

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on April 9th 2013 at Portmoak Hall

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

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

Apologies : None

2. Previous minutes: Were approved and signed by the Chairman

3. Matters arising

3.1. Stephen's Field

No further progress to report.

3.2. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership

Efforts continue to have CCLr Tom Smith appointed to the LLLP Committee.

3.3. Gritting and Snow Clearing

The CC will be submitting their usual annual report to P&KC Roads Department on the effectiveness of snow clearing activities during the winter. It was noted that the CC had assisted the Nursing Home at Glenlomond by establishing contact with the Roads Department when the Home was cut off by snow drifts, and had also asked P&KC to provide a private contractor to assist with re-opening the road.

The CC had also asked P&KC Roads to continue gritting work at Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond during the weekend, to prevent a more difficult situation from having to be dealt with each Monday.

The CC had also provided Mr Stuart D'All of P&KC Roads with the names of three potential private contractors who are interested in working with P&KC to assist with snow clearance on local roads, on a call-out basis, when the Council is fully committed elsewhere.

3.4. Access from Fields to Main Roads

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

3.5. Local Broadband Speeds

The CC is presently trying to compile information about Portmoak broadband speeds with the purpose of dealing with BT to improve these, particularly in remoter areas.

3.6. Water on Mawcarse Road

Scottish Water has inspected this site to diagnose the source of the water, and their report is awaited.

3.7. Lomond Country Inn

The CC has written to the believed purchaser of the Lomond to establish contact.

4.0. TRACKS Report

4.1. To cover for the previously notified absence of Mr George Lawrie, WCllr Robertson reported on the current position regarding the Wester 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 project was within the Sustrans criteria, and the SITA Trust application result would be known in July 2013.

Subject to negotiations with landowners, the project seemed to be on target.

4.2. WCllr Robertson also reported that as part of a plan to provide footpath access from the B920 at Lochend Farm to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, TRACKS was exploring the possibility of a path along the perimeter of Portmoak Airfield.

He accepted that the piecemeal nature of TRACKS planning applications sometimes caused problems for P&KC Planning Department.

Arrangements were in hand to secure the final link of the Heritage Trail around Loch Leven.

5.0. Car park at Moss Road Scotlandwell

The possible development of a site on the B920 (H54), plus sundry infill development, could increase the size of Scotlandwell by 66%. Parking in Scotlandwell is already limited, and there is no provision for public parking. The leisure proposals for the Moss itself, together with visitors to the recently restored Wash House and Well, will further increase the demand for parking.

Cllr Cairncross pointed out that in the 2004 Local Development Plan, P&KC had required provision of land for car parking, and that in the 2013 Draft Local Plan they had agreed that encouragement would be given to proposals that provided additional parking. The CC accordingly feels the need for car parking to be a vital part of the village infrastructure that is being overlooked, and will therefore continue to work for the provision of car parking at Moss Road.

WCllr Robertson mentioned that Scottish Water, who use Moss Road, had agreed to repair the potholes.

6.0. Grounds Maintenance

The CC will write to P&KC about the proposed reduction to grounds maintenance, particularly at Wester Balgedie, at the junction of the A911. This is a prime tourist viewing location that has been enhanced and cared for by local residents, and to reduce its maintenance to that of the status of a verge would be counter-productive for both P&KC and Portmoak.

7.0. Local Development Plan

The Plan has been submitted to Government Reporters, prior to approval by the Scottish Government. Unfortunately, the usual stage of publishing a Plan for further consideration after amendment by the consultation process, has been omitted. There is therefore a need to emphasise the representations made by Portmoak CC, so that these are fully considered by the Reporters. Accordingly the CC will write to the Reporters.

8.0. Reports

8.01 Police

There was no Police presence, and no written report had been submitted.

8.02. Treasurer

The Treasurer presented Accounts to the Year ended March 2013 that showed a balance of £355.78 in the Michael Bruce Way account, and £247.90 in the General account.

8.03 Planning

The CC had considered three Planning Applications made to P&KC.

13/00401/FLL: Erection of Dwellinghouse, Arnot Tower, Leslie, Glenrothes. No objection, but comment to be made on the setting.

13/00552/FLL: Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse at 27 Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood. No objection.

13/00505/FLL: Land at Loch Leven's Larder. Change of use to form Cricket Ground, Pavilion, Car Parking etc. No objection. The CC will write to P&KC Planning to emphasise their support for this application.

These decisions were those of the entire Community Council.

8.04. Roads

The following matters are still in hand with P&KC Roads Department.

- Refreshing of the surface painted road signage on the A911 from Milnathort to Auchmuir Bridge.
- Improved signage and road markings at the Wester Balgedie junction with the A911.
- Drain covers collapsing on the Portmoak length of the A911.
- Resurfacing of the B9097 South Loch Road. WCllr Cuthbert reported that the deterioration of the B9097 was considered to be cosmetic by P&KC Roads, and there was no immediate plan for repair. WCllr Barnacle also reported that P&KC did not consider the re-instatement of blind summit signs on the B9097 to be needed.
- Replacement reflective signs at New Gullet Bridge on the B920.

In addition, Miss Elizabeth Smith MSP had been unable to have a meeting with the Road Haulage Association at the Scottish Parliament, regarding the passage of HGVs through Portmoak. She will report again.

9.0 Ward Cllr Reports

WCllr Barnacle reported that the Local Plan process was adjudged to have been correctly performed, and that it would be appropriate for the CC to make its points to the Reporters, as mentioned at 7.0.

10.0. AOCB

No items had been notified, so the Chairman asked for any competent business.

10.1. CCllr Cairncross pointed out that there were two walls in danger of collapse, one at the foot of the field on the landward side of the A911 at the entrance to Kinnesswood, and the other in Wester Balgedie. He asked for the assistance of Ward Councillors to resolve these situations, and WCllr Giacomazzi agreed to a site meeting on Wednesday 10th April to review these, and to invoke P&KC help as needed.

10.2 It was noted that Mr John Bird had resigned from the Community council on 1st April 2013. The Chairman and the Community Council had thanked him for his work over the years.

11.0 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00pm, on 14th May 2013, at Portmoak Primary School. This will also be the AGM of Portmoak Community Council.

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

www.portmoak.org