

Portmoak Community Council

Tuesday 14 February 2023, 1930 – 2100hrs

Meeting Online, via Zoom

Draft Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** WCllrs D Cuthbert, N Freshwater; Cllrs A Miller (Chair), D Morris (Vice-Chair), A Davidson (Treasurer), D Paterson (Member), K Donaldson (Associate Member). 2 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllr W Robertson, Cllr S McGregor (Secretary).

- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 13/12/22, and 08/11/22**

Due to the connectivity problems with the December 13/12/22 PCC meeting, insufficient people were in attendance at meeting to approve the minutes from the previous November meeting on 08/11/22. Therefore two sets of draft minutes from the Nov22 and Dec22 meetings required to be approved. There were no issues raised.

Cllr D Morris: proposed

Cllr D Cuthbert: seconded

Nov22 and Dec22 draft minutes Approved.

- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1: Kinross-shire Local Committee update: The Chair offered his apologies that he had been unable to attend the last meeting of the KLC. WCllr DCuthbert gave an update: plan to hold next KLC meeting in person at the Loch Leven Community Campus. Agenda for next meeting includes more value topics: will include a road safety update; an evaluation report on Kinross-shire Local Committee itself and a proposed change of format to be discussed at the meeting; and a briefing from the Planning Office on the wind turbines proposed in the Ochils. On the latter Wind Turbine: in essence have not seen one of these applications before as does not come via the normal planning channels. Handled by the Scottish Reporters Unit (SRU) covered by Electricity Act. SRU will attend to brief the meeting. It is hoped it will be an interesting meeting.

The discussion moved forward prematurely to Agenda Item 5: the issue of Phosphate addition to drinking water within the Loch Leven Catchment area also of relevance to KLC. In the absence of WCllr WRobertson to provide an update the Chair queried if 1. this item was on the KLC agenda and 2. had a reply been received from ScotGov Minister following WRobertson's letter? WCllr DCuthbert replied there nothing on agenda as yet, but confirmed the process that the four WCllrs are following is to hold meetings with relevant organisations including Scottish Water, SEPA, NatureScot, Environment Scotland, and PKC. One meeting had been held before Christmas and another was due in the next few months. In principle these meetings involved the four WCllrs trying to put pressure on Scottish Water, who are responsible for discharge to Loch Leven, and SEPA who are the regulators. Currently there is no requirement for Scottish Water to limit discharge, and to the best of the WCllrs' knowledge there is no monitoring equipment in place so the volumes of and severity of pollutants in the discharge are unknown. Once some facts are clarified then WCllrs will start involving the other relevant parties such as local CC members. If there are phosphates being discharged then PKC Planning will become involved as there will have to be some forward planning as to the impact on Loch Leven. WCllrs intend to keep the CCs abreast of what is happening. The Chair thanked WCllr DCuthbert for his update, intimating that DMorris had been attending the KLC and had raised the need to keep local CC's informed, as they had not been invited to attend the other meetings held with relevant bodies or yet been appraised of the discussions or outcomes. PCC hoped a level of communication with the KLC and CCs could be maintained. Cllr DMorris agreed he would try to attend the next KLC meeting, but commented that the last 3 meetings he had tried to attend he had not been able to participate, only view and listen to proceedings, his attendance had also not been noted in minutes. This was thought to be likely to be IT permissions. WCllr DCuthbert has asked Officers to doublecheck access rights for all relevant participants. DMorris disagreed with the principle that CCs should not attend the meetings until facts were clarified. DMorris drew attention to the Kinross Newsletter article by Brian Darcy explaining the pollution issues; he had been involved in the 1990s to reduce Loch Leven pollution, and at that time the loch clarity had become very good, but had deteriorated since. This needed to be investigated and probed and mitigation measures put in place. It was presumed the issues were largely due sewage overflow and agricultural pollution.

WCllr D Cuthbert said the causes were unclear or if other factors were present such as global warming causing release of phosphates from sediment. This is why the establishment of the facts was so important.

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Item 2: Road Safety Action Update: The Chair updated: there was an undertaking of PCC and WCllrs to look at the Road Safety issues with the Head of the Roads Dept. The list that was supplied by PKC Roads for items pertaining to the Portmoak area had caused confusion, some were easily recognised priorities, other priorities were missing, and some items seemed irrelevant or outdated. PCC members had found it very difficult to prioritise the items assigned to Portmoak. It was felt it would be useful to request a teams meeting with Daryl McEown to discuss all items.

The Chair brought forward **Agenda Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path:** WCllr WRobertson had emailed the roads dept. simply asking for a comment in principle for the proposed route plan and the mitigations needed in lieu of this. This is a high priority issue, and no reply has been received. Cllr DMorris agreed that this was a fair comment from the Chair, and that a complete list of priority items for both Roads and Greenspace Paths needed to be produced so the two can be dealt with in conjunction. DMorris intended to try to speak with Roads Dept. in next couple of weeks. DMorris also cited the A911 Route Action Plan, intended to address all the issues in a considered plan but not yet circulated. The Chair emphasised PCCs wish to have a constructive conversation with Roads Dept. so that needless projects could be shelved and money spent wisely.

