

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on August 13th 2013 at Portmoak Primary School

1.Attendance: CCllrs: M. Parkin (Chair) ; T. Smith; S. Forde; R. Williamson; R. Cairncross; I. McGrattan; M. Strang Steel.

WCllrs: M. Barnacle; W. Robertson; J. Giacomazzi, and nine members of the public.

Apologies : CCllr B. Calderwood; Ward Cllr D. Cuthbert.

2. Previous minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held in May 2013 were approved by the CC and signed by the Chairman. (There had not been a June meeting, and the July meeting was inquorate so could not be held)

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

3.1. Stephen's Field

No further progress to report.

3.2. Gritting and Snow Clearing

The Chairman had written to P&KC Roads to ask if the independent contractors that the CC indicated would be willing to help with snow clearing had been contacted. These contractors would be called upon to assist P&KC during adverse conditions. (Post meeting note.....These potential contractors were contacted P&KC on 8th July 2013, but no responses have been received)

3.3. Local Broadband Speeds

There had been little response to the CCs request to Portmoak businesses and individuals for broadband speed information. No further action.

3.4 HGV Traffic in Portmoak

Action is continuing via Elizabeth Smith MSP and WCllr Robertson. The possibility of having the A911 downgraded to 'B' road status, and the B9097 upgraded to 'A' road status was discussed, and WCllr Robertson will write to Elizabeth Smith to ask what would be involved, and what the implications of such a change might be.

It was also agreed that the CC would write to Fife Council to ask if their sign at Auchmuir Bridge could be amended to inform HGV traffic that the B9097 route was suitable for both Northbound and Southbound vehicles.

There had been 4 sets of speed checks by Police on the A911 and some goods vehicles had been stopped.

3.5. A911 Speed Limit

It was confirmed by WCllr Barnacle that a review of the speed limit on that part of the A911 between Scotlandwell and Auchmuir Bridge would be undertaken by Jillian Robinson, Principal Engineer of Road Safety and Design at P&KC Roads, in the light of increased private housing there, and the fact that the last such survey was made in 2009.

3.6. Kinnesswood Bus Shelter

It was noted that the pointing of the external stonework had now been completed.

3.7. Wester Balgedie Bus Shelter

P&KC had offered to replace this wooden shelter with a new low maintenance steel and Perspex type. It was found that the old wooden shelter stands on private ground, and the owners of the ground insisted upon dealing with P&KC themselves. This is now in hand between them. The CC has offered input and help if needed.

3.8. Footpath between Easter and Wester Balgedie

The Chairman had been advised by TRACKS that this project was proceeding satisfactorily, and this was further confirmed by WCllr Robertson.

3.9. Grounds Maintenance

The CC had responded to the P&KC Grounds Maintenance Review, indicating areas where maintenance was considered desirable in the face of proposed cuts. This maintenance appeared to be proceeding, particularly at the important junction of the Wester Balgedie and A911 roads.

The Chairman had also dealt with the issue of chemical over-spraying by P&KC contractors, and this year certain areas would be omitted from the spraying schedule. These include The Cobbles, Back Dykes, Balneathill, and the Church car park.

3.10.

Car Parking at Scotlandwell

The possibility of constructing a car park from part of the disused curling ponds is still being investigated by CCllr Calderwood.

3.11. A911 and Wester Balgedie Junction

WCllr Giacomazzi agreed to pursue the issue of signage and an anti-skid road surface at this accident spot, as there had been no action since a February 2013 site meeting about this.

3.12. Free Trees

The CC has applied for a pack of 105 free saplings from the Woodland Trust. Some of these could be used to augment the beech hedge recently planted in Bishop Terrace, where many of those saplings have died. CCllr Forde pointed out that there was ragwort growing in the beech hedge, and that this should be removed as it was officially classified as a noxious weed.

5.0. Reports

5.01. Police

Unusually, there was no Police presence and no written Report.

5.02. Treasurer

The Treasurer reported a balance of £698.75 in the General Account, and £765.82 in the MBW Account. Total £1,464.57 as at the end of July 2013.

5.03. Planning

The CC had considered the following two planning applications made to P&KC and had agreed not to make any objection.

13/01097/FLL Erection of storage shed, Vane Farm.

13/00972/FLL Modification of existing consent (13/00552/FLL) and installation of an air-source heat pump, 27 Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood.

The CC had considered a further two planning applications and had agreed to comment, but not to object;

13/00824/FLL Modification of existing consent (08/01509/FLL) (Plot 4) change of house type and parking provisions, Wellside Park, Scotlandwell.

13/00903/FLL Modification of existing consent (10/00134/FLL) (Plot 1) Change of House Type, Land north of Kilmagadwood Cottage.

These four decisions were those of the entire CC.

The CC was currently considering;

13/01391/FLL Alterations, change of use and restoration of former stables and change of cottage to form residential annexe, "Lynallan" Main Street, Kinnesswood.

The CC noted that the Perth and Kinross Local Review Body had determined to uphold the decision to refuse planning permission for a house at Balneathill, Easter Balgedie. (12/01745/IPL)

The CC had received information from a resident that two new buildings appeared to have been erected, possibly without planning permission. These would be investigated.

