

5.2 The roadside hedge at Scotlandwell alongside the entrance to the allotments was causing an obstruction to people entering the road, as well as interfering with traffic sightlines. The CC will ask P&KC Roads Department to investigate.

5.3 Concern was expressed about the volume of heavy traffic using the narrow road through Wester Balgedie, sometimes causing damage to the fabric of the village. The CC would consider what practical action could be taken to deal with this problem.

#### **6. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held at 7.00pm, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013, in Portmoak Primary School.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 8.50pm

**[www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)**