

# PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minute of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell

1. **Attendance:** Cllrs: M Strang Steel (Chairman); R Cairncross (Secretary); B Calderwood (Deputy Chairman and Treasurer); S Forde; and D Morris; and WClrs: M Barnacle; C Purves; and W Robertson; and George Lawrie (TRACKS); and 8 members of the public.

**Apologies:** CClr: G Cox; and WClr R Watters; and Police Scotland.

2. **Approval of Previous minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September were approved.

3. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

*Item 3 School Access: to achieve clear access for large vehicles (including emergency vehicles) to the School and, separately, to secure safe access routes for children.* Despite repeated requests over the past year to progress on this matter, PKC had made no response. However, in advance of this meeting the Project Officer, Traffic & Network, had advised that "Buchan Avenue and Bruce Road waiting restrictions were included in the List of potential projects being reviewed for the Road Safety Projects Assessment Criteria Report. Due to the proximity of the school, the park and the bus stops (public amenities), the scheme records a high score and ranking. As a result, it is currently in the List of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) being progressed. New drawings and a covering letter are being prepared and should be distributed before the end of this month. Any decision on whether to proceed will depend on the feedback from the community. As explained previously, even with objections, the proposed restrictions could still go to the Environment and Infrastructure (E&I) Committee. The report would detail the various expressions of support and opposition. Then, it would be up to the Committee whether to refuse, request an amendment or approve the proposals." **ACTION: The CC will respond in due course to the consultation.** The CC noted that at the same location, proposals to revise and improve child safety including marked crossings will be presented separately.

*Item 3 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.* There had been no progress over the past year. In advance of this meeting the Project Officer, Traffic & Network, had advised that "The assessment and ranking of the footpath scheme was based on an estimated cost for the length of path to be constructed over the distance between the village and the church, regardless of which route is selected. The scheme was placed at number 495 at that time but has since been overtaken by projects with a higher ranking. It is sitting amongst over 50 schemes which cannot currently be delivered *as land is not available within the road boundary*. The majority of these projects are footways contained within the New Rural Footways report. As stated previously, no progress has been made assessing any of the suggested footpath routes as priority is being given to those projects that have already been agreed with the Local Elected Members at Committee, and which can be delivered within the agreed timeframe and budget. We have not had the staff resources to start on the Scotlandwell footpath(s). However, schemes remote from the road corridor would normally be assessed and constructed by Community Greenspace."

The CC considered this response inadequate. The current route was seen as dangerous for pedestrians and long recognised as unsuitable for children necessitating school transport to and from Scotlandwell. The long awaited option appraisal of identified routes would inform progress. Some, but not all of the identified routes, lay within the road boundary. **ACTION: It was recommended that the next CC should establish a Working Group to clarify an optimum route.**

**Membership could include CC and community members and George Lawrie from TRACKS. External funding could be sourced to support the option appraisal.**

*Item 3 Resilience - being better prepared for risks. Community Emergency Plan. Report deferred.*

*Item 3 Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils.* The CC noted the outcome of the recent Community Council Election. Four members were declared elected with effect from November 7 2019: Graham Cox, Anne Cragoe, Susan Forde and Dave Morris.

*Item 3 Portmoak Cemetery.* No progress to report. It was noted that the forthcoming Local Development Plan provided for a "cemetery search" in the vicinity of Burleigh Castle.

*Item 3 Rural Transport (Kinross-shire Community Transport Group).* WCllr M Barnacle reported that an initial meeting to explore options for the provision of rural transport within Kinross-shire had not attracted the anticipated participation. A further meeting would be arranged.

*Item 3 Vehicle parking adjacent to Traffic-calming Islands.* The CC had requested that, instead of formal traffic restrictions, road markings in the immediate vicinity of build-outs be refreshed. This was being considered by PKC but such work was not undertaken in the winter months.

*Item 3 Hedges:* 1) *Woodmarch:* contact with the owners had yet to be made; 2) *Bruce Road/A911 junction:* initial trimming had been effected – **ACTION: PKC would be asked to monitor progress.** 3) *Footpath from Easter Balgedie to Kinnesswood:* a preliminary cut had been undertaken – **ACTION: PKC would be asked to consider whether further work is necessary.** 4) impeded sight-lines to the left at the junction of the road from Wester Balgedie/Glenlomond with the A911. **ACTION: PKC would be asked to review. WCllr Robertson would take up these actions with PKC officers.**

*Item 4 Kinnesswood Village Shop.* A Steering Group had been formed. There had been an initial meeting in the Shop.

- 4. Loch Leven: arrangements for assuring and sharing information on water quality.** There had been increasing interest in this matter across Kinross-shire. While over the years there had been a gradual improvement in water quality, there was concern that that may not be continuing. In response to a FoI request to SEPA WCllr W Robertson had received data detailing the levels of a number of measurable modalities taken primarily from a single point near the sluices. No information had been included on "effluents" entering the Loch. He had asked The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) to comment on the data. He noted there was particular concern that, as a result of heavy rainfall, the Milnathort/Kinross Wastewater Treatment Works could be overwhelmed and that as a result raw sewage would enter the Loch. The CEH had previously advised that it was important to keep Phosphorus (P) inputs into the loch as low as possible because, without P, the algal blooms cannot develop whatever the weather. Any increase in P from waste water treatment works would be of concern. If it can be shown that storm events (which seem to be increasing) are leading to more overflows of untreated sewage into the loch, then that would need to be addressed. Raw sewage effluent contains about 20 times more P than the equivalent amount of treated effluent. SNH would shortly convene an annual meeting of the many groups with interest in the water quality of the Loch. This year all ward councillors would be invited to participate. The CC considered that more information was required on effluents entering the Loch. **ACTION: The CC would pursue an FoI seeking information on effluent waters entering the Loch from Scottish Water, the body responsible for the Milnathort/Kinross Wastewater Treatment Works.**

## **5. Reports:**

- 1. Police:** 1) No local report; and 2) The CC noted the Area Commander Bulletins of: 11th, 18th & 25th September and of 2nd October.
- 2. Treasurer:** The balance at the month ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 was £586.70 in the General Account; and 2,021.23 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £2,607.93. The new

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financial year will now run from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August. Following transition to these new arrangements the CC approved its audited General Account from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 for submission to PKC. This showed: an income of £700; expenditure of £113.30; and a net balance of £586.70.

