

Portmoak Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 8 August 2023, 1930 – 2100hrs
Meeting Online, via Zoom

Agenda

1. Attendance & Apologies:

In attendance: WCllrs WRobertson, DCuthbert; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, DPaterson. 2 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllr NFreshwater, RWatters

2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 11/07/23

Proposed: DPaterson

Seconded: KDonaldson

July 23 Minutes approved

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:

Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update: Cllr DMorris had attended on behalf of PCC and WCllr DCuthbert had chaired the last meeting which covered a number of procedural items and an agreement to change the committee's name to Kinross-shire Committee. Discussion on voting basis: if the committee exists where WCllrs only have a vote this is designated as "Decision taking", if all Cllrs and CCllrs vote then it is an "advisory committee". It may be preferable to retain a Decision taking committee and proceed items quicker following voting. Agreement at meeting to distribute minutes from committee meeting within 3 weeks. Next meeting on 24/08/23. On 09/08/23 a meeting to discuss agenda items will be held. WCllrs DCuthbert felt CCs should be asked to identify the key agenda items. WCllr WRobertson agreed the meeting was constructive and well attended, all the CCs had participated which was positive. The Chair commented that the meeting appeared to have gone well and the outcomes seemed positive. The VChair commented on funding available via KC, in excess of £40k, which he would like to see allocated. Using these funds wisely was key and this should be part of the discussion on the 24/08/23. WCllr DCuthbert wanted to circulate the agenda well in advance so CCs would have opportunity to discuss the agenda items.

Item 2: Road Safety Action Update: The Secretary had received a communication from another member of the public citing near misses with traffic along the A911 and concerns on road safety. The Secretary had not managed to progress the Speedwatch project, but Chair suggested the CC should put out another public request for volunteers. If there are any Portmoak residents who feel they may have 2-3 hrs free per month to help or assist to coordinate this project please could they contact the Secretary at secretary@portmoak.org. It was the opinion of the Chair that this should be a Community led campaign, although the CC would assist with backing, organising training and circulating info, as required. WRobertson had instigated a door-to-door newsletter that included an appeal for Speedwatch volunteers and this had elicited a good response. Commenting on the communication from the member of the public Cllr DMorris considered the only solution was to create and connect all communities with fully off-road paths and this may be a project that should be discussed at the KLC. Cllr Morris was sceptical that speed limits could not be enforced with limited police effort or that of Speedwatch volunteers, and felt that road improvements such as pavement-to-pavement raised platforms across the road were more effective to slow traffic, as commonly seen in Fife. The Chair was in agreement with DMorris with regard to the efficacy of speed platforms, but also felt that while Speedwatch was not a panacea it did probably form part of a wider solution.. Responding to preferences for volunteers to stay local when participating in Speedwatch, WRobertson reaffirmed that if volunteers want to remain in their own area rather than travel to another area they are quite allowed to participate on this basis. **ACTION.** PCC to complete further outreach for volunteers and co-ordinators for Speedwatch Campaign

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: On the upper section of the path the Chair had received communication on this item from both the Woodland Trust and the Church. The Woodland Trust are fully supportive of the project, where it will traverse their land and have even offered (in principle) additional land should it be required. The Church had responded that they need to take PCC request to the General Trustees

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meeting in Sept23, and they are also very supportive of the path project. With regard to the lower path section on the South side of the A911, the Chair of PCC had tried to contact the landowner following an onsite approach and previously encouraging communication but had not since had any response. Agreement in principle from Landowners at this time is necessary before moving forward to a feasibility study. WCllr DCuthbert asked for the Chair to keep him and PKC Greenspace informed if the landowner on the lower South side gave a response about the path. **ACTION:** Chair to attempt to contact landowner of lower proposed path section.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: There had been a recent and positive update in last week with some additional funding secured over and above that previously proposed. Chair will attend a meeting this week. WCllr DCuthbert was involved behind the scenes. A new plan for the play facilities had been proposed and PCC need to review this. Some other local positive and exciting projects had been moved forward including Davis Park. WCllr DCuthbert encouraged PCC to consider local history and location to when considering themes. Renovations at the Well are due to take place and it was suggested that it would be useful if the adjacent projects could complement each other. There was potential to get Scotlandwell in Bloom involved with wilding areas.. The current Well Park Plan is available, and PCC will circulate this for review to the Community to get some feedback. WCllr DCuthbert agreed that public involvement was a good thing. **ACTION:** PCC to circulate the Well Park proposals for public comment and return to PKC Parks Landscape Architect.

