

Portmoak Community Council

Draft Minutes

Meeting Tuesday 11th August 1930 – 2100 hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

1. Attendance and apologies:

CCLrs: Graham Cox, (Chair), Susan McGregor (Secretary), Anne Davidson (Treasurer), Anne Cragoe, and Susan Forde; WCllrs Callum Purves, and W Robertson; and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Dave Morris

2. Approval of previous Minutes held on 14th July 2020:

Amendment on Agenda point 2: minutes were approved with a summary on Covid19, and a comment from former Chairperson of Portmoak CC Malcolm Strang-Steel to be discussed at this meeting.

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:

Item 1: Covid-19 impact in the area

A discussion was had about COVID19. The CC considered that detailed discussion was outside remit of PCC

Item 2 Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church, Hall and beyond.

The former-Chair of the CC had supplied some evidence that the owners of the land in Scotlandwell had been contacted in 2019 and were amenable to surveys being conducted for suitability for the other CC project of cemetery extension but this had not been adequately followed up by PKC. WCllr Purves suggested that the Scotlandwell path project is regarded as having an “infinite cost” with three options available, and that a single recommendation for best option should be presented. All scenarios require a formal pedestrian crossing to link all the Communities, i.e. Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood and E & W Balgedie safely with the church and village hall. A single, clear recommended path route and project could be referred to TRACKS to secure funding and Sustrans may assist at that point. With a single route recommendation the issue will be able to be accelerated up the action agenda.

Item 3 Portmoak Traffic Calming & 20mph speed limit

Temporary 20mph speed limits will be introduced in Scotlandwell for 18 months. The CC welcomes this speed restriction though notes it does not address the inherent local road safety issues. There was a discussion about whether pursuing further road safety measures would be fruitful. WCllr Purves suggested that identifying further road safety issues and putting them on the PKC agenda for consideration would be worthwhile. The Chair outlined his suggestion to change the road routing at the junction of the A911 and the Leslie Road in Scotlandwell: to have the A911 through route come down the hill to a stop just prior to the junction, while the through road would be from Causeway along the A911 towards Leslie. There was some support for a mini-roundabout as an alternative option. WCllrs Robertson and CPurves agreed to request a scope for a mini-roundabout at the junction with the Leslie Road.

ACTION: WCllr Purves to request that in his forthcoming site visit to assess Kinnesswood road safety issues, Daryl McKeown attend both Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell sites and offer suggestions.

Item 4: Portmoak Cemetery.

Cllr ACragoe had attended an edifying visit to the two proposed cemetery sites with Willie Grieg of PKC on 11/08/20 There are 4 possibilities for cemetery sites, as follow: 1. Extending the existing cemetery sideways down the hill. The land seems suitable and no need to test dig. WGrieg to make an approach to the lawyers representing the land owners. 2. Land at the foot of the current cemetery. PKC have conducted 7 test digs which have confirmed suitability. Recent new owners to be approached to invite them to a meeting to discuss the site with PCC. 3. Land between Wester and Easter Balgedie offered by land owner: this site may not have yet been surveyed for suitability, WGrieg to follow up this item. There

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are options for creation of a car park that may not be as prohibitive as first thought, though the entire parcel of land may not be large enough. 4. A new location possibility is the church owned land opposite Portmoak Church and currently loaned to Woodland Trust. ACragoe has asked the Clerk of the Church to identify the correct person in the Church of Scotland to approach.

If all 4 possibilities fail to materialise there are limited options within the current Cemetery: removal of 2 trees in churchyard could free up space for 4 - 6 lairs. Willie is going to ask the 'tree' specialist in PKC to investigate. Moving a memorial bench with owner's permission from along one wall adjacent to the road would free 2 lairs. Also, niches could be made in existing stone wall for caskets to be placed with ashes. At the Crematorium they have built extra stone walls where memorial plaques can be placed where ashes have been dispersed at the foot of the wall and this could also be done here. Of these four options the decision may come down to which is the cheapest option. The WCllrs cited a case of compulsory purchase which took 11 years, so this is not preferred course of action. The Chair thanked Cllr Cragoe for her persistence on this issue and for moving the project forward.

