

Portmoak Community Council

Notice of Meeting & Community Council

Tuesday 11th May 2021, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

AGENDA

- 1. Attendance and apologies:** Cllrs A Davidson (Acting Chair), D Morris, S McGregor (Secretary), WClrs C Purves and W Robertson, and 5 members of the Public.

Apologies: WClr R Watters, and Cllrs S Forde, K Donaldson and G Smith

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes held on 13th April 2021:** no comments or corrections.

- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1 Road Safety Action in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell

There was a discussion about the installation of speed cushions in Kinnesswood, particularly those placed in the centre of the village which are causing an increase in noise and vibration to the residents in houses immediately adjacent, especially during the night. The CC had received emails from a few residents on this issue. WClr W Robertson had contacted Daryl McKeown at PKC and they had agreed to take out the speed cushions in the centre of the village. There had been a suggestion by members of the CC to relocate them to the entrance on the South side of Scotlandwell around the existing traffic calming. C Purves noted the consultation that had taken place prior to the speed cushion installation, the Secretary confirmed that PKC had consulted 66 addresses in Kinnesswood, out of which 14 had responded and 10 of those had been in favour.

A representation of 5 residents from Easter Balgedie attended the meeting with concerns about speeding through the hamlet. The CC had also received an email from a sixth resident with the same concerns. Residents pointed to the dangers of the blind summit on the east side, blind corner on the west side, and traffic that had been regularly witnessed going through the VAS in excess of 40mph at all times of day but particularly during the pre-0900hrs and post-1600hrs commuter times. It was felt that traffic speeds had increased in E Balgedie after the installation of the 20mph limit in Kinnesswood plus speed cushions, with drivers taking the opportunity to speed up once released from those restrictions. While it was noted that the police had been on location doing speed checks, this had occurred outside commuter times, and pre-9am police vigilance would be more useful. Farmers in E Balgedie were largely in agreement with speed reduction measures as they were often crossing the road with tractors and large machinery. A larger number of school children now lived in E Balgedie and they needed to be able to safely cross the road to take the school buses and walk to Kinnesswood. The CC agreed with all the noted concerns. WClr W Robertson offered to approach the police to request further speed reduction measures. WClr C Purves noted that PKC had agreed to lower the speed limit to 30mph but this was just working its way through priorities. He also offered the suggestion that speed cushions may be a possibility in addition to reduced speed limit. The CC highlighted the history of their involvement in road traffic discussions for well over 20yrs. PKC had promised a route action plan for the A911 in November 2020 following a location visit to meet with the CC and discuss key danger points along the A911 and in all the villages. This had been promising but had not yet been drafted. Residents also made a strong argument for a complete off-road path between E Balgedie and Kinnesswood, especially because of the number of children going to the primary school. The CC asked if Active Travel funding could be directed to such a project. WClr C Purves explained the A911 Route Action plan had not progressed because of operational difficulties due to the pandemic. The plan would progress and be prioritised based on high traffic volume flow or high collision activity. C Purves to ask for the priority status of this.

ACTION: WClr W Robertson to approach Police for further increase in speed checks. WClr C Purves to request PKC to confirm the priority status of the A911 action plan. WClr Robertson indicated that both he and WClr Purves were on the Board of Tracks and they would look further into the establishment of an off-road path between Easter Balgedie and Kinnesswood.

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Additionally, WCllr C Purves supplied an update regarding a request from a resident to extend 20mph at the East end of Kinnesswood (towards Scotlandwell). The 30mph limit was shortened some years ago and recently the speed limit in Kinnesswood has been further reduced to 20mph. In response it appeared that PKC would probably not agree that extending the 20mph limit would be appropriate as it was felt the 20mph and traffic calming were already visible on approach to the village. The CC pointed out that this section of roadside footpath was well used by residents and visitors accessing the LLHT at Grahamstone farm track and that extending the speed restrictions may be appropriate as crossing the A911 at the Grahamstone entrance was problematic with traffic approaching over the blind summit next to the golf course

It was noted that one disadvantage of the speed cushions was that they encouraged traffic to pass closer to the pavement. In the absence of the cushions, when traffic was proceeding in only one direction, it tended to move across the road, often straddling the centre line, to avoid going close to people walking on the narrow pavements.

The issue of pavement build outs was also raised, combined with the establishment of one way priority. Such an arrangement might be worthwhile in the centre of E Balgedie and at other settlements in Portmoak. This would force traffic to slow down and provide for wider pavements and a safe crossing point. Examples of such arrangements were evident in Fife and elsewhere. **Item 2 *Glenlomond sewage, and Water Supply to Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie***

The problems with the sewage works had been raised with Roseanna Cunningham MSP, but her successor was now expected to pick this up and move the item forward. Regarding planned and unplanned water outages Scottish Water had confirmed to the CC they did not legally have to supply water for firefighting but would supply tankers for drinking water. The CC will follow up with PKC Emergency Planning to find out if they have any input on the issue of water supply to fire hydrants. WCllr CPurves asked Cllr A Davidson to forward the information on to him.

ACTION: Cllr A Davidson to update at next meeting.

