

Portmoak Community Council

Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 10th October 2023, in-person at Portmoak Village Hall

Minutes

- Attendance:** WCllr WRobertson, RWatters, Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, DPaterson; and 2 members of public
Apologies: WCllrs NFreshwater and DCuthbert
- Approval of previous Minutes – October 2022:** Proposed: KDonaldson. Seconded: DMorris. Minutes of AGM 2022 approved
- Matters arising from previous Minutes:** H54 note in last minutes for clarification “*The CC have asked the WCllrs to raise specific policy clarification with PKC Planning in respect of affordable housing provision, as this appears to be at variance within Portmoak, in comparison to surrounding Kinross-shire CC areas.*” This point has not yet been clarified, particularly in relation to the novel self-build affordable housing plots posited for the H54 site. Chair to action and clarify the specific policy for this means of provision of affordable housing.
- Chairman’s Annual Report – 2023:** see Appendix A
- Treasurer’s Annual Report – 2023:** a statement of accounts had been prepared and would be circulated, (See Appendix B). In past year the major change had been the switching of accounts from RBS to Credit Union. Funds have now finally been transferred and the operation of the accounts was now a lot easier.
PCC will qualify for a grant from PKC £287.34, to total exactly £700 at start of financial year.
- Approval of Annual Accounts:** Chair AMiller proposed to approve accounts. Vice Chair DMorris seconded.
PCC Annual accounts for period 01/09/22 – 31/08/23 were approved.
- Demit of current office bearers, and election of office bearers: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary.**

Chair – Andy Miller,	Proposed: DMorris,	Seconded: KDonaldson
Vice-Chair – Dave Morris,	Proposed: AMiller,	Seconded: DPaterson
Treasurer – Ann Davidson,	Proposed: AMiller,	Seconded: DMorris
Secretary – SMcGregor,	Proposed: DPaterson,	Seconded AMiller
- Date of Next AGM: Tuesday 8th October 2024**
- The Chair closed the meeting at 1945hrs.**

Appendix A

Portmoak Community Council

Annual General Meeting – 10 Oct 2023

Chairman's Letter

Another Community Council year, 2022 – 2023, has passed - and while we can perhaps finally look back on 'what we did during lockdown', every member of the Community will undoubtedly be feeling renewed pressure from the impact of the additional cost of living crisis. As was agreed last year, hybrid Community Council meetings have continued, with a mix of both online and 'in-person' meetings at Portmoak Village Hall, with the face-to-face meetings being convened quarterly throughout the year. There is no doubt that, irrespective of format, Community engagement at the meetings remains limited. It is accepted many probably have 'better things to do', but hopefully the Portmoak Community Page on social media, and the Newsletter continue to represent an additional means of communicating meeting information, minutes, events and issues of potentially local importance to the wider community. PCC once again extend sincere thanks to Secretary - Cllr S McGregor for her continued efforts in this capacity and it is hoped that this has assisted to maximise awareness of CC engagement with issues in Portmoak.

PCC completed the 2022-23 year with 5 members, who represent all areas of the PCC catchment. We would however ideally like to fill all vacant CC allocation, so that as broad a spectrum of the community is represented as possible.

I would once again extend an invitation to any member of Portmoak willing to give up a couple hours per month to consult on issues arising and to try to make our community a better place to live. The Chair and PCC would also like to thank the current elected WCllrs (W Robertson, R Watters, N Freshwater & D Cuthbert) for continuing to assist and addressing issues raised within the area.

As I sat down to compile this year's letter, it is unfortunate to report frustration of both PCC and wider Community once again, that recurring agenda items have not been adequately addressed or resolved. Progress in some areas has however been made, despite it being painfully slow. However, the progress remains tangible, and despite the repeated minute entries, the items remain relevant to the wider Community and worth pursuing.