Item 5: Rural Transport

WCllrs Purves and RWatters had attended a meeting with the transport unit. The 203 service is back in action. Bus routes serving North and South Perthshire were being reviewed which would connect with the 56. The Chair highlighted local support for connected public transport that would allow people to travel to Dunfermline and Edinburgh as well as Perth.

Item 6: Loch Leven water quality

There was no update on this item, but it was agreed to keep the item on the agenda due to its importance.

Item 7: Kinnesswood Road Safety Action

This item had been discussed previously and touched on in discussion of Item 3,

ACTION: once PKC site visits are possible again following lockdown: Daryl McKeown to visit Kinnesswood to complete an assessment.

Item 8: Core Path PTMK 115 (Glen Vale to Glen Lomond and Dryside Road)

Cllr Davidson was able to report that the sign for Core Path PTMK 115 has been put back up by Community Greenspace. Portmoak CC thanked Community Greenspace for doing this quickly. The Glenlomond road is still busy and there is still an increase of cars in Glenlomond village. The Glenlomond Community have decided to get a commercial sign produced which will point visitors looking for the Glen Vale path to proceed along the Dryside Road.

Item 9: SEPA / Scottish Enterprise River Leven Catchment Project

There were no comments or update on this currently. Cllr Morris was looking at this but was unable to attend the meeting.

Item 10 Community Resilience Planning

It was agreed that resilience planning for Covid19 is difficult and outside remit of Portmoak CC, but we should still consider local initiatives, especially looking towards the Winter months and any easing of lockdown.

4. New Matters arising:

1. Closure of A911 from Easter Balgedie to Wester Balgedie, from 07/09/20 for 2 weeks

Cllr McGregor had made contact with PKC to obtain more info on the A911 closure. Closure due to resurfacing works and improvement of road drainage system. Gullies to be replaced where possible to take them off the roads and reduce the ongoing maintenance burden. The road closure restricted from 09:15 - 15:30, Mon to Fri only. A diversion around the loch will be in place. Residents, including those in Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond who live up the Glenlomond road, will have access to properties when the works allow and it is safe to do so. Emergency vehicles and pedestrians will have access at all time. The Public Transport Unit (PTU) have been informed of the works. The morning school taxi and bus services will be unaffected but the afternoon journeys could experience short delays if there are any unforeseen issues delaying the opening of the road at 15:30. Delays will be kept to a minimum, although there may be times when the bus and taxi have to use the diversion in the afternoon. Local Councillors and residents directly affected by the

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works will be informed in due course. While there will be some temporary disruption, it seems that the work being done will help to provide a better road surface and hopefully prevent the sunken drain potholes issues of recent years.

5. Reports:

a. Police Reports

(1) The Local Police Report

The CC highlighted that there had been no police liaison attendant at CC meetings since the April 2019 meeting. The WCllrs present confirmed that police attendance at all local Community Council meetings was sporadic, possibly due to the centralised structure of the police, and lack of local control. Community Police officers may be relocated to other areas and not available to attend CC meetings due to redeployments and shift patterns. WCllr WRobertson was hopeful that recent appointments of police within Kinross may have a positive impact on the attendance of community liaison officers at CC meetings.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

Item 1: 20/00949/FLL | *Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse | Ivy Cottage Wester Balgedie Kinross KY13 9HE*

The application was discussed. The CC and meeting attendees noted nothing controversial in the application. The CC agreed no comment.

(2) *Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: update*

Lockdown has meant delay in next Liaison Committee meeting. There has not been a meeting since end of Feb20. There was no June meeting. A report is due from Hargreaves, but nothing has been circulated yet. Next meeting due in Sep20. The Chair requested if Kenneth Donaldson would be willing to attend on behalf of PCC, to which Mr Donaldson agreed.