Item 5: Loch Leven Water Quality in Catchment Area: In previous discussions it had been felt this was a KLC was an ideal forum to this discussion item as Loch Leven Water Quality affects all CC's locally in Ward-8. In an effort to streamline the PCC agenda the Chair proposed that the item was removed until there was a specific update or new information to circulate. There was consensus that this was a reasonable approach. WCllr WRobertson highlighted that Scottish Water have agreed to put in water quality monitors at the Milnathort treatment works and that forthcoming data from these would help discussions. WCllr DCuthbert was in agreement with this especially given that recent assessments had rated the Loch's water quality and clarity as very good. WCllr WRobertson thought that the dry weather with low rainfall kept overflow at a minimum which in turn reduced algae and clouding. A recent NFUS meeting about Loch Leven and water quality had been held but no one at PCC meeting had been able to attend. The WCllrs had not all received invites. The Secretary had reached out to the organiser to request any available presentations or meeting minutes for review. **ACTION:** Secretary to remove the item from agenda until further update, and chase NFUS meeting organiser for presentation and any minutes available.

Item 6: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park. There were no defined dates for church closure which seemed likely to roll into 2024 but was uncertain. A Community Right to Buy was potentially possible, and the Church organisation would possibly permit a window of opportunity to allow this to happen. The Chair felt the question was what to actually do with the building and that cogent ideas were needed. The immediate land around the Church is owned by PKC. The Church Car park is the largest area for parking in the area. A Community purchase would need to carefully consider the use for the building and gauge public opinion as to what to do with the building. Not using the building could mean it could fall into a state of disrepair and as an old and listed building, repairs could be costly. Cllr DMorris recalled a similar line of discussion with regard to the former Lomond Inn site in Kinnesswood and emphasised that PCC should not as an organisation take over ownership of the Church. Probably only a Development Trust and a committed group of volunteers could seriously look at the acquisition of the building. WCllr WRobertson agreed with the comments from PCC and reiterated the need not to overstretch the Community and also not cannibalize the use of Portmoak Village Hall with a similar venue. Both the Chair and Vice-Chair felt that the value of the car park was intrinsic to the sale of the church and that also the car park was vital to the Community. A Church General Trustee meeting will be held around the end of Sept. Further consensus would be sought following feedback end of September

Item 7: Windfarm Action Group: Milnathort CC had coordinated a Windfarm Action Group meeting which was being held this week. Cllrs Kenneth Donaldson and the Secretary thought they would be able to attend and would coordinate and report back.

Item 8: Kinnesswood-Scotlandwell- Portmoak Church Footway Clearance: this item had been discussed at last PCC meeting. WCllr WRobertson suggested that PKC would act to clear the footpath as soon as spare capacity was available to send a digger along and do the work. Chair pointed out that he corresponded with Roads saying he

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would hear by the 28/07/23 (to clear up the priority list for Portmoak) but disappointingly no response had been received. WCLlr WRobertson suggested that seasonal holidays may be delaying response times

4. New Matters arising:

Item 1: Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils – Consultation: this is a public consultation available at the PKC Consultation hub <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/corporate-democratic-services/scheme-of-establishment-of-community-councils/> The Secretary had circulated the consultation details to subscribers along with the Scheme of Establishment, but suggested that this may be of moderate interest to the general public, though they could comment if they wished. The Survey would be of most relevance for the PCC members to complete the survey.

Item 2: Warm Welcome Fund, closes 22/08/23: WCLlr DCuthbert explained that the fund was available to organisations to receive a contribution to their heating costs while creating spaces available to the public during the coldest monthly.

