

Portmoak Community Council

Meeting of Community Council

Tuesday 09 November 2021, 1930 – 2100hrs

Online meeting via Zoom

AGENDA

- 1. Attendance & Apologies:** WCllrs W Robertson, M Barnacle, R Watters, and C Purves. Cllrs: A Miller (Chair), S McGregor (Secretary), A Davidson (Treasurer), D Morris (Vice-Chair), S Forde, D Paterson; and 5 members of the Public.
- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 12 October 2021:** Approved
- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**
- 4. Item 1 Kinross-shire Committee**

WCllr MBarnacle is convener of new Kinross-shire Committee. Awaiting PKC officers confirmation of first official meeting which will probably be in Dec21. MBarnacle confirmed the Scheme allows for a substitution in place of the assigned member from PCC. It was agreed the Chair AMiller would attend the committee meetings and Vice-Chair DMorris confirmed his willingness to attend in Chair's place, if required. MBarnacle has circulated his ideas on agenda for first meeting categorised as long term issues, short term issues, and budget ideas. C Purves had circulated a request to members for a list of priority items. MBarnacle mentioned the topic of a Kinross-shire Regional Park in brief: flagging the need for forward planning to other authorities that would also be involved. Engagement with other authorities would be key. DMorris mentioned he had been involved in previous discussions regarding a Regional Park and a key question was if ScotGov would make money available, at that time it had seemed unlikely, but it is possible that the situation may have changed now with more momentum for regional national parks from ScotGov. MBarnacle confirmed that DMorris was probably correct in his summations. **ACTION:** As time was pressing prior to the first meeting, A Miller confirmed he would circulate a request to PCC members for their thoughts on relevant points of discussion to raise.

Item 2 Road Safety Action Update in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell:

The Chair commented that his request for provision of the data from trial of 20mph zone was still outstanding. Chair flagged that speed of traffic still appears excessive and physical mitigation measures are still required to slow traffic, by way of road cushions or buildouts. This has been an item on PCC agenda for many months and years. CPurves had requested the info. on Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood trials. Data does show that traffic speeds are reduced. W Robertson did however confirm that he had seen the 20mph trial data, which had concluded that the 20mph zoning had been ineffective. It was suggested that, Kinross-shire Committee can look at this issue and decide how to proceed. D Paterson commented that, anecdotally, in Scotlandwell traffic exiting the village to the South via the Causeway seemed to be going faster than ever leaving the village. SForde asked the WCllrs about possibility of speed cushions on this stretch. D Morris commented that speed cushions often did not appear to be a good measure in most locations, as some of the Kinnesswood cushions had proved. D Morris felt there was a need for PKC to agree to physical build-outs in at pinch points and 1-way priorities in all the communities. D Morris had recently travelled through Norway where comparable roads have a general limit of 50mph speed limit with hamlets at 25mph. ScotGov is considering reduction of speed limits across the country. Clear intention across governments to reduce speed limits. D Morris suggested the whole of the A911 speed through Portmoak should be reduced to 40pmh, from the northern boundary near the standing stones (Orwell farm) through to the southern boundary at Auchmuir Bridge, with a 20mph in E&W Balgedie, Kinnesswood, Scotlandwell, and Bowhouse. The Secretary agreed with this suggestion. A member of the public from Easter Balgedie commented that the speed limit restrictions there do not seem to have reduced the speed at all, anecdotal evidence of drivers travelling at 50mph and excess, also abuse being called by drivers towards residents and farmers trying to cross the road.

The Chair and members of PCC agreed that physical mitigation measures are needed in addition to speed limits.

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WCllr Barnacle suggested that the item be added to the priority agenda items for Kinross-shire Committee. WCllr Purves suggested the A911 Route Action Plan would be useful in this situation in terms of estimates of funding and taking requests to PCC. On S-Well to Auchmuir bridge, there is conflict of opinion on best approach and WCllr Purves suggested employing the method of a Charette to find united approach. **ACTION:** Retain on agenda and discuss following commencement of Kinross-shire Committee meetings

Item 3 Glenlomond sewage, and Water Supply to Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie: Cllr A Davidson provided an update. Minor repairs to the system were being done by local residents, and the village had had no report from Jim Fairley MSP as yet. Cllr Davidson asked if the WCllrs could bring pressure to bear to get Scottish Water to get them to adopt the system. WCllr Watters offered to speak with Jim Fairlie to chase on the status of this. D Morris agreed that pressure needs to be brought on Scottish Water and Jim Fairlie should be encouraged to take this up with the minister responsible for Scottish Water. **ACTION:** keep on agenda and monitor. RWatters to discuss with Jim Fairlie.