Item 3 *Construction of hill track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood*

Some action to mark out a path on the hill had been taken but appeared to lead into a wet and boggy area. **ACTION: Cllrs D Morris and G Smith to examine further and update at next CC meeting**

Item 4: *Parking around Portmoak Primary*

Cllr D Morris expected to meet with the Head teacher in the next 2 weeks..

ACTION: Cllr D Morris and Head Teacher to meet for discussion. Update at next CC meeting

Item 5: *Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church Hall and beyond:* no progress on this item

Item 6: *Litter on LLHT:* WCllr W Robertson had approached the owners of Loch Levens Larder (LLL), who had been responsive. LLL say they are aware of the problem and do regular litter picks. Members of the CC said the path was quite clear at present. Local residents regularly litter pick in the area to try and keep it tidy which is greatly appreciated. The CC thanked WCllr W Robertson for making the approach and LLL for their awareness and response.

Item 7: *Sheep attacks, use of local paths & control of dogs*

The CC noted that signs had been put up at the bottom of the Core Path PTMK115 just before Glenlomond on approach from W Balgedie. WCllr Robertson had requested the police to add a note to their newsletter monthly Bulletin, though it wasn't clear if this had been done in time for the most recent edition. The CC had posted a request on local Community Facebook pages in Portmoak, and also Leslie and Glenrothes, to try and raise awareness.

4. New Matters arising:

Item 8: *PKC Consultation on The Ancillary & Annex Accommodation (draft) non-statutory guidance consultation. To run for 6 weeks from 30 April to 11 June 2021.* The Secretary had received notice of this public consultation, and members of the public are invited to comment online, more information here:

<https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/ancillary-accommodation-supplementary-guidance>

5. Reports:

a. Police Reports

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- (1) The Local Police Report: no police liaison were in attendance at the meeting

ACTION: Secretary to ask police liaison if possible to attend CC meetings once a month.

b.Planning

- (1) New Applications:

- (a) 21/00534/FLL: Erection of a dwellinghouse

(revised design - change of house type - plot 2) at Land 20 Metres East Of Leven House Scotlandwell. Close Date: 14/05/21

No comment

- (b) 21/00580/FLL: Erection of a dwellinghouse at Land 20 Metres North Of Bonaly Cottage Main Street Kinnesswood. Close Date: 11/05/21

Correction – consultation closing date had been confirmed with PKC as 14/05/21. CC had previously agreed to object to this proposed development on the former Lomond Inn site. CllrDMorris had subsequently circulated a draft objection. The application is considered to be not much different to the one previously submitted and then withdrawn. The draft objection was approved, subject to any further comment received by the end of 12 May.

It was noted that additional information had been provided in the CC's representation which outlined the various planning consultations on the Lomond Inn site since the Inn became non operational in 2012, subsequently derelict and finally demolished. This information summarised efforts made to secure the public interest in the site, including the provision of public parking space, bus pull off area, greenspace requirements and amenity protection, including the outstanding views over Loch Leven and the surrounding hills from this key part of the Kinnesswood Conservation Area. Past planning decisions had not taken adequate account of these local community requirements. Cllr D Morris indicated that the establishment of the Kinnesswood Development Trust provided a potential way forward and their website outlined possible future options involving community buy out or other public sector involvement. Progress had been considerably hampered by uncertainty in the ownership of the land and what appeared to be a longstanding failure to register land ownership change at the Lomond Inn site on the Scottish Land Register. The CC agreed that, in the immediate future, the immediate priority was for PKC to reject the latest planning application and that would then open the door for negotiation with the owner or agent on the future of the site as a whole.

- (2) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee

It was noted that the next meeting was on 18 May but no papers had so far been circulated.

- c. **Paths Group:** The CC noted that the paths information board was due to be installed in Kinnesswood in the near future.

- d. **Treasurer CC Accounts:**

Main Account: £1477.60

Michael Bruce Way: £662.80

The Treasurer noted that there were now no banks providing counter services in Kinross. The Treasurer had investigated and suggested to move the CC bank account to use the Credit Union in Kinross. The service was online, and there was a face-to-face presence. The Credit Union had confirmed they operate business accounts and can handle the CC accounts. The CC were in agreement with this action.

ACTION: Treasurer to proceed with next stages of bank account migration to the Kinross Credit Union

6. Ward Councillors' Reports

WCllrCPurves: had had further meetings with PKC officers, hoping to progress budgets before June21

WCllrWRRobertson: had received a request from residents in the south part of Portmoak who would like to see a one way priority system introduced at the Gullet Bridge. The CC agreed this was a good idea as the bridge is a tricky section if cars or large vehicles arrive at it at the same time, and is especially difficult in the dark. The bridge parapets have been damaged badly in the past by large vehicles.

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ACTION: Secretary to send WCllrWRobertson a letter of CCsupport for a one way priority system to be introduced at the Gullet Bridge, Scotlandwell.

- 7. Matters notified to the Secretary:** nothing further
- 8. AOB:** no items raised

The Chair closed the meeting at 2030hrs

- 9. Next Meeting:** **online Zoom meeting at 7.30pm Tuesday, 8th June 2021.**