- c. **Paths Group:** It was with great sadness that the Paths Group reported that Andrew Wilson had died at the end of July. Andrew has been the driving force behind the Paths Group for 4years and his enthusiasm, energy, knowledge and company are sorely missed.
- Path Maintenance:** the main focus of the group's effort is on local Core Paths, though some activity is done on the well-used network of paths in Stephen's Field.
- Michael Bruce Way** (hill section) – regular clearing of gorse and bracken on the hill section from the top of The Cobbles to the entrance to Kilmagadwood. The local farmer is currently spraying the bracken on the hill and advisory notices are in place to warn dog walkers.
- Peat Loan** – PKC CGT came with the flail machine to cut back the vegetation during July and another cut has been requested for September.
- Dryside Road Path** – The section leading off from the farm track at Easter Balgedie to Springfield Farm has recently been strimmed by Paths Group volunteers and is now in excellent condition – the more it is used, the less overgrown it becomes!
- Glenlomond to Glenvale Core Path** - The missing signpost has now been replaced by PKC ranger and is well secured with post fixing concrete this time.
- Grahamstone Track** – It was reported that the lower section of the track beyond the farm was almost unpassable because of new material being spread on the surface. On inspection the new material is bedding in well and has been spread to fill potholes and the track has in fact been improved. It was also reported that the connecting path along the side of the field from the corner of the Grahamstone track to the Moss is very overgrown and almost impassable. This is not a core path and the Paths Group does not currently have capacity to take this on. More volunteers are needed to help with this.
- Heritage Trail to Lochend Farm Link** – George Lawrie from TRACKS was progressing this and a route has been agreed with The Scottish Gliding Centre. It was scheduled to be completed in the Autumn – no further update available.

Paths Information Board and Signage - An Information Board to promote the network of local paths is to be installed at the Car Park in Kinnesswood. The Planning Application is almost ready to be submitted.

Additional signage for the Dryside Road Path at Easter Balgedie has been requested, as the arrow on the telegraph pole directing walkers left at Balneathill is not at all clear. CG Ranger will complete this on his next visit during August.

Paths Leaflet: A leaflet based on the Information Board design has been prepared and quotes received for printing. The funding application submitted by PCC to PKC Local Action Partnership (Covid 19 activities) was unsuccessful. Other sources of funding may need to be pursued including Kinross Newsletter (deadline 30/09/20) and Scotways. Paths for All funding closed in April for 2020 applications.

The paths within Portmoak Moss and Kilmagadwood are maintained by Portmoak Community Woodland in collaboration with The Woodland Trust. The Heritage Trail is maintained by SNH with support from PKC. More volunteers are welcomed. If anyone would like to 'adopt' a path or section of path near where they live to ensure that it is kept clear, it would be appreciated. Please contact: Anne Macintyre amacintyre@btinternet.com

d. **Treasurer CC Accounts.**

Michael Bruce Way Account Balance: £2171.73

Main Account Balance: £695.80

An invoice for leaflets had still not been received

6. Ward Councillors' Reports

Willie Robertson: nothing additional

Callum Purves: nothing additional

7. Matters notified to the Secretary

1. *GDPR: personal details being given to local businesses for Covid 19 trace & protect:* There had been local concern expressed that personal data was being used by a few businesses for marketing purposes. This is not acceptable and if anyone has concerns about their personal data being used for purposes other than Covid-19 follow up they should report businesses to the Information Commissioners Office. Concerned parties can refer to www.ico.org.uk to find details there of where to report a breach.

2. *Nomination of members of CC:* there are different types of members of the CC: Elected members, Co-opted members, and Associate Members. Due to the rules around the number of co-opted members, the CC cannot co-opt further members at present. The CC is permitted, however, to bring on other Associate members. The CC had conducted discussions with both Graham Smith and Kenneth Donaldson, both attending the meeting, and invited them to become Associate Members. Both Graham and Kenneth agreed.

3. *Continuing Online CC meetings after Covid19 restrictions are lifted:* The CC briefly discussed the opportunity that online / Zoom meetings presented to enable participation from different sectors of the community, and agreed to consider online meetings, as well as collective meetings in the Village Hall and Portmoak School.

8. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 8th September 2020