Item 4 Portmoak Primary parking issues: Cllr D Morris commented that issues seemed to be ok at present, there was no further update, this is not a high priority item, and attention needs to be given to other transport agenda issues. **ACTION:** retain item on agenda for update.

Item 5 Issue of local Affordable Housing: update from WCllrs: The WCllrs accepted that there was deviation within PKC Planning Dept on applying the policy as regards including Affordable Housing, which is a requirement in developments of more than 5 houses or more. The policy required affordable housing to be provided on site in such developments or at an alternative location nearby, with the commuted sum option being very much a last resort. WCllrs confirmed this was the policy and they were pressing for adherence to the policy. And for planning officers to stop using the commuted sum option unless there were exceptional circumstances. PCC noted that failure to follow the policy was resulting in virtually no affordable housing being built in rural areas. As one of the WCllrs who sits on planning committees, WCllr Watters said he felt responsibility to press for an explanation of why Affordable Housing is often not provided on site. He stressed the need for WCllrs to remind Planning Officers that Affordable Housing is required in rural areas and it is wrong that the funds secured through the commuted sum route appear to be used primarily for affordable housing provision in urban areas. The Chair commented that a fundamental issue is the scale of housing. For example, the recent H54 Scotlandwell application had 22 houses with values between £400 - £650K, with no allocation for Affordable Housing at all. Cllr Morris agreed the policy of PKC is very sound, and there was no need for WCllrs to seek policy revision. The fundamental problem appears to be the PKC Planning Officers who encourage Developers to go down the commuted sum fee route instead of incorporating affordable housing within their planning applications. Cllr Morris requested that the four WCllrs should write to the PKC Chief Executive, to request a memorandum to Officers, with copy to PCC, which instructed the planning officers to follow the PKC policy. A member of the public commented on the need to build a mix of sustainable housing to represent the communities we live in and for the future. Cllr McGregor asked for clarification if mixed level housing was also required by the policy in addition to Affordable Housing and WCllr Barnacle confirmed this was the case. WCllr Watters explained that Affordable Housing can take different forms, and the commuted sum fee will be spent by PKC wherever AH can be best created. He agreed that the way the policy is being interpreted by officers is leading to no affordable housing being provided in rural areas. **ACTION:** WCllr MBarnacle to write to PKC Chief Executive on this issue on behalf of all four WCllrs

5. New Matters arising:

Item 1: Proposed Changes to constituency boundaries for UK Parliament: WCllr CPurves outlined the details: the Boundary Commission for Scotland has sought to change UK Constituency boundaries to make them more similar in size. The initial proposal has been published: 1. the Kinross-shire ward is proposed to be split between two different constituencies. 2. These seats will be shared with Fife rather than other parts of Perth and Kinross. 3. Fossoway and Cleish will be included in a proposed 'West Fife' constituency dominated by Dunfermline. 4. The rest of Kinross-shire will be included in a proposed 'Glenrothes and Loch Leven' dominated by Glenrothes. The proposals can be viewed here: <https://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies> WCllr CPurves stressed that the proposed boundaries were drawn up under strict numerical criteria so that similar number of voters were present in all constituencies. This had to be central to any response – if PCC wanted to oppose the proposals, alternative suggestions would have to be made which met the numerical criteria. WCllr CPurves raised concerns that local issues faced by rural communities such as broadband, tourism and farming are very different to those faced in urban areas like Dunfermline or Glenrothes. Kinross-shire

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shares a Council with Perthshire and it makes far more sense to be included in a single constituency with other parts of Perth & Kinross. Also, Kinross-shire is a cohesive community and splitting the ward between two seats would lead to poorer representation. As an historic county in its own right, Kinross-shire should be contained within a single constituency. Not least was the issue that the Kinross-shire Committee had just got the go-ahead to form as an area committee to focus on local Kinross-shire issues and the boundary change could undermine the opportunities the new committee offered. WCllr Robertson, MBarnacle, and RWatters agreed with the points that had been made. WCllr MBarnacle and a Member of the Public both commented the boundaries are not concerned with communities, they are concerned with numbers, and sought to split up a country on numbers, rather than identity and geography. The Consultation has 4 weeks left to go, all correspondence will be published. PCC encourage members of Kinross-shire and Portmoak to send their comments via: On-line:

www.bcs2023review.com By e-mail: bcsc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk or by writing to: Boundary Commission for Scotland, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD

ACTION: PCC members to discuss issue and consider representation to retain Kinross-shire as a single unit

6. Reports:

- a. **Police Reports:** PC a Mitchison was not able to connect to the meeting due to technical issues. But provided a short update via email of two recent incidents of note: firstly on 13/12/21 a glider had crashed into a field near Portmoak airfield. PC Mitchinson had attended the incident and fortunately the pilot had not suffered life changing or serious injuries. Second a door-to-door caller in Kinnesswood who claimed to represent Cancer Research and requesting donations. The Police asked residents to remain alert and ask for ID when approached by any cold caller. There have been approximately eight traffic related incidents in the nearby area.

