

Portmoak Community Council

February Meeting

Tuesday 13 February 2024, 1930 – 2100hrs
Meeting In-Person at Portmoak Village Hall

Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** WCllr NFreshwater, WRobertson; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, DPaterson. 3 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllr DCuthbert, RWatters.

- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC meeting on 12/12/23:**

Proposed: DPaterson. Seconded: KDonaldson

Minutes approved

- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update: WCllr WRobertson spoke about the Tactran (Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership) study of routes in PKC for cycling and walking which had not included Kinross-shire paths at all. WCllr RWatters and WRobertson had attended a meeting with Tactran to address this omission and the meeting outcomes were subsequently discussed at the KC meeting. There had been agreement to use Kinross-shire fund money to complete the survey. However, now Tactran have agreed to do the study with their funds. There is a focus on safe cycling routes to connect other paths. Cllr DMorris suggested Tactran may have approx. £26K available at end of year funds for use on projects. Meeting on Thu 15/02/24 at Campus, Cllr KDonaldson to attend.

Item 2: Road Safety Action Update: Bowhouse speed reduction limits extending to Auchmuir bridge have been implemented. It is hoped this will assist in reducing speeds along this stretch of road.

Community Speed watch: social media page will go live this week. People will be able to communicate their details privately. A first round of applications will be launched to get names, numbers and emails. This info. will not be publicly circulated. Secretary to circulate the social media details to subscribers. Speedwatch will be operated separately from PCC, with coordinators in each village.

Vane Farm road: WCllrs confirmed that the Vane Farm road is on a schedule for resurfacing in next financial year starting 2024.

Complaint about road Mawcarse to Wester Balgedie: large amounts of water is washing off fields and hill and coming down on the road in several areas. It was felt that ditches needed cleared. Asked SEPA to speak to PKC Roads to get ditches cleared out. DMorris suggested this was a problem all along the A911. There are many discussions about the drains blocking with sand and gravelly soil, but even cleared drains block almost immediately due to the nature of the soil in the area and this is a challenge for PKC to keep the drains clear as much as they need to be. There was a discussion about farming practises and the potential benefits of direct drilling for planting, with no ploughing, and planting instead into stubble with direct drilling which can help to sequester carbon and slow down water. Also running furrows along the line of the hill. Landowner has offered to clear ditches. Has cut out winter crops to stop soil erosion. DMorris suggested tree / hedge shelter belts along the Mawcarse-Balgedie stretch to try and slow down water.

A local resident had raised an issue with pushing a pram up the narrowing path from Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church and asked if it was possible for PKC to dig back the edge of the path to clear enough width for a pram. Secretary to forward correspondence between local resident and PKC officer to NFreshwater.

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: There is an area of woodland owned by Portmoak Church, opposite the church, which the Church are willing to transfer to the Woodland Trust. The proposed Path is described as being a proactive solution for people to move through the land from the Community Entrance to

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cemetery along to the existing path, and this section now has a green light from the relevant parties. It would be useful if this upper section could be assessed in principle. This development could be used as leverage on landowner that the path is a necessity for the local community and hopefully see some progress on the lower section then from the Cemetery down to Scotlandwell.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: The Chair believed work to upgrade the facilities was imminent. Funding is in place, green light to go. Portmoak Gala will have to move venue, but not date, for 2024 as the grass will not be adequately established by the time of the gala. A possible location was thought to be secured.

Item 5: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: Future of Portmoak Church: there was a short discussion about the church and car park, but this project was being handled via another group within the Community.

Item 6: Sustainability Group meeting: no update at this stage

4. **New Matters arising:** nothing additional

5. **Reports:**

a. **Police Reports:** Police report had been circulated with advice about securing your property. A break in had occurred at Loch Leven Larder.

b. **Planning**

(1) New Applications:

a. *24/00135/FLL | Installation of replacement windows and door | Bonaly Cottage Main Street Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HN*

Last Date for Public comments: Fri 08 Mar 2024

PCC: agreed no comment.

(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

Agreement to remove this item for the next meeting.

(3) Planning Decisions

(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee

KDonaldson was to attend meeting in March 24. Other works appear to be progressing. Test mode by mid-2024. Expected to be active in 2025. Funding could be available for community purpose. Chair asked KDonaldson for contact: Ross MacDonald (Chair has details)

(b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: Cllr DMorris once we know who is doing Tactrans work through ARUP, Dave will feed the study into TAKTRans. A lot of paths being created through Woodland Trust, Chair suggested that details of these could be fed through to the study also.

6. **Paths Group update:** Regarding the path connection between top of Cobbles to Michael Bruce Way. PKC are going to organise quotes from contractors for minor work, and way marking and replacement signs.

Coffin Road from Arlary to Orwell . WRobertson had mentioned to Dave Stubbs that this Core Path was not being maintained. DMorris had met the farmer (Harry Black) and informed him that he had ploughed up the Core Path, reminded him of responsibility to restore core paths. Strong pressure is required to be put on land owner.

7. **Treasurer CC Accounts:**

PCC acc: £849.29

MBW acc: £1683.71 (interest from RBS account has been added)

RBS old account can now be closed.

Secretary to submit Zoom invoices

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Treasurer had applied for grant for MBW account. Should be paid direct into MBW account and should show up in March24.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports:

WRobertson advised that PKC are in budget process with big savings required. Grass cutting will be reduced as an easy first measure. WRobertson had asked for information and maps of work areas in order to manage expectations. As soon as the WCllrs hear more information he will inform CCs.

NFreshwater: Roads team within PKC have had issues with not having a full complement of employees in their department which is delaying the works schedule . WCllrs have challenge of securing funding for next year from 1st April 2024. On community Speedwatch that Milnathort CC have all the equipment so this could be coordinated to bring in volunteers to do a Speedwatch in Portmoak for a couple of hours.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

- Changes to Proxy and Postal Voting
- Issues of brown bins in Kinnesswood cobbles. Raise to WCllrs.

10. AOB:

Chair: Milnathort planning inconsistencies in conservation areas pertaining to solar panels. Chair suggests asking the Planning committee for comment on this for more clarity. WCllrs asked for the overview on this to take to Planning Officer.

DMorris: advance warning that he would be leaving the area and would have to resign from PCC within 2024. He is the only person from Kinnesswood in PCC. Also Paths Group needs a new coordinator but this aspect may be solved. The Chair offered thanks for the immense work that DMorris has contributed to PCC work over many years.

Chair notified he would not be available for the next PCC meeting. Vice Chair agreed to cover the chairing of the 12/03/24 March meeting of PCC

Member of Public: Robert Erskine Newlands farm. Issues with gates being left open by walkers. PKC had offered to give them 1 new self-closing gate, but they could use more.

Footpath from Hall car park to at golf course gorse bushes are grown into the path. Also from golf course to Kinnesswood thorny bushes are growing over the path.

New Gullet Bridge: a vehicle had hit the New Gullet Bridge and dislodged masonry. WRobertson suggested the issue of new signage was raised at KC.

11. Next Meeting: **Tuesday 12 March 2024, online via Zoom**