ACTION: Chair to request a meeting with Daryl McEown at PKC Roads.

West Bowhouse 40mph speed restriction: this was an actionable item from the last PCC meeting. Also item had been approved by vote by the KLC in 2022. No action has been taken, though it was included in the PKC Roads list for prioritisation. Other discussion has taken place regarding moving some of the temporary special Covid projects speed restrictions that were put in place but the Bowhouse speed restriction had been voted on by the KLC and was a priority item. The Chair flagged that this item has been in the pipeline for a year, and had been definitely voted for at KLC level, it was basically signage that should be quickly actionable. A Resident of Bowhouse spoke briefly reiterating that the road configuration at Bowhouse meant that traffic exiting and entering the housing, and children crossing the road to catch the school bus, did so across a 60mph speed limit preceded by a blind summit. The Chair agreed to pick up with DMcEown.

D Cuthbert commented that that Road Safety team were under huge pressure, with a recruitment freeze and a deficit of dept employees. The permanent implementation of COVID emergency speed restrictions were time critical to produce TPROs by a certain dates. The Road Project priority list was discussed: DCuthbert thought the list useful for providing a starting point for clearing off irrelevant items and adding priority items. He agreed a conversation with Daryl McEown would be helpful to this end. He hoped that an allocation for new staff to the Roads Safety Team would be included in the forthcoming budget to address the lack of resources.

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: this item had been covered earlier in meeting. The Chair reiterated the need for the Roads Safety Team to provide comment and agreement in principle on the route plan provided by the PCC. DCuthbert confirmed this item had been raised a number of times and that the aforementioned lack of resource affected this project.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: The Chair requested an update from WCllrs. DCuthbert and NFreshwater had no update. ACTION: NFreshwater to chase this item with PKC Greenspace.

Item 5: Phosphate addition to drinking water within Loch Leven catchment area: item had been covered in previous **Item 1. KLC Update.** DCuthbert added that WCllrs had attended meetings with environmental agencies, certain elements had been dismissive of the urgency of this issue regarding drinking water, the priority was Loch Leven. It was proving difficult to convince the agencies that drinking water quality was an issue. The Chair commented that in terms of building and development Kinross was well ahead of its allocation. Some evidence showed a direct correlation between development and pollution in Loch Leven over recent years. It would be simple for the Planning Dept to restrict further damage by restricting development in the Loch Leven Catchment area. Within PKC the Planning Dept. could restrict multiple and /or large planning applications unless developers contribute to upgrading the existing sewage treatment systems to be fit for purpose. PKC need to take responsibility for their part on this. The developer contribution to the existing sewage system is inadequate.

4. New Matters arising:

Item 1: Portmoak Cemetery maintenance: a complaint had been lodged regarding debris, soil and foliage clippings that had been left in the cemetery on and around gravestones. This had been raised to the relevant PKC dept, and the Chair was pleased to be able to report that he had been to the cemetery and the debris had been tidied up.

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Item 2: Big Place Conversation: Kinross-shire & Glenfarg, PKC Planning: PCC had received information on this PKC Initiative to have conversations with communities across P&K about their towns and villages and how they envisage the future. Intended to contribute to strategy for the future re: housing, all aspects of transport, green spaces etc. PKC intend to hold consultations around May-July within Kinross-shire and Glenfarg. The Chair invited comment from WCllrs: DCuthbert confirmed this was to do with LDP3. This item would be brought to the KLC. DCuthbert thought it was a worthwhile exercise and encouraged members of the public to attend and contribute. ACTION: Secretary to respond to initial enquiry from PKC

Item 3: King's Coronation events funding: Correspondence had been sent to PCC from Jamie Montgomery regarding funding available for events being organised around the celebration of the King's Coronation, particularly the Coronation Big Lunch. Financial support is available, local community organisations may be interested. Timescales are tight: can take up to 10weeks for funding to be approved. ACTION: Secretary to circulate details via subscribers and Portmoak Community Facebook.

Item 4: Better Place to Live Fair in Kinross Campus on Saturday 25th March: This event being held by the Kinross-shire Partnership in conjunction with the Loch Leven Community Campus to organise a fair for local organisations and businesses to publicise themselves to local residents. To book a stand is free for organisations, and for businesses it is £10, all profits to go to charity. A booking form is available. ACTION: Secretary to circulate this to subscribers and post to Portmoak Community Facebook.