Community Speed watch program: WRobertson updated on the project. Speedwatch meeting had been hosted by PC AMitchinson. Volunteers were requested from Portmoak. The Secretary had previously posted on Portmoak Community Facebook requesting volunteers and had had a good response. In terms of timelines, it is unlikely anything will happen before beginning of 2022. There were concerns voiced that volunteers may be disincentivised if they were asked to do Speedwatch in a different area, but were motivated instead by the opportunity to make their own area safer. The WCllrs thought that the scheme should be flexible to accommodate the wish of volunteers to do speedwatch in their own area

ACTION: Secretary to post an update to Social media.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

- a. 21/01742/FLL | Alteration to garage | Shanthi Wester Balgedie Kinross KY13 9HE
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.

Application has been withdrawn at present. There was no firm knowledge at meeting as to why the application was withdrawn.

ACTION: WCllr MBarnacle to speak with Sean Paton, the officer on this application to ascertain the reason for withdrawal. PCC to retain item on agenda in case of future reapplications

(b) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: no update

- 6. Paths Group update:** Paths Group had supplied an update report. Paths Group volunteers continue to keep local paths clear mainly removing gorse and other overgrowing vegetation in the Stephen's Field area. A particular problem within 50 metres of the access gates to Stephen's Field from Bishop Terrace was a lot of dog poo, and the Group encouraged dog walkers to please remove their dogs' poo

7. Treasurer CC Accounts:

General Account: £ 499.70

Michael Bruce Way Account: £ 1522.82

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The Treasurer had submitted accounts to PKC. A Grant of £700 was expected. £150 grant had been received. The Treasurer and Secretary had met to complete and sign forms for opening an account at the Credit Union.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports

WRobertson: a Special County meeting was to be held on the next Monday on the issue of rural poverty action.

WRobertson gave the troubling statistic that there are 5500 children in PKC described as living in poverty which is a 22% rise since last survey. Interesting to hear the discussion that evolves from that meeting and WRobertson would update at next PCC meeting.

RWatters: The Recycling Contracts for PKC are coming up for renewal, and these should be reviewed in context of sustainability and environmental issues. Flooding between Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell at the Golf Course. Silt traps were to be installed to establish how much silt comes off the hill and advise future for alleviating issues of silt blocking up drains and exacerbating flooding. Cllr D Morris requested a copy of the report. RWatters agreed to send this report to PCC. DMorris felt the solution was to plant more trees and stabilise the hillside in landslip areas.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary: Nothing additional

10. AOB

Kinneston Memorial: significant amounts of items left in memoriam. A few members of the community have commented that these are causing distraction particularly at night in the beam of headlights. PCC do not suggest that the memorial be taken away and have all sympathies with the families and friends of the motorcyclist who had died there. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Cllr D Paterson and one member of the public felt the memorial was distracting to drivers at night. 4 additional members of the public had raised the same complaint with Cllrs in the weeks prior to the meeting. WRobertson suggested that PCC take a step back and do not get directly involved and write instead to PKC. The Secretary thought that the issue was not one for PCC to address, and that if safety was being compromised by people or items distracting on road then this should be reported to the police as suggested at the October PCC meeting by PC A Mitchinson. **ACTION:** Chair to write to PKC re: the safety issue

Chair commended Kinnesswood in Bloom for winning the Nourishing your Community RHS award. The Chair also thanked Scotlandwell in Bloom and the many local people who also attend to public areas locally and improve the local environment.

PKC Village Hall: Chair had attended the AGM for the Hall. The Committee had agreed to repair the floor. Due diligence was carried out with 3 companies before lock down, but the selected company has gone into liquidation and funds paid upfront (a deposit of approx. £12,000) had been lost. Also windows are now needing replaced approx. £6,000k. Day-to-day hall hires are the main stay of income at present as events cannot be held just now. The Chair suggested that PCC should look at the background and ways to potentially help the Hall as a centre within Portmoak for meetings and social occasions. **ACTION:** A Miller to explore possible funding avenues.

DMorris commented on the COP26 Conference taking place, and suggested this could be added to a future agenda to reflect on the conference outcomes and potential relevance for Portmoak

11. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 14 December 2021, Online

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