The CC had previously asked P&KC for the position regarding Planning Consent when a permanent access from a field to a road is constructed by a landowner.

Developer Contributions

It was noted that a £12,790 developer contribution in respect of the Kilmagadwood site had been paid to P&KC, and that this was intended for use by Portmoak Primary School. The School had previously been alerted to this by the CC in March, but had not taken any action. The Chairman had been in touch with the School again and suggested immediate action including a letter to P&KC. This developer contribution would pay for a proposed library

extension at the school. As a general comment, WCllr Robertson thought it unlikely that this money would be allocated to anything other than Portmoak School.

It was also noted that the £400 developer contribution in respect of the Wellside Park site had still not materialised. CCllr Cairncross provided WCllr Giacopazzi with the original planning reference dating back to 2008, and he undertook to deal with this. When received, by the CC, this money will be passed on to Scotlandwell in Bloom.

There was a discussion as to the mechanism by which P&KC allocated money from developer contributions to various projects and schemes, and it was agreed that this was not a transparent process.

5.04. Roads

In the absence of CCllr Calderwood due to sudden illness, there was no roads report, but WCllr Barnacle confirmed that Blind Summit signs were to be installed on the B9097, and WCllr Giacopazzi said that replacement reflector warning signs were soon to be installed on the Gullet Bridge.

Thanks were expressed for the considerable amount of white line refreshing that had taken place throughout Portmoak.

WCllr Robertson reminded the CC that if any collapsed drain cover or other defect is causing immediate danger, then this should be reported via e-mail to clarence@pkc.gov.uk or by phoning 01738 625411.

5.05. Paths

A campaign to raise funds for the Michael Bruce Way is currently in progress.

6.0. Ward Cllr Reports

6.01. WCllr Robertson reported that the Community Speedwatch campaign at Crook of Devon had been a success, and that in spite of the Police decision not to extend it to other areas, he had been sufficiently encouraged by the public response to try to resurrect it, as there were residents of many Kinross-shire communities willing to take part.

Portmoak CC had previously expressed an interest, and WCllr Robertson would therefore advise us of his progress.

WCllr Robertson also reported that there had been various delays to the completion of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, but that it would be complete from Loch Leven Mills to Vane Farm by early 2014. Many stages had been delayed by natural events, such as the arrival of geese.

6.02. WCllr Giacopazzi had previously reported on the Gullet Bridge, and also reported that the B9097 road was currently being resurfaced.

6.03. WCllr Barnacle reported that the Well Inn at Scotlandwell was to host a mini glass recycling plant.

He also indicated that while road verges and junctions would only receive an annual cut, these would be monitored for extra cuts, particularly if sight lines were impeded, and there would be a squad for emergencies. The CC was encouraged to provide a note of particularly vulnerable junctions, so that P&KC could monitor these.

WCIlr Barnacle also pointed out that until the new Local Development Plan was formally adopted, the AGLV definition still existed, and had to be considered in planning applications.

7.0. AOCB

Outh Muir Windfarm

It was agreed that the CC would consider whether to comment on this Fife development in the light of full information, and after studying the implications for Portmoak. It was noted that the CC had been encouraged by P&KC to comment to Fife Council if thought appropriate, as this development is near the Fife / Portmoak border

Replacement for the AGLV policy

It was considered that the potential abandonment of AGLVs in the new draft Local Development Plan (LDP) was a retrograde step, and that a replacement policy should be created to afford protection for areas of outstanding natural beauty, such as the Loch Leven Basin and surrounding area.

A representative of the Kinross-shire Civic Trust pointed out that Policy 17 of the existing LDP – no windfarms on ridge lines – was still in place.

Various contributors suggested that Portmoak and other Kinross-shire Community Councils should press for the creation of a National Scenic Area, to embrace the Loch Leven basin, and that we should involve SNH and the Kinross-shire Community Council Network (KCCN) in this by arranging an early meeting. A resident suggested a campaign to create a groundswell of public opinion for the creation of a National Scenic Area.

Newhall Cottages

A resident of Newhall Cottages wished to outline the various negotiations between themselves and TRACKS and the RSPB, in connection with progress concerning screening and other matters involved with the Heritage Trail, as it passes to the rear of their properties.

The Chairman decided that the detail and nature of these negotiations were not matters for the CC, but that he and WCIlr Robertson, and perhaps another member of the CC, would be pleased to meet with all parties to assist negotiations concerning matters of fact relating to planning consents and other issues.

Build-Outs

A resident expressed his concern that the build-outs, installed on the A911 to reduce traffic speed in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell, might cause more accidents than they were preventing, and could present a danger to traffic colliding with them, and that a survey of present traffic speeds and potential risks should be undertaken, as the last survey had been completed only shortly after the build-outs had been installed. The Chairman agreed to consult with P&KC Roads to discuss how an evaluation of present traffic speeds and accidents that might be caused by the build-outs could be adequately undertaken, and how any remedial action indicated by these results could be implemented.

8.0. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at 7.00pm, on Tuesday 10th September 2013, at Portmoak Primary School.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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