

Portmoak Community Council

October Meeting

Tuesday 10 October 2023, 1945 – 2100hrs
Meeting In-Person at Portmoak Village Hall

Minutes

- Attendance:** WCllrs WRobertson, RWatters; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, DPaterson; and 2 members of public
Apologies: WCllr DCuthbert, N Freshwater

- Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from both meetings on 08/08/23 and 12/09/23**

Proposed: Chair

Seconded: Vice Chair

Approved

- Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update

The next meeting of the KC will take place on 23/11/23. Cllrs DMorris and AMiller to discuss agenda in advance of the 23/11/23. Nothing further to update.

Item 2: Road Safety Action Update

Bowhouse speed limit implementation is believed to be imminent, WCllrs WRobertson and RWatters confirmed that the works order for this had been initiated. The Chair had in passing spoken to residents of Bowhouse some of whom had expressed frustration that the speed limit had not yet been actioned and wondering what power the KC had that the project was taking so long to implement. WCllr WRobertson affirmed that the order was top of the list for action at Transport meetings. The Chair requested the assistance of the WCllrs in obtaining a specific timeframe from PKC.

Cllr DMorris raised again the request for a painted yellow box at the bottom of Bishop Terrace, a school safety action which had also been agreed some 3 or 4 years ago and this had been raised with Daryl McEown at KC meeting earlier this year. Cllr DMorris had photos of vehicles parked right up to the red crossing strip on road and these obscured visibility for children crossing at the designated point. WCllr WRobertson requested DMorris to forward him the photo and he would raise this with PKC Roads.

Road Safety Priorities: The Chair flagged that PCC were still to receive a response clarifying the road safety priorities list that had been returned from PCC to head of PKC Roads several months ago.

Flood Debris Cleaning at Scotlandwell: Following communication from WCllr Robertson, the Chair had made enquiries and it appeared there were at least 16 responsible residents using the Sandy Lane, from where a large amount of the flood debris on the A911 road originates. There are problems firstly from old drain systems not coping, and secondly the sediment flowing off the hill blocking the drains. Funnelling water off Sandy Lane may be tricky but it would be useful for PKC Roads to have a site visit if possible. The debris on the road may create a problem as when dry, it creates a potential skid hazard at the junction corner. WCllr WRobertson commented that PKC are being responsive and coming out to clear drains and sweep roads, but ideally trying to find a solution to stop it happening would be better in long term. The Chair highlighted that this situation is exacerbated by a noted increase in severe weather events. Cllr DPaterson commented that silt lying on roads had recently caused flood water to divert across road away from a drain and into a resident's property in Scotlandwell.

Comment was made about the current flooding through Kinnesswood and along the Leslie Road. Cllr DMorris commented that even though drains were regularly cleared, during a heavy rainstorm the water picks up gravel and sediment so even clear drains fill up very quickly. DMorris felt there was work that could be done to make the Bishop Hill more stable and resilient. He had completed a response on Kinnesswood Long Term Forestry Plan and the felling of the sitka spruce plantations could lead to more rapid water run-off. DMorris had suggested that instead of replanting in the upper sections, the woodland should be allowed to regenerate naturally. Chair thought that surface water management formed part of the Kinnesswood Forest Plan and this needed to be checked. Lower down the hillside, at Bowhouse there was a block of woodland through which Cllr Morris had suggested a path could be

Note: the Minutes of Council can be seen in the file kept in the Kinnesswood Village Shop or on the Hall notice board or found on the Community Council website. www.portmoak.org

constructed as part of a programme to connect to Bowhouse to Scotlandwell by an off-road walking and cycling route.

Speedwatch: PCC now have a list of names and a possible coordinator. There was a good response. Mark Craig from Police Scotland attended the meeting and suggested that experience had shown that initial numbers of volunteers tended to decline as the project progressed to the registration and vetting process. Police recommend Speedwatch volunteers do not work in their own areas as local frictions could occur in the event of someone local being caught speeding. This aspect had been previously discussed and there was still support for local campaigns. The Chair raised concerns about the sharing of telephone numbers as the volunteers would be managed through mobile communication. Cllr KDonaldson indicated that his wife was a Data Protection officer and could advise on an appropriate basic GDPR data protection wording. The Chair asked Mark Craig to clarify the registration process: delays could occur during the vetting process and getting individuals to supply identification and forms. These were sent to Tulliallan Police Scotland's Corporate Headquarters and then fed back to successful applicants. Training would be provided but not a certification. There was nothing particularly challenging in the process, but it took time. Once the vetting and training was provided, police would check suggested areas for safety before the actual speedcheck activities could commence.

