

Portmoak Community Council

September Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 12 September 2023, 1930 – 2100hrs
Meeting Online

NOTE: The September PCC meeting was subject to some IT issues and the start of the meeting was delayed by about 45mins. PCC apologise for any disappointment if members of the community attempted to access the meeting and could not.

Minutes

- 1. Attendance & Apologies:** WCllr DCuthbert, NFreshwater; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson; and 1 member of the public
- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from meeting on 08/08/23:** there had been issues with preparing and circulating the August minutes due to technical issues with Secretary's email account so the August minutes would be presented for approval in October meeting in addition to the September minutes.
- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**
 - Item 1: Kinross-shire Local Council update:** Cllr DMorris had attended on behalf of PCC. The Kinross-shire Local Committee had agreed a name change to Kinross-shire Local Council. There had been discussions in respect of vehicular traffic in respect of the B9097 and the Westfield Development and concerns about increasing heavy vehicle traffic. DMorris had flagged this to PKC officials and highlighted the need for an off-road cycle path. Next KLC meeting will be in November23. PCC to consider agenda items to submit to WCllrs.
Changes to the constitutions Kinross-shire Local Council: It was advised that representation of 50% of Ward Councillors and 50% of CC were required to make the council quorate. WCllr DCuthbert would welcome any issues relevant to KLC be submitted as soon as possible so that the agenda can be prepared and circulated earlier, which in turn would allow CC's to raise agenda items for discussion at the CC meeting prior, and also to enable an agenda to be submitted to the Kinross-shire newsletter. The Chair welcomed motion to have an earlier agenda.
 - Item 2: Road Safety Action Update:** The Chair noted the Bowhouse 40mph had still not been implemented despite this having been agreed prior to 'the end of the Summer'. The Chair requested the WCllrs raise this with Head of Roads.
WCllr WRobertson had asked for the road cleaned at Scotlandwell after heavy rain had left mud and grit on the road and junction, potentially causing a safety issue. The Chair thanked the WCllr for quick action on this item.
Road safety priority list: there had been no correspondence from PKC on this item, regarding items on the list that required clarification. The Chair requested WCllrs help with moving this forward. WCllr NFreshwater said he would escalate this for a response.
Speedwatch: PCC continue to try to move this forward. There were a number of volunteers and PCC welcomed a potential volunteer coordinator who could help a lot in taking the project forward. ACTION: The Chair agreed to collate the volunteer details and communicate to all.
 - Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path:** PCC advised that communication had been received from the Elders of Portmoak Church confirming their support for the Path initiative. This had been communicated to the General Trustees. This communication was in respect of a small areas of land in church ownership, which was currently leased to the Woodland Trust. The Woodland Trust have also given permission for use of their land along the side of the A911. Regarding the lower path section from the Church to Scotlandwell the Chair had once again tried to contact the landowner for an update but had not been successful. The Chair advised he would continue to try to arrange a meeting. It was agreed by PCC members that even half a path to extend the existing one would be

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better than no path at all. Chair invited comment from the WCllrs. WCllr DCuthbert had been in contact with PKC Roads Officers and asked the Chair to arrange with Officers to get them onsite for a visit. The Chair reiterated that PCC were expecting the next stage to be a feasibility study and asked if this could be initiated for the first part of the path? The Chair and Vice-Chair suggested that location would be a Greenspace and/or TRACKS project and not a roads project for PKC Roads as the pathway would be an off-road path, and not a pavement. It is intended to be an offroad path continuing the existing off-road path from Kilmagadwood to the Church car park. The Vice-Chair suggested Sustrans should be involved from the beginning as ScotGov have been offering extra money for paths, so it was important this path was added to the Sustrans list as well. It was suggested that communication be initiated with Nick Mainprize of Tracks.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: PCC have completed the consultation that was placed on social media, in addition to direct email communication to the Chair. Chair had spoken to several residents directly also. Comments will be passed to the landscape architect and then there will be a further discussion. Once finalised the project will be put out to tender.

The Chair had received complaints from locals in Scotlandwell regarding grass cutting, with the grass on the Green being too long to play football. PCC have had previous assurances that the Well Green was scheduled to be cut every 2 weeks, but this doesn't seem to happen. WCllr DCuthbert suggested he be informed if grass maintenance was not being completed as agreed and he would raise with the Parks and Recreation Officials. Alternatively, Local Residents, could either email PCC at secretary@portmoak.org or contact PKC directly via the PKC website at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/>

Item 5: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: PCC had received communication from Church of Scotland that they will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday 10th December when members of Orwell and Portmoak Church will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on closure. That date had been selected as it is a Communion Sunday when many will attend anyway and there is the opportunity to notify the whole congregation through Stramash and by letter prior to the meeting. It had been suggested that the Community Council organise a joint follow up meeting for the community in early January, with the objectives to raise and discuss ideas, around, the Church building, and the potential loss of the carpark and potential options. PCC members agreed that any project for the future use of the Church building would need to be made under a Community Development Trust to take this further, the PCC would be unable take on the responsibility of a development project for the Church building.