The Kinross-shire Local Committee has been renamed the Kinross-shire-Local Council and has evolved its powers and constitution, following its initial 14 month trial. Meetings continue to be held every 2 months, with agenda items selected to try to encompass issues relevant to Kinross-shire and the 6 local Community Council areas. With representatives from the CC's, Ward Councillors and PKC Officers, the stated purpose remains to permit partial Local devolvement of certain PKC decision making powers, to a more local level. PCC members agree, it continues to represent an excellent opportunity and platform for the issues which affect the whole of Kinross-shire to be discussed and raised, with the collective power of all CCs it represents. The Chair would like to extend thanks to the Vice-Chair, Cllr D Morris, for continuing to represent PCC at these meetings.

Local road safety and speeding through the Community continue to dominate the agenda at monthly meetings. A significant issue remains the failure of PKC Roads Dept to implement the 40mph speed restriction order from Scotlandwell to the Bowhouse development, on the A911, despite this being passed at the inaugural Kinross-shire Local Council Committee meeting in February 2022. Although assurances were received from PKC that signage placement would be implemented by the 'end of Summer 2023', the signage has not materialised. PCC will continue to push for this through every channel possible.

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The Portmoak Road Safety Priority List also continues to be a topic of frequent discussion. Despite efforts of PCC to ratify and prioritise this in consultation with PKC Roads to the benefit of all there has been an absence of return correspondence from PKC.

Widespread frustration remains within the community regarding the abject failure of the existing speed reduction measures and signage to improve road safety or reduce speed through our area. There is a distinct lack of resourcing for Police enforcement and PCC continue to press for adequate physical mitigation measures within the populated centres. Many believe it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs. Following the acquisition of equipment co-ordinated through Milnathort CC, it appears the Community Speedwatch project can, however, finally press forward. There has been good volunteer response from local residents, and with the assistance of PCC, it is hoped that volunteer groups and co-ordinators can be recruited from all areas. Once appropriate training has been provided in conjunction with Police Scotland, it is hoped the Speedwatch campaign can be passed to the individual co-ordinators to implement in their respective areas. If you wish to be involved, please contact us (chair@portmoak.org). Hopefully this will improve road safety for all.

A review of Planning Applications within Portmoak continues to form part of CC work, and over the last year the CC have reviewed and discussed a number of Applications and also raised issues where perceived planning contraventions may have occurred. Individual representations have also been made by members of the Community and PCC welcome this. Of particular note is the enhanced consultation powers of the CC's in the Planning process. This does however place additional responsibility on the CC members to be attuned to local concerns, issues and feelings of the Community in respect of planning matters. The CC would like to extend continued thanks to people in the community for taking time to write to PCC, PKC or indeed simply convey verbal opinion in favour, or objection, of planning proposals and the CC would strongly recommend individuals continue to do so. The LDP zoned H54 site in Scotlandwell continues to represent an application site of significant local concern and objection and has extended well beyond any reasonable planning consultation period. The policy clarification requested from PKC in this letter of last regarding the 'novel' self-build affordable housing provision and allocation on this site in comparison to surrounding Kinross-shire CC areas remains unanswered. This scheme has raised significant local issues of environmental preservation, conservation village status, and specifically issues of affordable housing provision, in comparison to surrounding Kinross-shire CC and the wider PKC areas.

The CC continue to participate at the liaison meetings for the Westfield Energy Recovery Facility and ongoing thanks continue to Cllr K Donaldson for keeping the CC informed of developments. Issues regarding road signage, access road deterioration, vehicular movements are often discussed, and it is understood the PKC area road safety signage is due to be installed in the near future.