5. Reports:

a. **Police Reports:** Secretary had circulated the report. With focus on rural theft and securing outdoor buildings and possessions.

b. **Planning**

(1) New Applications:

- a. 23/01180/IPL | Demolition of barn and erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle) | Land 45 Metres West Of East Brackley House Kinross KY13 9LU
Closing date for Public comment: 18/08/23
PCC members had received the plan which was in principle. There were no specific objections. No comment at this time.
- b. 23/01048/FLL | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse | The Lindens The Cobbles Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HL. Closing Date for Public comment: 25/08/23
It was felt that the alterations and extensions were sympathetic and proportional. No comment.
- c. 23/01044/FLL | Change of use of storage shed to form a shop, siting of a workshop unit for furniture recycling/restoration, formation of parking area and associated works | Land 45 Metres North East Of Causeway Cottage Scotlandwell Kinross KY13 9JQ. Closing Date for Public comment: 04/08/23 (passed)
Due to the closure date for comment, PCC had submitted an objection to this proposal between Monthly meetings. The Chair commented that issues raised in respect to business use were irrelevant. It was for the Planning Authority to determine if the proposals were sympathetic or in keeping with the other existing structures.
- d. 23/01000/FLL | Part change of use of agricultural building and land to form dog agility/training facility, formation of parking, erection of fencing, installation of lighting and associated works (in retrospect) | Land 70 Metres North Of Glenheart Farm Glenlomond Kinross KY13 9HF. Closing Date for Public comment: 11/08/23
The applicant was attending the PCC Meeting and was aware of the public objection letters that had been received, particularly with regard to any increase of traffic through the village up to the property. The Applicant was keen to make the application work for locals and for her business. PCC commended and thanked the applicant for approach to PCC. Cllr ADavidson suggested that it would be good if the applicant could have some conversations with the Glenlomond Village Committee to discuss the application and possible mitigations to allay concern. The Applicant was keen to point out that the business had been running for 3yrs without her knowledge of any complaint and she is happy to work with the community to make the application acceptable. Cllr DMorris had concerns about public access in this area and felt this needed to be considered in any response or comment from PCC. The Secretary raised concerns about Floodlighting and hoped that outside business hours this would be switched off and any security lighting to be minimal and motion sensitive, to which the

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applicant responded that lighting was to have low level fixtures and be directed away from the Glenlmond village to minimise impact. PCC to discuss and make comment.

- e. Kinneston Long Term Forest Plan 23FGS70734 Consultation. Closing Date for Comment by PCC 27/08/23

PCC had discussed previous in June23 meeting. The Vice Chair had been keen to see some of the informal pathways to be retained and would need to review the more detailed information and make comment on behalf of PCC accordingly.

(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 sent a letter to WCllrs and Secretary on this application as the Planning application has been sitting for over a year. It was felt that while there are dates for Public and PCC comment, this application has been undecided. The Applicant(s) should provide the necessary information and decision made accordingly and closed. The Chair has requested response from David Littlejohn with supporting request from WCllr N Freshwater.

(3) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: Cllr KDonaldson would attend a meeting tomorrow (09/08/23). No other items for discussion at present.
- (b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: Cllr DMorris had no further updates at present.

6. Paths Group update: Cllr DMorris provided an update: PKC assistance with the flail and a lot of strimming on Michael Bruce Way.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts:

Michael Bruce Acc: £1677.24

CC Account: £625.94

An invoice for £47.99 had been received for PCC website registration and hosting
Secretary to provide invoice for Zoom subscription reimbursement.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports

WRobertson: On the issue of the Lochend to LLHT connecting path, WRobertson had met with NMainprize and owners of Levenmouth Farm but this meeting had not provided an agreement of solution for the impasse about the permission to allow the new path to cross the strip on the other side of the drainage ditch. The landowner was intransigent that access will not be allowed over the ditch. WCllr WRobertson had emailed owner to state the WCllr's disappointment over his stance finding it difficult to understand the objection. WCllr Robertson suggested that the landowner may be hoping to secure additional new housing at Levenmouth to which WRobertson has stated that he will be looking for conditions for any development to include a provision to allow the access to be completed. Cllr DMorris disagreed with this stance as in time more housing may not be approved and in turn the path may not ever be connected, and suggested compulsory purchase was a key solution within the powers of PKC. WCllr WRobertson felt that compulsory purchase process was a difficult process that could stall the project further. It was decided to raise the issue to the KLC. Chair agreed to write to the landowners with WCllr WRobertson's assistance.

DCuthbert: nothing additional

9. Matters notified to the Secretary: nothing additional

10. AOB: The Chair gave his congratulations to KiB for a recent successful judging day with Britain in Bloom judges and all the volunteers' hard work. PCC send good luck for a great outcome.

11. Next Meeting: 1930-2100hrs, Tuesday, 12 September 2023, online via Zoom

12. Chair closed meeting at 2105hrs

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