Item 6: Windfarm Action Group – report from meeting of 10/08/23: The Secretary had attended the first meeting of this group, which was a collective of representatives from the Kinross-shire (Ward 8) Community Councils. The objectives were not establishment of a position for or against windfarms in the Ochils, but to share information and experience between the CCs. Some CCs in Kinross-shire and Strathearn have been through the planning and negotiation stages of Windfarm projects in their areas, and it was felt that sharing that information in addition to input from several locals who had specific experience via their professions in power generation or Windfarm developments was useful to equip CCs in the event that Windfarm Planning applications were made in their CC area. Without taking any side the Chair agreed there were likely to be windfarm applications and developments and as a community we need to be mindful of the desire for retention of amenity, but also recognise that environmentally Windfarms projects were increasingly likely to arise, and every area may have to accept their part in their creation. As with many similar projects there may be elements of Community gain versus Community inconvenience, and these were discussions that would occur if a windfarm application affected Portmoak. It was agreed that PCC needed to keep attending the Windfarm Action Group meetings and report back via Portmoak CC meetings.

WCllr NFreshwater and the Secretary had also attended a separate Friends of the Ochils meeting on windfarms; this meeting had more specific objectives aligned with the established Friends of the Ochils organisation. The Secretary had attended to gain greater information and understanding of the work done to date around windfarms planning applications.

Item 7: Kinneston-Scotlandwell- Portmoak Church Footway Clearance: WCllr WRobertson had raised a request for some clearance along footpaths. The Chair thought that some work appeared to have been done but unclear if this was PKC work completed, or local landowners completing maintenance.

4. New Matters arising:

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Item 1: Portmoak CC AGM, 10th October 2023, 1930 – 2000hrs. To be held prior to the October PCC meeting: The meeting agreed to be in-person at the Portmoak Village Hall.

Item 2: Public Consultation Letter – Construction & Operation of a 200MW battery energy storage facility at Kirklands Farm, Ballingry Lochgelly, KY5 0HH

The battery energy storage facility was proposed to be sited just within the Fife border at Ballingry. Just opposite main transformer at Westfield. It was considered that it was not going to be a particularly high structure. Storage facility for the generation at Westfield which would assist with reducing the carbon footprint. No comment from PCC at this stage. If you wish to give your views, please respond with any comments to:

info@aaahplanningconsultations.co.uk by 12 October 2023. You can find out further information about AAH Consultants, this project and others and provide feedback on their website: <https://aaahplanningconsultations.co.uk/>

5. Reports:

a. Police Reports: There was no specific police report provided in advance of the meeting. Police Commander Bulletins had been circulated to the PCC subscribers list.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

- a. 23/01355/FLL | Extension to dwellinghouse | Greenside of Arnot Leslie Glenrothes KY6 3JQ. Closing Date for Public Comment: Fri 15 Sep 2023
PCC had reviewed plans and agreed no comment.
- b. 23/01276/FLL | Extension to dwellinghouse | 3 The Terrace Cottages Glenlomond Kinross KY13 9HF. Closing Date for Public Comment: Fri 28 Sep 2023
PCC had reviewed plans, would monitor and make comment as appropriate.

(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

WCllr NFreshwater had initiated a conversation with DLittlejohn at PKC about the status of the application continuing to be awaiting decision. DLittlejohn had agreed that the application had been open too long and a decision forthcoming to close it. The application was still open at time of meeting.

The Chair would issue another email to PKC planning requesting closure on behalf of the Community.

(3) Planning Decisions

(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: WCllr NFreshwater had attended the last Westfield meeting. He hoped to get progress on the PKC side road signage, a named officer is now allocated to that project and signs will be erected on the M90 motorway to direct lorries along the correct route. There were several issues with on-site lighting, but NFreshwater suggested the on-site team are approachable and responsive to direct calls if on-site lighting is intrusive.

(b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: Cllr DMorris reported no further updates.

6. Paths Group update: vegetation had been growing prolifically in the recent warmer and wetter weather, the group have been doing a large amount of strimming. Hoped that approaching cooler weather would help with natural die back.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts: The Treasurer had given apologies for the meeting. The Secretary noted that PCC Accounts need to be prepared in advance of the PCC AGM on 10/10/23.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports:

WCllr DCuthbert: On the Scotlandwell to Church path, DCuthbert suggested that the project should be flagged to Nick Mainprize at TRACKS and that team will look at it for funding potential.

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Changes of structure at PKC: DCuthbert flagged that PKC structure was being amended to centre around Themes rather than Heads of Departments in an attempt to make structure flatter and empower professional people further down the chain. It was felt this would be beneficial to the decision-making process.

Lochend Farm Path to Loch Leven Heritage Trail: regarding the access to the Levenmouth track over the ditch at Lochend Farm: there have been positive communications and movements following a meeting between WCllr WRobertson and the Landowner. Some conditions were being discussed but WCllr DCuthbert felt that the outcomes of this meeting were positive. The Chair confirmed he had been copied into some of the communication and shared the assessment that the outcomes had been positive. It was hoped this could be further reported at the next CC meeting.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Item1: Warm Spaces in Perth & Kinross, Workshops and funding opportunities. See PKC website at:

<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/warmspaces> Some funding was available to groups and business who were interested and able to create designated warm spaces for the approaching Winter months.

10. **AOB:** Resilience Group: a Member of Public enquired if there was still a local resilience group in place? The previous weekend had seen heavy rain and local people had been appealing on social media for sandbags. The Secretary said there was a resilience plan, but this pre-dated the Covid lockdown in 2020 and was probably in need of review and update. Secretary to forward the resilience plan to Chair for review and the Chair thanked the members of the public for the raising of the issue.

11. **Next Meeting and Portmoak CC AGM:** 1930-2100hrs, Tuesday, 10 October 2023, at Portmoak Hall in-person meeting. Portmoak CC September meeting will commence immediately after the PCC AGM (approx.. 1945/2000hrs)
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