

Portmoak Community Council

Notice of Meeting & Community Council

Tuesday 12 October 2021, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

(request Zoom meeting details via email to Secretary@Portmoak.org)

Draft Minutes

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

Apologies: Cllr D Morris

2. **Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 14 September 2021:** Approved

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

Item 1 Kinross-shire Committee: WCLlr C Purves talked about the pilot local committee for K-shire. This will comprise 4 WCLLrs, and 1 member of each of the Kinross-shire CCs to attend on non-voting basis. The Kinross-shire Committee scheme of administration is a revised version of what was agreed by the Kinross-shire Forum. Its main focus is on the bread & butter issues that are often discussed at community council meetings such as road safety, footpaths, transport, environment and local economic development. It does not include some more thorny issues such as planning or licensing or things that would be difficult to localize such as education or housing. The pilot will not include moving money between existing budgets although the scheme of administration does make provision for the committee to spend extra funds should the Council decided to allocate money towards it. It will last for a period of 12 months from the date of the first meeting after which the model will be evaluated against a set of agreed criteria to determine if any changes to the model are required in future. The pilot will give CC members a voice in the room on key matters. PCC will nominate a member to represent the CC and Portmoak Community views. WCLlr W Robertson emphasised that C Purves had worked hard to get the pilot approved. All 4 WCLLrs in K-shire had supported the K-shire committee. ACTION: WCLlr C Purves to confirm meeting dates. PCC to nominate a member to represent on the committee.

Item 2 Road Safety Action Update in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell: C Purves led with an update:

A911 at Bowhouse: there had been a great deal of correspondence between PKC, WCLLrs, PCC and Residents. The Residents have given considerable representation of their wish to lower the speed limit to 40mph. Following the fatality in Aug21, the Police report did not recommend lowering of speed limit. PKC Road officers agree that the speed limit should not change. The change of landscape with new Kinross-shire Committee may be able to effect some change by asking PKC road safety to bring a paper on road speed limit reduction to 40mph. Residents will then be able to give their opinion. Cllr S Forde enquired if Bowhouse was considered part of Scotlandwell? C Purves confirmed that Bowhouse is separate and not considered a settlement on the Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP lasts for 10yrs and is reviewed by Scottish Ministers. Clearly over 10yrs a situation could change a great deal. Road safety officers will talk about "frontage" in assessment of a stretch of road and general it is considered that speed limits should be self-enforcing which seems like a confusing concept, but you can still get dangerous driving and excessive speed with lowered speed limits. A pedestrian crossing was not a possibility due to the potentially fast moving traffic and blind summit. The Chair expressed thoughts on two fronts: firstly regarding budget availability for requested projects. Secondly, what level of influence would the devolved committee have, and would their opinions be recognised. The Chair recognised that the committee appeared to be a positive step. On the first item WCLlr C Purves outlined that the Kinross-shire Committee decisions were considered to be decisions of the Council and should therefore be implemented. On the second point of budgets there would be a devolved budget but this would only be reviewed in Jan22. The Chair: pointed out that anecdotally from residents, traffic still exceeds speed limits despite speed limit lowering. The CC had requested data on speed limits from the point that 20mph limits were brought in, but this had not been received yet. Police Liaison Officer A Mitchinson commented that while driving through Portmoak on patrol, the police had been aware of the frequent speed limit changes. A cut-out Police person, "Pop-up Kirsty" is now in place just

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outside Scotlandwell. This in conjunction with Community Speedwatch may contribute towards speed limit adherence. In a Community Speedwatch scheme volunteers go out with speed gun and high-vis in groups of 3. If a vehicle appears to be regularly exceeding speed limit volunteers report to Police and police will take appropriate action. Minimum 3 volunteers at each locale ensures: one person to use speed gun, one to take down registration, one to corroborate. The Secretary had made initial enquiries for interested people to volunteer and these had shown some enthusiasm and quite a few volunteers.

Opinion was expressed that the memorial at West Bowhouse location of motorcycle crash fatality is growing and causing a potential hazard on the blind corner. The Chair commented in response that any action to remove the memorial could be seen as inappropriate to the bereaved relatives. WCllr W Robertson advised that items placed on roadside should not cause distraction or block sight lines, but given the sensitivity it is unlikely PKC will actually do anything to remove the memorial. If members of the public encounter an issue on the road at the memorial site, e.g. people on the road or debris, the public should contact the police immediately and they would proceed to the site to assess and rectify the situation. The Chair stated that if the memorial continued to be a problem, the CC would be prepared to write to the family of the bereaved as required.

Hedges: a Member of the Public, commented that the hedges along between Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell still have areas where cut-back is required. Also that the footpath surface is crumbling. WCllr C Purves had requested earlier in 2021 that Gary McConnell ask the landowners to cut back the hedges, and promised to ask again. The CC pointed to the problematic areas of the path from Scotlandwell to the Village Hall where the embankment has encroached onto the pavement and that possibly cutting into the embankment may destabilise it.

