

# Portmoak Community Council

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 12th October 2021 , online via Zoom

1. **Attendance:** WCllr W Robertson and C Purves; Cllr A Davidson (Treasurer & Acting Chair for meeting), K Donaldson, S Forde, S McGregor (Secretary), A Miller, D Paterson; 5 members of the Public

**Apologies:** Cllr D Morris

2. **Approval of previous Minutes – October 2020:** Approved

3. **Matters arising from previous Minutes:** None

4. **Chair's Annual Report – 2020-21:** (Drafted by Secretary, in absence of appointed Chair)

The last Community Council year 2020 – 2021 has continued to be dominated operationally by the Covid-19 pandemic as PCC continue to meet online each month. CC members and residents alike have had to adapt, but what felt initially like a restriction has become quite normal, and at the end of this year even beneficial, with greater public participation. Online meetings have a different feel to the village hall gatherings and may invite more participation. Following a full year of online CC meetings, at the last meeting of September 21 there was majority in favour of continuing online monthly meetings for the foreseeable future as a valuable aid to inclusivity for all of the community who would like to attend and give their views. There are strong environmental reasons too not to be using many cars to drive to one locale. Public meetings in the hall may restart depending on how the community prefer to proceed and PCC will continue to explore opinions on that option. On a snowy, dark Tuesday in Winter, it's probably likely we'd all prefer to be logging on to the CC meeting rather than pulling on our wellies to head down to the hall, but it is good to meet in real life too.

While PCC started the 2020-21 year with a good membership, 2 resignations in November 20 were unfortunate. To the CC's relief PKC advised that the CC was able to proceed to hold monthly meetings and represent the Portmoak Community, but that a bi-election would be triggered and held in early 2021. PCC Treasurer A Davidson stepped up as Acting Chair for the ongoing meetings, and PCC are grateful for her efforts in doing so.

Due to the lower number of members of PCC throughout a large part of the last year, there continues to be constraints on what the CC can achieve. Frustratingly, some long-term projects like the extension of Portmoak Cemetery, and the path connecting Scotlandwell to the Village Hall have been further hindered by the limitations of having actual meetings due to pandemic, and sheer lack of numbers of people to propel these agendas forward. Following the August 21 By-Election, PCC have been pleased to accept 2 new members on to the Community Council, and we hope that more

people may be encouraged to either join the CC or to come forward to work alongside the CC on projects that they feel passionate about. For example, the Paths Group, who do a lot of hard work around the Portmoak area, provide an update to the CC while remaining quite separate, and this could be a great template for how it is possible to work together.

Roads and speeding continue to dominate the agenda at monthly meetings, and there has been a lot of participation and representation from communities outside the main villages of Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell, who have joined to voice concerns about traffic and dangerous hotspots in their locale. The change in our habits due to the pandemic has possibly heightened more general awareness of traffic issues as many people enjoyed more walking and cycling locally. In November 20, WCllr Callum Purves and members of the CC met with PKC on-site at various places along the A911 as it goes through Portmoak, to discuss issues and possible solutions. It felt like a positive meeting resulting in a promise from PKC to look more holistically at the A911 and provide a route plan for speed mitigation measures that would make all residents feel safer while walking and cycling. Very sadly, in July 21 a motorcyclist lost his life while travelling from along the Bowhouse section of the A911 which heightened the urgency of local calls for the promised speed mitigations. PKC have been responsive, but as yet no actions or a route plan have been forthcoming, and so the CC remain hopeful for positive outcomes and will continue to work on the issue of road safety and try to employ different approaches to try and obtain the desired results. At time of writing, WCllr W Robertson has been working with the police to plan a Community Speedwatch project and there has been an enthusiastic response from residents which is really positive.