5. Reports:

- a. **Police Reports:** a police report had not been circulated to PCC members at time of meeting. WCllr NFreshwater commented that the Police were generally proactive in this regard. ACTION: Secretary to follow up. The Chair raised the item of Community Speedwatch, in context of high number of comments received from locals about this frequent occurrence within Portmoak. NFreshwater highlighted that Fossoway CC were in the process of recruiting for a Speedwatch Campaign and may be a good contact. KDonaldson highlighted the Vane Farm burglary that had taken place. Theft had taken place of telescopes and high value bird watching equipment. Any information re: perpetrators should be passed to the Police.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

22/02207/FLL | Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and garages | Land 20 Metres West Of Applerigg Leslie Road Scotlandwell. Close Date for comment: Fri 17 Feb 2023
No comment

(2) Existing Applications

(a) 22/01191/FLL | Erection of 16 dwellinghouses (3 with detached garages, one with detached garage/ancillary accommodation), formation of 6 plots for affordable dwellinghouses, formation of SUDS pond, landscaping and associated works Open for comment icon

Land 100 Metres South East Of Cragton Villa Rost Gardens Scotlandwell

The Chair had seen some mechanical diggers on site, which may indicate an update on Peat extraction may be forthcoming. The CC will continue to monitor this application and raise any actions. The Community are encouraged to flag any comments to PCC also.

(b) 22/01723/FLL | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, alterations to wall to form vehicular access/parking area and associated works | Briarbank The Cobbles Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HL.

The Chair updated that PCC had made representation on behalf of the Community to make objection to the application. PCC had received notification that PKC have rejected the application. Cllr DMorris commented that there has been some work done by way of replacement windows, and there would now be some enforcement. Planning Officer was intending to make a site visit.

(3) Planning Decisions

(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: KDonaldson confirmed that building works were proceeding as before. Next meeting was 29/03/23. Lots of traffic on roads. The Chair asked about signage that had previously been requested: KDonaldson confirmed that no Give Way or Stop signs had been put up yet. Last Liaison meeting discussed raising this item with PKC for action.

(b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: Hargreaves meeting on 23/01/23 with Fife Community Councils representatives and DMorris on behalf of Portmoak CC. Seemed to be support for the report that has been produced, DMorris to circulate report to PCC and WCllrs. Agreed to have

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follow up meeting on 27/03/23 to bring together Fife Coast & Countryside Trust and PKC equivalent to discuss possibility of external funding to drive the Paths Network idea forward. In principle support from PKC Countryside Trust for this project. TRACKS to be asked to be involved.

6. Paths Group update: Portmoak Paths Group will re-commence its spring work programme in March. A meeting is scheduled with Alistair, the PKC Ranger on 01/03/23 to walk local paths and identify priorities for the Paths' Group work programme. Again the Paths Group wish to put out a plea for more volunteers - they have plenty equipment and tools and training are provided. It's good exercise, very sociable, and satisfying work that benefits the community greatly. Contact Anne for more information 07547 457046.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts: Balances unchanged since last Month.

Main Account: £299.51

Michael Bruce Account: £1523.00

Treasurer has applied for £150 grant for Paths Group, should be received this month. Good news is Credit Union account for Michael Bruce Way has been approved and opened. Treasurer will apply for balance transfer and transactions should be easier to conduct ongoing at the Credit Union.

Treasurer to complete grant application this week, to enable grant from PKC to top up the Main account for PCC.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports:

The Chair noted to WCllrs that the PCC constitution had been signed by Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. ACTION: Secretary to verify if constitution has been returned to PKC. NFreshwater had spoken with Christine Grant and she had indicated this was acceptable.

DCuthbert: Highlighted that he was currently involved in budget discussions which were complex and WCllrs are trying to find all possible means to limit the budget to meet shortfall.

NFreshwater: Loch Leven issue a letter will be going to the ScotGov Minister on behalf of all four WCllrs. SEPA will only respond to guidance from the Scottish Government and hopefully the

9. Matters notified to the Secretary

(1) Launch of The Gannochy Trust Youth Panel Fund: a funding opportunity for young people and run by a panel of 12 young people between ages of 14-21. The Youth Panel will meet four times a year to assess and approve applications of up to £10,000 from an annual funding pot of £100,000. Fund is open to registered charities that work in Perth & Kinross. ACTION: Secretary will circulate details and post to FB.

10. AOB:

(1) New Building at Kinross Cattery: KDonaldson commented that a building appeared to be being constructed but no application to PKC had been submitted. The Chair thought this might be a permitted development under existing planning controls. ACTION: Secretary to query with the Planning Enforcement Officer

(2) Royal Mail issues: the Treasurer raised the difficulty of posting items with items going missing, she had hand delivered documents to PKC, and Credit Union and hand delivered them for certainty.

(3) Glenlomond: Treasurer noted that site clearance has started on the former Nursing Home site.

(4) Kinross Newsletter: the PCC member names were incorrect at time of meeting, but this has been reported to Newsletter for correction.

(5) DPaterson: issue with cars parking behind the traffic calming buildouts, suggestion that double yellow lines should be painted behind the buildouts due to the lengthy obstacle and single lane traffic such parking creates. There was agreement from meeting participants on this issue. ACTION: PCC to investigate if this is a traffic violation and discuss mitigation.

Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, 14 March 2023, to be held Online

Note: The April PCC meeting will be held in-person at the Portmoak Village Hall, 1930 – 2100hrs.

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