**3. Planning: to include:**

- a) *New applications:* No new applications since the last meeting of the CC.
- b) *Progress with Developments:* Westfield. Fife Council had advised of a non-material variation to Planning Application 18/02342/ARC. The Council has confirmed that these reflect several “very minor” changes to the plan.

**4. Roads:** The CC noted: 1) on the B920 leaving Scotlandwell the drain on the left behaved as a “spring.” Water was backed up and could not reach the ditch running alongside the Moss Access road; 2) on the A911 at Wester Balgedie opposite the Toll, despite drain clearance water still accumulated. 3) the continuing problem on the B920 of unresolved road works on the Gullet Bridge over the New Cut. **ACTION: matters were to be referred to PKC by ward councillors.**

**Scotlandwell Puffin crossing**

The CC had been surprised to learn from Ward Councillors of an intention to pursue a Puffin Crossing on Main Street Scotlandwell. It had sought further information. The PKC Project Officer, Traffic & Network, had advised that a Puffin crossing in Scotlandwell is currently ranked as 409 on the overall road safety projects assessment List. Of the 53 requested controlled crossings, it is ranked number 5 - but that List is still in draft form. He reported that in this case, the request for a Puffin crossing in Scotlandwell came from a resident. The Community Council would be consulted at the first phase of the public consultation, along with the Ward Councillors, before any major project progressed (similar to TROs). There is no timescale for this work as, at present, PKC is focusing on delivering the Puffin crossings already agreed.

CC members expressed concern that a proposal for this Puffin crossing, which would have significance on the traffic management situation in Scotlandwell, had been progressed by PKC staff to the stage that it had been entered onto the projects assessment Lists and had received ranking positions on those Lists. It was noted that this situation had arisen as a result of a proposal from a single resident which the CC was unaware of and was unrelated to any previous discussions between the CC and PKC as regards road matters in Scotlandwell. A further query was why PKC staff had spent time evaluating this proposal, in advance of any CC consideration, when these same staff had repeatedly failed to answer queries from the CC and Ward Councillors and failed to advance most of the road projects agreed with the CC, over many years. It was suggested that guidance was needed within PKC roads department on staff time priorities and, in the case of approaches to them by individual citizens, these should simply be recorded and the individual advised to raise the matter with their local CC. The expectation would be that PKC would not take the matter further unless a recommendation was received from the CC. The Ward Councillors indicated that they were sympathetic to this suggestion and would consider how best to raise it with PKC.

**5. Paths Group:** To note:

- a) *Path from Lochend to Heritage Trail.* George Lawrie of TRACKS reported on a recent successful meeting with representatives of the Scottish Gliding Centre, Lochend Farm and Shop, and the CC. The meeting had been chaired by WCllr W Robertson of TRACKS and had achieved agreement to take forward the path from the Heritage Trail per Levenmouth and the Scottish Gliding Centre to Lochend Farm and Shop. **ACTION: TRACKS would oversee a number of actions which initially focussed on securing both funding and planning approval.**

b) *Dryside Road, Access & Maintenance*. Anne Macintyre of the Paths Group indicated that the pathway was now readily passable as a result of recent volunteer strimming work plus the installation of the new gate by PKC. There was still a need for two signs to direct users through Easter Balgedie so that the Dryside Road could be easily followed. **ACTION: Paths Group to approach PKC to provide the necessary signs.**

6. **PKC** *WClIr W Robertson* commented that, with the change in governance in PKC (now run by a minority administration), the influence of ward councillors was weaker.

*WClIr Barnacle* reported that, in respect of the new and forthcoming Local Development Plan, some ward councillors had objected to some of the comments made by the Scottish Government Reporters and the current process which required local authorities to accept the Reporter's recommendations without modification. This would not delay the formal approval process and publication of the Plan. Councillors would raise their concerns with Scottish Ministers.

*WClIr Purves* reported that NHS Tayside had closed the Bridge of Earn GP surgery and this had led to the "re-allocation" of some patients to the Kinross surgery. In his view this process was flawed as responsibility for GP surgery provision lay with the Joint Board and not with NHS Tayside acting alone. He understood the matter would be revisited and it was expected that the Bridge of Earn GP surgery would be re-opened with new arrangements in place. He also advised that PKC had reversed the proposed arrangement for the central preparation of school meals in Dundee and that the A911, unlike other comparable roads in Kinross-shire, had not attracted support within LDP2 as PKC had still not prepared the promised "Action Plan" for the road.

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7. **Matters previously notified to the Secretary plus matters raised from the floor.** (ALL CIRCULATED): Insurance Cover for Resilient Communities, **ACTION: Referred to Resilience Group;** Food growth Strategy PKC Survey; and Fuel Poverty Awareness Sessions, PKC.
8. **AOCB:** At the conclusion of the meeting, retiring members Malcom Strang Steel (Chairman), Bruce Calderwood (Treasurer) and Robin Cairncross (Secretary) were thanked for their long service to the CC along with Tom Smith, Alison Robertson and Andrew Muszynski, who had also contributed as members of the CC during is present term.
9. **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting of the Council will be convened by *WClIr C Purves* at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th November 2019. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.