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: Chair had no further advancement from September. PCC will continue to try to communicate with the landowner and Chair will advise CC WCllrs and Secretary in next stage of correspondence.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: PCC had returned the consultation results to the landscape architect at PKC. Works are unlikely to commence until the new year.

Item 5: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: A meeting to vote on closure of the Church was to be held at the Church on 10/12/23 which coincides with a normal church Sunday. A follow up public meeting is suggested following this in January 2024 to discuss the next steps for the church building, grounds and car park. PCC felt the car park was a necessity to the community, Village Hall users and functions and for visitors to area. It was also necessary to discuss and work out what could potentially be done with Church building. It was not felt that closure was imminent.

Item 6: Windfarm Action Group – report from meeting w/beg 02/10/23: Cllr KDonaldson had attended the most recent meeting. Important to note that there are no planning applications submitted yet for the 3 windfarms, it is all in pre-planning. CARES (Community & Renewable Energy Scheme) this group reviews money that is available and distributes it to the communities. The objective of the Windfarm Action Group is to try to get CCs together to build a consensus of how to channel money. KDonaldson would circulate his notes from the meeting.

4. New Matters arising:

Item 1: Planning Forum meeting on Wednesday 25/10/23: in George Hotel: It was felt this was an important event to attend. The Secretary, DPaterson, and KDonaldson were available to attend this and would agree who would participate and report back at the November PCC meeting.

Item 2: Tay Forest National Park Public Consultation – closes 01/12/23: This was a public consultation to which the Public could contribute. The Chair had nothing additional to add on this item. Public can contribute at <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/tay-forest-national-park-consultation/>

Item 3: Scotlandwell Shop and disused petrol station: A resident had raised concerns about the condition of the petrol station and the old petrol tanks underground. Cllr DPaterson was keen to allay concerns about the disused petrol station. PCC had approached PKC for more information and had received a satisfactory response from the PKC Petroleum Officer as to the decommissioning of the site. The removal of any above ground items is down to landowner circumstances and the intended future use of the land. A further response from the Contaminated Land Officer at PKC confirmed that with regards to a former petroleum site, the Contaminated Land team would only investigate a site if we believed there was a high risk to human health. PCC consider the concerns have been been adequately answered by the correct authorities.

5. Reports:

Note: the Minutes of Council can be seen in the file kept in the Kinnesswood Village Shop or on the Hall notice board or found on the Community Council website. www.portmoak.org

a. **Police Reports:** no crimes had been reported for Portmoak area. A recent email from Police Scotland had included good advice about house security and this had been circulated to PCC subscribers.

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 notes this application had been reviewed at the September meeting last month. PCC had registered no comment.
- b. 23/01471/LBC | Alterations to roof | Colmslic Main Street Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HN
Closing Date for Public Comment: Fri 20 Oct 2023.
PCC agreed no comment.
- c. 23/01520/FLL | Erection of a dwellinghouse, fence and gate, formation of driveway, parking, landscaping and associated works | Land 50 Metres North West Of Newlands Wood Newlands Farm Wester Balgedie Kinross KY13 9SL
Closing Date for Public Comment: Fri 20 Oct 2023
The applicant and landowner attended the meeting. The new build was a small home being built on the farm for a member of the family, as an affordable option to purchase of a house on the market. There were existing hut type buildings on the site. PCC noted review of the plans showed a small 2-bed property was proposed. Woodland on the site will not be cleared. The applicant hoped a letter of Support from PCC could be provided based on creation of an affordable home. The Vice Chair proposed a letter of support regarding the creation of Affordable Housing provision and this was agreed. PCC also appreciated that the owner had come along to represent on the application.

(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
Land 100 Metres South East Of Cragton Villa Rost Gardens Scotlandwell
The Chair had written to David Littlejohn at PKC who had confirmed that the application would go before the Planning Committee. Chair had requested to represent at Committee to uphold the objections made about the provision of affordable housing by way of single plots for sale and other environmental issues.

(3) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: Cllr KDonaldson confirmed no substantial update. Signage is yet to be completed.
- (b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: DMorris confirmed no update.

6. **Paths Group update:** the time of year and natural die back indicated a quieter time for the Paths Group and as such there had been only limited work of recent.

7. **Treasurer CC Accounts:**

Michael Bruce Way: £1677.24

PCC account: £527.95

Treasurer commented on the increasing balance in the Michael Bruce Way and suggested the Paths Group should perhaps look to purchase some equipment and use some of the surplus funds that were accumulating in the Michael Bruce Way. WCllr WRobertson commented that Milnathort CC had applied to purchase their own flail and this could possibly be used by other CCs. Cllr DMorris confirmed that some funds would be used to repair the paths map in carpark in Kinnesswood, as although the map was fine, the mounting requires repair.