E & W Balgedie: signs and road signage need to be corrected. Daryl McEown of PKC has requested the contractors to come out and check the changes. Expecting this to be this week.

E Balgedie: a 30mph speed mitigation limit has now been introduced. Physical speed mitigation measures are not likely to be implemented before 2022-23. WCllr C Purves commented that that sounds like a long time, but it is in the next financial year which is promising. This is another item that the local Kinross-shire committee can look at. A resident of Easter Balgedie commented that generally some reduction of speed has been achieved. They also requested if police can do morning and evening police speed checks. WCllr C Purves comments that the speed limits do tend to push down the speed of the traffic even if not all vehicles are compliant.

Item 3 Glenlomond sewage, and Water Supply to Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie: Cllr A Davidson updated: Jim Fairly MSP had done a site visit to the sewage works which was appreciated and encouraging. J Fairly intended to chasing the agenda. A Davidson will update.

Item 4 Construction of hill track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood: drainage, gorse clearing, electric fencing: no update

Item 5 Portmoak Primary parking issues: no update

Item 6 Community Investment Fund: WCllr Purves advised there was no formal update on recipients of funding as yet. Information and confirmations will be circulated formally to applicants

Item 7 Issue of local Affordable Housing: WCllr R Watters wasn't in attendance to update on the action from the Sep PCC meeting. W Robertson commented on the affordable housing issue. Group on PKC has been set up to look at issues of policy implementation. Policy is good, just not being implemented as intended

4. New Matters arising: none

5. Reports:

a. Police Reports:

- a. Liaison Officer A Mitchinson had updated on the Community Speed watch program earlier in the meeting. An initial Speedwatch meeting on 26/10/21 will be attended by two members of PCC

Recent crimes included: theft of sheep scales in September, which highlighted the need for residents and farmers alike to ensure equipment and belongings are securely stored where possible. Also in September a man claiming to be a boiler salesman had been reported. The Police encouraged locals to feel confident about not answering their doors, and to call police if they were scared. In October a 'phone had been stolen at swimming pool. 9 traffic incidents reported to

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police. Of note: a large number of Police will be deployed to Glasgow COP26, so call out times may be impacted for duration of the conference.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

- a. 21/01531/FLL: Land 45 Metres North Of Causeway Cottage Scotlandwell. Change of use of workshop to holiday accommodation unit. CC agreed no comment

(2) Existing Applications:

- (a) 21/00997/FLL | Erection of 22 dwellinghouses, 3 garages and a garage with ancillary accommodation, formation of SUDS pond, landscaping and associated works (LDP site H54) | Land 100 Metres South East Of Cragton Villa Rost Gardens Scotlandwell.

The Chair had been in discussion with Cllr D Morris who had contacted SEPA, response has now been received: SEPA are currently examining a peat assessment plan submitted by the contractor. Anecdotally, very little examination has been done on site. Cllrs D Paterson and S Forde commented again that it is likely that there is between 2-5m of peat based on the building of their own houses near the locale.

ACTION: CC to contact SEPA and PKC Planning to request public display of the peat assessment and enable full examination and comment on this.

(b) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee
Most recent meeting on 21/09/21. Cllr K Donaldson had attended. There had been further discussion of the planned new paths, though it did not seem that CC had not received any info. on this item. Work on the plant due to start in Feb22.

6. Paths Group: no update.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts

General Account: £590.85

Michael Bruce Account: £1372.65

Treasurer currently awaiting £150 grant.

A cheque had been written to pay for the maintenance of the CC website

Secretary to submit invoice for Zoom license

ACTION: Treasurer and Secretary to meet to sign Credit Union documents to proceed the account changes

8. Ward Councillors' Reports

WCllr W Robertson: Flagged the Speedwatch meeting on 26/10/21. Secretary & K Donaldson to attend

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Item 8: Portmoak Community Woodland Group: re. proposed removal of fencing at the Community Orchard opposite the village hall.

The Chair and Secretary outlined the issue. The Portmoak Woodland Group had reached out to the CC to obtain their support in the Woodland Group's preference to retain the fence along the lower road-side edge of the Community Woodland. The CC were in support of retaining the fence to ensure safety for young children, and to prevent animals running into the road.

ACTION: Chair & Secretary to draft letter to the Woodland Trust requesting that the roadside fence be retained as preferred by the Portmoak Woodland Group.

Item 10: Residents' request to formally register West Bowhouse as a settlement

C Purves: this item is being looked into. Update at future meetings.

10. AOB: none

11. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 9 November 2021, Online

The Chair closed the meeting at 2115hrs

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