

Portmoak Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 14 March 2023, 1930 – 2100hrs

Meeting Online, via Zoom

- Attendance:** WCllrs W Robertson; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson; and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllrs NFreshwater, RWatters.

- Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 14/02/23**

AGM memo was incorrect date... should be Oct23

Unfinished sentence on Item 8

Proposed: ADavidson

Seconded: KDonaldson

- Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update: Cllr DMorris had attended the most recent meeting where the focus had been the application for a potential windfarm in Ochils. DMorris saw a need for a map of windfarms, so as to identify existing farms and provide context for new projects. Proposed turbines will be huge – taller than the Queensferry Bridge in the Forth. DMorris believes PCC should make an objection, and PKC should object and take the planning proposal to a public enquiry. Chair understood that a windfarm map national database existed which showed sight lines and light flicker. The Chair agreed that a considered approach was necessary with regard to windfarms as turbines become larger and more impactful.

KLC Pilot Review: WCllr WRobertson highlighted that the KLC Pilot is under planned 1year review and is at present being monitored as the end of the pilot scheme approaches. All KLC participants are being interviewed as part of review. The KLC example is being followed as there were moves from other local areas of PKC to establish their own local committees. The Chair confirmed that he had been interviewed by an independent body on his opinions on the KLC.

Item 2: Road Safety Action Update: PKC Road Safety Priority List: Chair had contacted Daryl McEown at PKC Roads with a view to arranging a meeting by zoom / in person. The meeting was needed to review the items on the PKC Road Safety Priority List and other items outstanding and attempt to eliminate low priority or irrelevant items. Chair and Vice Chair intended to meet after this to bring an update to PCC April meeting. WCllr WRobertson confirmed that the Ward Councillors have spoken to the Roads Safety Team to emphasize that the no.1 priority is to get speed limits introduced in Portmoak at Bowhouse. He also flagged the inclusion of direct public requests to the list, suggesting that PCC review and streamline according to their understanding of priority as agreed at PCC meetings. Cllr DMorris was firmly of the view that PKC should only be including Roads items that are discussed and ratified by the CC and the Community, not direct public requests from individuals. WRobertson was able to confirm also that the PKC Budget has been agreed and there is allocation to employ an additional team member within the Roads Safety team which should enable the team in their work.

Speedwatch: the Secretary will pick this up this month and make contact with previously interested parties.

Westfield Liaison Committee Meeting and road signage: that has been requested to PKC for speed limit signs at the junction of the private road to the public road: it was suggested that if a meeting was being held with the Roads Safety Team then the Westfield road signage issue be addressed at that meeting. The WCllrs had already raised this item. Cllr KDonaldson said that the Developer is willing to pay for the signs; some signage has gone up with a Give Way and 20mph speed limit.

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: Chair has sent off some additional correspondence around the next steps on this item. The Chair referenced the statement from WCllr WRobertson that the Roads Team have agreed the PCC Path Route proposals. The concern for PCC is whether PCC can pursue landowner consent for the path routing. Chair has some details of ownership. A Feasibility study would follow Land Owner consent, but PCC are also concerned that a feasibility study should not be actioned if PKC Roads are in any way likely to veto the proposals put forward by PCC. Both the Chair and ViceChair are nervous that they do not have any definite confirmation that PKC have reviewed the proposal and agree to it. WCllr WRobertson stated that written

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agreement must be obtained from Landowners that they accept the route of the path through their land. Once this is obtained WClIr WRobertson will ask the Roads Team to start a feasibility study. Funding should not be a reason not to proceed. The Chair pointed out that no money is being invested to improve the existing inadequate path. ClIr DMorris agreed that landowner agreement was preferable, but PKC had alternative powers available, if necessary. There was concern that path construction on the West side would become out of phase with the PKC creation of road crossings, as the public would be likely to use the unfinished path and unintentionally create a danger at the point where they had to cross A911. ACTION: Chair agreed to proceed with obtaining permission from Landowners as the next step

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: a PKC Greenspace memo had confirmed that the Scotlandwell play facilities were on list to be upgraded but this had been delayed slightly. Still in pipeline to be completed.

Item 5: Phosphate addition to drinking water within Loch Leven catchment area: The Chair highlighted the importance of this item ongoing, but there was little recent information to report. The article on phosphate levels in Loch Leven which had appeared in the March 23 Newsletter was very interesting and had highlighted that the Farming practises locally seemed to be quite acceptable, but the overwhelming contribution was from additional Building and Development in the Loch Leven Catchment Area. WClIr WRobertson commented on the fact that phosphate addition to drinking water happens all over Scotland which had an ongoing and increasing annual cost, whereas grants to upgrade and remove lead pipes from older properties would be a better and permanent solution. PCC were entirely in agreement with this statement.

4. New Matters arising:

Item 1: Kinross Half Marathon: Chair had discussed with Ann Malcolm and the Kinross Marathon would take place on Sunday 14 May. The marathon has been moved from a Saturday to a Sunday to enable road closure along the route. This would include the B996, B9097, B920 and A911 through Portmoak. The marathon will run anti-clockwise. PCC would like to advise the Community to be aware of this event and that the roads will be closed. There will be traffic management at Junction points WBalgiedie, and Scotlandwell, to allow ACCESS ONLY in a clockwise direction (on the opposite side of the road from the runners). For anyone that needs to get in / out on that day residents can apply to Kinross Runners for a residents' permit. The advice is to plan well ahead and obtain a permit should you need one. ACTION: Secretary to post to Social Media and circulate a notice to subscribers.

Item 2: SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey: PCC members had reviewed the questions in the questionnaire and concluded in discussion that it was not an item that PCC should spend a great deal of time on. The consultation was not available for the general public but available for CCs to contribute.

Item 3: Graveyard space at Portmoak & Orwell Church: The cemeteries at Portmoak and Orwell Churches are almost at full capacity. Space is available at Kinross cemetery. The Chair had been contacted by the Session Clerk at Portmoak & Orwell Church requesting this item was revisited for assistance in obtaining more graveyard space. The Church are trying to get funding to purchase additional lair space. WClIr WRobertson, who has been involved for some years with the issue, outlined the challenges again: there exists some limited space at Orwell cemetery., however land adjacent that may be suitable is not available as the landowner does not wish to sell it. PKC have money for funding. At Portmoak Cemetery the PCC former Chair MStrangsteel had in previous years tried to get additional space at the bottom of the cemetery. The obvious place to go is to the South-East but this similarly faced landownership issues. Another site had been identified along A911 this info was passed to Willie Grieg at PKC. A huge amount of space is not needed, car parking is the greater issue. Chair has spoken to residents locally and there is a desire for additional lairs and strong local feeling about this. Secretary flagged that Ann Craigow had done some work on this prior to stepping down from PCC as a member. ACTION: PCC agreed to try to assist with the project at Portmoak Church.

5. Reports:

a. **Police Reports:** a police report had been provided. ACTION: Secretary to circulate on email and Social Media

b. **Planning**

(1) New Applications:

23/00208/FLL | Installation of replacement windows and doors | Colmslic Main Street
Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HN. Close Date for comment: Fri 31 Mar 2023

Appears to be a like-for-like replacement within the Conservation Area. PCC: no comment

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23/00022/FLL | Alterations and erection of retaining wall | Wester Balgedie Farm Cottage
Wester Balgedie Kinross KY13 9HE. Close Date for comment: Fri 17 Mar 2023

Conservation Area: removal of a low drystone wall to create a drive space. There was opinion that the wall would be moved rather than removed. Cllr DMorris flagged the renovation in Cobbles part representation was regarding not removing an old wall. A Davidson commented that cottage was very dilapidated and it is now being restored nicely, suggested possible reuse of stone in new retaining wall. ACTION: PCC to attend on site and make representation

22/01830/FLL | Formation of vehicular access and drainage outfall swale | Land 40 Metres North West Of Bonaly Cottage Main Street Kinnesswood. Close Date for comment: Fri 31 Mar 2023. Concerns have come to the fore regarding the potential for flooding arising from the water Main that fronts along the development on Main St. Kinnesswood. If this water main should burst there is the potential for floodwater to flow down the old Lomond Inn site potentially damaging lower lying homes. The Drainage outfall swales has been requested to divert water from the houses to an outflow point into the lower lying fields. PCC commented that in recent years there has also been a great deal of flooding down onto Main St from Back Dykes, the Cobbles and Bruce Road. The Developer attended the meeting and provided additional context, explaining that the site had previously had full planning consent with no SEPA objections and no Scottish Water (SW) objections. On commencing work some issues had arisen around the discovery of a pipe not shown on relevant maps and ownership of which was in dispute but may belong to SW. Further planning re-applications may be required. DMorris commented that the drains on Main St adjacent to the site had been blocked with concrete but this had been cleared. Nevertheless some issues remained as regards waterflow along Main St. PCC agreed that the application looked acceptable in principle.
ACTION: Cllr DMorris to talk to PKC Planning and comment accordingly. No objection.

(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

(3) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: Chair had received feedback on the signage. Next liaison committee on 29/03/23
- (b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: Cllr DMorris confirmed the final report is finished and Hargreaves are beginning to look at implementation. Follow up meeting on the 27/03/23. Discussions in January identified that project needs a dedicated project officer and money needed to be raised for position. Conclusion was a joint application should be made by P&K Countryside Trust and NWFife Countryside Trust, TRACKS could also participate though DMorris thought this was too big a project for TRACKS and not the ideal. Better that the 2 main trusts take it forward with a joint application. DMorris hoped PCC would endorse the joint trust route. WCllr WRobertson had read DMorris' correspondence on the matter and appreciated his point of view. Peter Quinn, Director of P&K Countryside Trust (PKCT) did not think they had the resource and felt it would be better for TRACKS to take the lead and work with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust. The Chair was concerned that there should be representation at the 27/03/23 meeting and felt a joint bid with the big hitters was the best route to funding. WCllr WRobertson expressed concern that the opportunity should not be allowed to pass. Cllr DMorris had stressed to Peter Quinn that a lot of resource was not necessary, it was mainly for the bid as PKCT had a great deal of experience in funding applications. WCllr WRobertson defended TRACKS ability to handle big projects like the Heritage Trail. ACTION: DMorris to send details of 27/03/23 meeting to WRobertson.

6. Paths Group update: Cllr DMorris provided an update: a great deal of work has been done on Michael Bruce Way and repairing steps above the Esme's Gate. Lochend to Heritage Trail path has presented problems because of 5m of track over a piece of land near Old Gullet Bridge that the landowner objects to being traversed necessitating
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pedestrians to walk onto the road to circumnavigate the land. WCllr WRobertson explained he was very unhappy with the situation, which has taken years to get funding and planning consent. The landowner will not allow the path to go over the ransom strip. Looking to future planning applications at Levenmouth to request a counter agreement to permit the path to cross the ransom strip. Cllr DMorris believed a compulsory purchase was a necessity, to bring pressure to bear on the Landowner and PCC members agreed on this point. ACTION: WCllr WRobertson to write to Dave Stubbs to request a Path creation order.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts:

Michael Bruce Way Acc: £1523.00.

PCC Account: £221.51

Grant received: £226.28 but paid by PKC to the old PCC Royal Bank of Scotland account so Treasurer is working to transfer funds

8. Ward Councillors' Reports:

WCllr WRobertson had no further updates.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Location for the Tue 11 April 2023 PCC meeting: the Portmoak Hall was not available on this date. Alternative venue would need to be identified. ACTION: Secretary to look at alternative venues and confirm before April meeting

10. AOB:

Causeway Cattery: Enforcement Officer had responded to PCC correspondence and would follow up and report back

Glenlomond Sewage Works: ADavidson reported that the sewage works at the village has now been upgraded.

Residents yet to approach Scottish Water.

11. Next Meeting: 1930-2100hrs, Tuesday, 11 April 2023, in Portmoak Village Hall Chair closed meeting at 2110hrs