8. **Ward Councillors' Reports:**

WRobertson: Lochend farm to Levenmouth Path. Discussions had been undertaken with the Gliding Centre about safety at the approach to the airfield over the area of the path from Lochend Farm shop over the culvert and onto the Levenmouth track. On a site visit the tow-plane had been observed to fly low enough that the trailing tug cable had hit the trees. The Gliding Club have revised tow plane safety rules and circulated these to TRACKS. These would

Note: the Minutes of Council can be seen in the file kept in the Kinnesswood Village Shop or on the Hall notice board or found on the Community Council website. www.portmoak.org

also be sent to the Levenmouth landowner. The funds previously made available for the path had by necessity had to be returned due to the delays in progressing the project, but these would be re-granted so the path could be finished.

RWatters: has been working to get a banking hub agreed for Kinross. Criteria for the town to have a hub had not initially been met due to a basic test that failed due to the linear layout of Kinross along the loch side creating a smaller footprint that did not accurately count the number of residents or businesses within a 1kilometer circle. Only 2900 residents had been counted in 1km circle and only 29 businesses, where in fact there were 60 businesses. WCllr RWatters had a meeting with the administrators who admitted that the methodology did not work well. FCA referral for consultation. Crieff is being assessed, and Auchterarder will qualify. A banking hub exists in Carnoustie.

The Chair expressed thanks to WCllrs for work in the last year.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Item 1: safety barrier upgrade work at Friarton Bridge, Sunday 15/10/23 - Friday 27/10/23: the bridge would have only a single lane and some delays should be expected at busy times.

Item 2: Portmoak Village Shop – now under new ownership: PCC commented it was good to see the shop continue as a business within the community and wished the new owners well with their new venture.

10. AOB:

Item 1: ARUP Report for development of walking and cycling routes: Cllr DMorris had circulated an ARUP report from Tactran grouping of the roads' authorities in the central Scotland council area (Angus, Dundee, Stirling, PKC) on the development of walking and cycling routes. The report is in response to new money flowing out of ScotGov for active travel, reflecting a SG commitment of 10% of the transport budget for creation of active travel routes connecting communities to each other and to transport hubs. This is very important as it sets agenda for spending for years to come. WCllr RWatters had observed that within Perth & Kinross, Kinross-shire seems to have been missed off the plan despite having a need for new paths to help connect rural communities for safe active travel. Cllr DMorris was to attend meeting on 11/10/23. PCC and WCllrs agreed the priority for the meeting should be: 1. Kinross to Ballingry with links to Kelty and Westfield; 2. Milnathort to Leslie; and 3. Milnathort to Glenfarg. Approximately £6.7M could be potentially available pro-rata. Year on year the funds will be huge, and we need to gear up to make sure the projects and funds are agreed as strategically important within Kinross-shire and in the wider picture also connecting the huge areas within P&K, such as Dundee and Angus, and enabling people to move from one area to another across boundaries, especially where there were sections missing. WCllr WRobertson commented on the benefits to an area in making walking and cycle routes: citing the recent survey on use of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, the results had shown increase of users of the trail from 200K to 330K users. Visitors bring money to businesses in the area, and this is reflected in the shops and facilities locally.

Item 2: Portmoak Hall AGM: the Portmoak Hall AGM had been brought forward to the 19/10/23 This will be in the Hall at 7.30pm. Long standing members of the committee are stepping down, which leaves a problem of volunteer numbers to manage hall and fund raise. PCC would like to appeal to locals, perhaps from local user groups. The operation of KGV Hall Committee in Kinross was highlighted whereby a member of each user group must participate in the KGV Hall Committee.

Item 3: Member of public flagged the approach of lambing time and observed that around Glenlomond people seem to be taking down signs and leaving gates open. When walking in the countryside the public need to take responsibility for themselves and their actions: keep their dogs on leads, pick up litter, and close gates. WCllr WRobertson commented that PCC had done a campaign of awareness in 2021. Another member of the public raised the issue of fly-tipping. The Chair suggested that the topic be added to the PCC Nov23 meeting agenda for discussion and action points.

11. Next Meeting: 1930-2100hrs, Tuesday, 12 December 2023, Online via Zoom. Agenda & Zoom access details to be circulated.

Note: the Minutes of Council can be seen in the file kept in the Kinnesswood Village Shop or on the Hall notice board or found on the Community Council website. www.portmoak.org