Planning forms another large part of CC work, and over the last year the CC have reviewed and discussed 16 Planning applications being proposed in Portmoak. On behalf of the Community, we supported 3 including the Vane Farm developments, a new Paths Group Notice Board, and the path to be created between the Heritage Trail and Lochend Farm Shop. We objected to 3 applications and made one additional representation to the Planning Committee at PKC. In July 21 a Special Public Meeting was arranged to consider the 22 House development at LDP zoned H54 site in Scotlandwell and this was well attended by the public. The CC is here to try and represent the Community view and good participation really helps the CC achieve this. The CC continue to participate at the liaison meetings for the Westfield Energy Recovery Facility and thanks go to Cllr K Donaldson for keeping the CC abreast of developments. Cllr D Morris continues to work with landowners Hargreaves on the development of new foot and cycle paths to connect the Westfield Development with the Heritage Trail and other networks in Fife which will benefit us all in the future. Affordable housing is a topic which has recently come to the fore as the processes at the Planning Dept. means that sometimes including affordable housing in planning applications is waived in favour of a fee payment to PKC. PKC appear to have robust policy in place with regard to affordable housing but sometimes the policy doesn't appear to be followed true to intent. Strengthened by the support of the Ward Cllrs, PCC have continued to argue for the inclusion of affordable housing in our area where more than 5 houses are being built. The CC would like to thank Dave Morris for his considerable input in drafting objections on behalf of the CC, and to the people in the community for making time to write to PKC in favour or objection of planning proposals.

The huge storm in August 2020, brought a few items to the agenda of the CC: flooding on roads, and resilience against flood damage throughout Portmoak and along the Lomond Hills are likely to be

prominent in the future due to the change in weather patterns expected as a result of Climate Change. The floods in August also highlighted the issue of Glenlomond Village's aged sewage systems needing to be upgraded and ultimately adopted by Scottish Water. Through the last year Glenlomond residents and Cllr A Davidson have made great progress with this problem and the CC hope that the next year will see the system fully adopted.

In early April 21, the PCC website underwent a project of improving accessibility for online users. The CC would like to thank Gordon Vance for undertaking this work, getting to grips with what was needed and running the software to identify problem areas. Now the PCC website is fully accessible and includes access to documentation dating back to 2018 as required. We are able to provide earlier documents in accessible form by request. Over the last year PCC have also moved onto Facebook, which provides an invaluable route to reaching the community. A lot of info comes into the CC on public consultations, funding and other items, and social media is a great additional way to try and reach everyone.

With thanks to all the PCC members and Ward Councillors, and to members of the public and local community groups for everyone's commitment, valuable input, time and effort over the last year. It is very much appreciated and helps to make this a strong community and a great place to live.

## **5. Treasurer's Annual Report – 2021:**

**PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD  
1 SEPTEMBER 2020 – 31 AUGUST 2021**

**Balance sheet**

	2020/21		2019/20		2019 Apr-Aug		2018 /19	
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>								£
General	£	-	£	113.30	£	700.00	£	581.20
MBW	£	150.83	£	550.93	£	500.14	£	380.60
Nr 3 Account	-		£	-			£	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>150.83</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>664.23</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,200.14</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>961.80</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>								£
General	£	104.95	£	117.50			£	1,020.40
MBW	£	950.18	£	-	£	23.48	£	428.67
Nr 3 Account	-		£	-			£	1,500.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,055.13</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>117.50</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>23.48</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2,949.07</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2,867.80</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2,321.07</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,144.41</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>-</b>
Income	£	150.83	£	664.23	£	1,200.14	£	961.80
Expenditure	£	1,055.13	£	117.50	£	23.48	£	2,949.07
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,963.50</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2,867.80</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2,321.07</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>1,987.27</b>

#

A Davidson, Treasurer  
Date

B Calderwood, Independent Examiner  
Date

**Independent Examiner's Report:**

Having inspected the records of Portmoak Community Council I am of the opinion that the foregoing statement properly reflects the financial transactions for the year to 31 August 2021 and of the funds on hand at that date.

**6. Approval of Annual Accounts:** S Forde proposed acceptance, K Donaldson Seconded.

**7. Demit of current office bearers/election of office bearers:**

**Chair:** Andy Miller Proposed: A Davidson Seconded: D Paterson

**Vice Chair:** Dave Morris Proposed: Andy Miller Seconded: D Paterson

**Treasurer:** Ann Davidson Proposed: Andy Miller Seconded: Susan Forde

**Secretary:** Sue McGregor Proposed: Andy Miller Seconded: Susan Forde

**Special Note:** The CC agreed that in the event of Chair resignation during the following 12 months that Vice Chair would step up as Chair.

**8. Date of Next AGM:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**9. Acting Chair:** Closed meeting at 1945hrs