

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 9th September 2014 at Portmoak School

- 1. Attendance:** Cllrs: Bruce Calderwood (Deputy Chair); Robin Cairncross (Secretary); Richard Williamson (Treasurer); Susan Forde; and Tom Smith; and WCllrs: Mike Barnacle; Dave Cuthbert and Joe Giacomazzi and 15 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Malcolm Strang Steel (Chairman); WCllr Willie Robertson; and PC Douglas Stapleton.

- 2. Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held in July 2014 were approved.

- 3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

3.4.1 Stephen's Field: The CC will shortly pursue its interest in assuming ownership of the Field with the owner, A & J Stephen Ltd.

3.7.1 Royal Mail Post Box at Kinnesswood: Royal Mail had confirmed that a new post box would be installed - progress with its installation is awaited.

- 4. Reports:**

4.1 Police: A report from the police was received highlighting: the risk of theft of heavy plant machinery from farms; fraud letters seeking bank details to secure substantial winnings from lotteries; and the possibility that certain charity collectors may not be genuine. WCllr Barnacle reported some progress in pursuing the CC's wish for some feedback on crime resolution and on accidents in Kinross-shire. The CC would now request accident statistics for Kinross-shire from P&KC.

4.2 Treasurer: The Council's accounts at the end of August 2014 recorded: a balance of £615.97 in the General Account and £571.13 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,187.10.

4.3 Planning: The CC considered the following new applications and agreed not to object to nor to make comment on:

14/01154/FLL, Channel Farmhouse, Wester Balgedie KY13 9HD, Extension to garage to form housing for a biomass boiler.

14/01237/FLL, Channel Farmhouse, Wester Balgedie KY13 9HD, Erection of a smoke house.

14/01267/FLL, Portmoak Livery Stables, Scotlandwell, Variation of planning permission (11/01917FLL) to amend roof finish from slate to concrete tiles.

14/01283/IPL, East Brackley House Kinross KY13 9LU Renewal of permission 908/01984/IPL partial demolition conversion and new build to form residential development in principle (9 dwellings).

14/01235/FLL3 Middleburn Cottages, Kirkness Cardenden Lochgelly KY5 0HH, Removal of conditions 1,2 and 3 and variation of permission 11 (11/01123/FLL)

The CC considered the following new application and agreed to object to:

14/01377/IPL, Land 40 metres SW of Caol Isla, Back Dykes Road Kinnesswood, Erection of a dwelling House in principle.

These were the unanimous decisions of the CC.

The CC is to consider the following new application:

14/01482/FLL Land 50 metres SE of Moucums View, Scotlandwell. Erection of a dwellinghouse. Residents signalled concerns about the ownership of the access road, risk to trees and of drainage being compromised.

Progress with applications:

14/00707/FLL. The Lomond Inn, erection of 5 houses. The CC noted that the application had been withdrawn. It has lodged a complaint with P&KC citing the Council's failure to follow proper procedure (validating this application without a Design Statement) and withholding the conservation officer report from public access. Ward Councillors reported that there would shortly be an internal meeting to consider the withdrawal of conservation officer reports from the P&KC planning website.

Developer Contributions. The CC will comment in due course on the information supplied.

4.4 Roads: The CC noted:

- that its letter of 24th April in respect of the series of accidents on the Scotlandwell to Bowhouse section of the A911 had had been referred to the enforcement officer who would respond to the CC. The CC confirmed its view that formal bus halts should be installed and that speed restrictions were merited, particularly though the section of bends and dips approaching Bowhouse from the west where the visibility splay requirement had not been met. WCllr Cuthbert would take the matter up and Ward Councillors would include a visit to the site by the team of officials and Ward Councillors currently examining road matters across Kinross-shire.
- that CCllr Calderwood had met with school representatives and other interested parties in respect of traffic at Portmoak Primary School. The problem was complex: access to the school (particular for large vehicles); parking on the access roads around the school (the adjoining car park is small and the only one for Kinnesswood); and significant traffic congestion at the beginning and end of the school day. There had been several "near miss" incidents. There was unlikely to be a single solution. The CC would facilitate a further meeting of interested parties and P&KC officials to review what might be done.

Gritting and snow preparation. The CC was reassured that P&KC's plan for the coming winter was in hand. The CC would seek further information on the kind of contract that might be appropriate to retain local farmer participation in snow clearance and would pass this to WCllr Giacobazzi. In turn he would also report on whether snow fences could be made available to protect a vulnerable short section of road on the approach to Glenlomond.

4.5 Paths: CClr Tom Smith reported that:

- progress was being made to secure funds to support the significant maintenance work required for the upper reaches of the Michael Bruce Way (MBW). Unfortunately meeting the requirements of the bureaucracy involved was proving somewhat taxing. The CC warmly supported this work programme recognising that the MBW was important feature of Portmoak.
- over the summer cattle had, as usual, been introduced to the hillside above Kinnesswood and advisory signs warning of their presence had been erected. This year the cattle had, at least initially, made much use of the MBW footpath causing damage to some culverts and rendering the path almost impassable in parts. The wet weather had made this worse. There were concerns that this could place the maintenance programme in jeopardy. The CC would work with the land owner and LLLP to see if there was a practical solution that could better protect the path.

5. Ward Cllr Reports:

WClr Dave Cuthbert: reported concerns about an overflowing private dog waste bin at Loch Leven's Larder. The matter had been raised with the owner. He advised the CC that plans were in hand for cats-eyes to be re-installed on part of the A911 from Milnathort to Portmoak.

WClr Mike Barnacle: advised that P&KC's consultation on supplementary guidance on Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) would happen shortly. It was proposed that Portmoak along with the Ochil Hills would be so designated but that other potentially eligible parts of Kinross-shire could be omitted. Plans were also in hand by P&KC to approach CCs in Kinross-shire to participate in a further meeting to consider planning development matters.

6. Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor.

6.1 *Pavement outside the Kinnesswood shop.* This had deteriorated. The CC would now take this forward with P&KC.

6.2 *Commissioning Superfast Broadband.* Digital Scotland had laid ducting from Leslie through Scotlandwell, Kinnesswood and Wester Balgedie to Kinross. This would carry superfast broadband cabling. The service was billed to be commissioned by the end of the year although it is not clear if all Portmoak residents would benefit.

7. AOCB:

None.

8. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at **7.00pm, on Tuesday 14th October 2014**, at Portmoak Village Hall.

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

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