The long-standing requirement to provide a safe public 'off-road' path connecting the villages of Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood does however appear to have taken a further step forward this year. Communication has been received from the Elders of Portmoak Church confirming their support for the Path initiative and this had been communicated to the General Trustees for consideration. The Woodland Trust have also given permission and positively endorsed the use of their land along the side of the A911, which essentially comprises the upper section, to the east of the A911. With regard to the lower path section from the Church to Scotlandwell, following a meeting and subsequent correspondence, PCC have tried to contact the landowner on several occasions for an update, but had not been successful. PCC will continue to try to arrange a meeting. It is hoped that a feasibility study can be commissioned in the near future and the project finally driven forward with the assistance of the WCllrs and various paths groups. It is worthy of reporting that the Paths Group in Portmoak continue to work throughout the summer months on path maintenance and vegetation clearance, maintaining access to the fabulous local paths to the benefit of all. On a similar note, the proposed path link from Lochend Farm to the Heritage trail, which has been delayed for a number of months due to access issues, appears to have been resolved and PCC thank WCllr W Robertson for his assistance in this regard.

One of the more recent significant items for consideration is the future of Portmoak Church and Car Park. PCC have received communication from Church of Scotland that a congregational meeting will be held

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in December where members of Orwell and Portmoak Church will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the church closure. It has 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 future use, together with the carpark. PCC members have previously 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. Given the lack of adequate parking provision at the Village Hall (or elsewhere) and the increasing prevalence of local events, the potential loss of off-road parking provision has been raised to be of significant local concern. PCC are also trying to discuss options for an extension to the Portmoak Church graveyard, although given difficulties of land acquisition, alternative locations within the parish may also require to be explored.

Other snippets in short over the last year – Given the recent issues of flooding, PCC are aware that the Portmoak Resilience Plan is in need of review and update. It is intended an outreach programme to previous contacts and co-ordinators be implemented to assist. The long overdue upgrade of the Play facilities at the Well Green in Scotlandwell have been agreed and it is hoped these will be implemented early in 2024. A replacement of the goalposts and specific attention to scheduled grass maintenance have also been requested. PCC welcome the clear success of the Portmoak Festival and Gala and it is hoped this will continue next year, with Portmoak Festival Activities providing a fabulous week of events. Congratulations also to Kinnesswood in Bloom for the fabulous placing in the RHS Village competition. Fingers crossed for the final results announcements in the New Year. PCC would like to extend thanks to all of the volunteers and groups who continue to maintain the Community woodlands, orchards, paths, gardens, flowerbeds, Hall, Well & Wash-house and make our communities such lovely places to stay. It is worth re-iterating that these are all voluntary groups who would welcome additional members. If you feel you can give even a small amount of time, I am sure it would be welcomed.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the current CC members and WCllrs for their patience and valued assistance over the past year. I would extend an invitation to all members of the Community, to continue raise issues and engage fully with any CC members – your opinion really does matter!

APPENDIX B

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 - 31 AUGUST 2023

	2022/2023	2021/2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Administrative Grant	226.28	200.30
Bank Interest		
Other Income		
Total Income	226.28	200.30
EXPENDITURE	£	£
Accommodation Costs	29.00	
Subscriptions (Zoom)	57.56	158.29
Photocopying		
Stationery		
Postage		
Telephone Calls		
Website expenses	47.99	47.99
Examiner Fee		
Publication of Minutes & Agendas		
Publication of Newsletter		
Travel Expenses		
Other Expenditure (Credit Union)	7.50	
Total Expenditure	142.05	206.28
Surplus/Deficit for Year	84.23	-5.98
Creditors	164.29	20.00
Surplus/Deficit brought forward	493.72	499.70
Surplus/Deficit carried forward	413.66	473.72
Represented by:		
Cash Position as per Bank	577.95	493.72
Less Creditors	164.29	20.00
Net Cash Position	413.66	473.72

ASSETS - (e.g. computer)

Certified that the above accounts have been presented for examination and found correct with vouchers exhibited as at 31 August 2023.

Treasurer's Signature:

Date Prepared: 10/10/2023

Chairman's Signature:

Examiner's Signature:

Examiner's Designation:

Examiner's Name:

Examiner's Address:

Examiner's Contact Details: