

Portmoak Community Council

April Meeting

Tuesday 9 April 2024, 1930 – 2100hrs
Meeting Online via Zoom

Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** WCllrs WRobertson, Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavison (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), and 1 member of the public.
Apologies: WCllrs DCuthbert, N Freshwater, RWatters; Cllrs KDonaldson, DPaterson.
- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC meeting on 13/02/24:**
Comments: *“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.”* Request to change the wording to *“Item 5: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: there was a short discussion about the church and car park. The project regarding the Community acquisition of the Church Car Park was being handled via Kinnesswood Development Trust”*.
DMorris: Proposed. ADavidson: Seconded
Minutes from Feb24 approved.
- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**
Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update: Difficulty with accessing social care in Kinross-shire: a number of locals had raised this issue to WCllr WRobertson. KLC was addressed by Jacqui Pepper, (Chief Officer – P&K, Health & Social Care Scotland), who explained the problems with getting necessary staff required to provide care. They are trying to bring in people from other countries that are considered to provide adequately qualified staff to work in UK. WCllr WRobertson hoped the raise to the minimum wage may increase people’s willingness to choose caring as a profession.

Item 2: Road Safety Action Update: Speedwatch: a social media page is due to go live soon. Allan Macrae of Milnathort & Orwell CC had updated AMiller. MOCC are co-ordinating with Police for Speedwatch training. It is suggested that as Volunteers are trained and a core of people who have undertaken the vetting procedure increases, they will be able to take that forward. AMacrae was willing to have a chat with anyone who is interested, MOCC would put out a link to the Kinross-shire Facebook page and people who are interested can have a look and respond directly this would help interested parties go straight to the point of entry. Portmoak CC are happy to act as a hub but the project needs to be taken forward by members of the community, with devolved responsibility to individuals. Training can be done in an afternoon or an evening. Individuals are encouraged to register. MOCC have done training and can now provide training to other interested members of the public.

PCC would like to thank PKC and WRobertson that there is now warning signage on the New Gullet Bridge (along from gliding club). The bridge parapet is still broken from the collision prior to Xmas, and awaits repair.

Wester Balgedie VAS sign for 30mph speed limit had finally been installed on approach from Pittendreich side. PCC would like to thank PKC Roads for implementing this.

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: there was unfortunately little positive movement to report on this item. AMiller is to meet with a representative of the Woodland Trust. The upper section of the path from Portmoak Hall to Church has in principle been subject to approval by the two relevant landowners Woodland Trust & Church of Scotland. At the last PCC meeting, a feasibility study was discussed. The Woodland Trust intimated they may be able to help with this process, and further discussions would be required. Further approaches to the landowner of the southern section continues to be challenging with no response or further communication to the Chair. Cllr DMorris reiterated the necessity of PKC to consider all means, including the possibility of compulsory purchase powers so that PCC can get some traction with the acquisition of the land for the southern section from Portmoak Church to Scotlandwell.

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A parallel issue is that the existing roadside footpath is too rutted and narrow and has long since stopped being fit for purpose. WCLlr WRobertson reported he had asked PKC to address widening by verge maintenance of the existing path from Portmoak Church to Scotlandwell, in addition to the separate path section from Scotlandwell to Kinneston Farm. WCLlr WRobertson confirmed he would raise this request again with PKC.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: Tree felling (of diseased trees) has commenced. Speaking to the PKC team involved in the upgrade, tenders for the work have been submitted and once a contractor is selected, work can commence. The ground is incredibly wet because of the recent weather which may cause delays. PKC officers have been helpful and speedy to respond on this project. It was however noted that the Portmoak Gala had to relocate to avoid damage to the new turf/grass within the park.

Item 5: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: the project has moved on since the last meeting. Kinnesswood Development Trust are handling the project for the acquisition of the car park for Community use and facilities. There are however specific processes to follow. The option to purchase has currently been requested for the carpark only. While retention of the church for Community use would be a preference, it is necessary to consider the intended purpose, future potential uses, costs, maintenance and how it could affect existing Community assets. Without any defined or firm feasibility plan or proposal, acquisition of the church for the Community is not a currently considered to be viable. Responses to requests for information on the likely purchase price of the car park have not yet been received. Without knowing the funding requirements, it is deemed difficult to start fund raising. It is understood the Church of Scotland are not planning to sell the land or carpark until 2027. There appear to be events planned at the church for 2025. PCC and KDT would be keen to understand in more detail what the Church's intentions and programme are.

Item 6: Sustainability Group meeting: no update at this point. Secretary to pick up with the group which involves other adjacent Community Councils around the matter of planning applications for Wind Farms.

4. **New Matters arising:** none

5. **Reports:**

a. **Police Reports:** There was a recent Police Commanders report that was due to be circulated. A Davidson reported incidences of sheep worrying in Portmoak. Again, PCC encourage locals to keep dogs on leads around sheep in fields. The Chair had seen reports of prowlers in gardens in Kinnesswood. They have been seen on CCTV and Video doorbells. Following recent Police advice, PCC encourage people to lock gates, sheds and house doors and windows and be vigilant.

b. **Planning**

(1) New Applications:

a. 224/00398/FLL | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and installation of replacement windows | Park House Main Street Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HN. Last Date for public comment: Fri 26 Apr 2024

The Chair and Vice Chair had reviewed. No comments

b. 24/00393/IPL | Erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle) | Land 330 Metres North West Of 5 Kinneston Cottages Leslie Glenrothes KY6 3JJ. Last date for public comment: Fri 12 Apr 2024
Chair had reviewed the plans. It was an isolated building, within land boundary of an existing house. Access appears to be a temporary access. Visibility lines do not seem to suggest an intrusion on the landscape. In principle application. No comment at present.

(2) Existing Applications: no items for review

(3) Planning Decisions

(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee. As Cllr Donaldson was the PCC normal representative to WCLC, and was not in attendance, the update report was held over to the next meeting.

(b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: Tactrans meeting at end of March. Neither the Chair or Vice-Chair had received any information at time of meeting. Cllr DMorris to catch the meeting co-ordinators- Arup this week. AMiller and DMorris had tried to access meeting but had not been able to. As Chair of Tracks WCLlr WRobertson had attended a meeting with Arup. Arup

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said there were no plans identified for Kinross-shire and would welcome input from all areas of Kinross-shire concerning barriers to active travel e.g. the roundabout at Sainsburys in Kinross. Any thoughts on this can be emailed to Portmoak CC and will be forwarded on. All members of the Community are encouraged to highlight obstructions in your area that could be easily eliminated to help walking and cycling. These should be issued to Secretary@Portmoak.org

- 6. Paths Group update:** including update on Coffin Road from Arlary to Orwell. There was no update on this item. It was agreed to leave this item on agenda until May meeting.

Path adjoining top of Cobbles-Back Dykes to Michael Bruce Way. Cllr DMorris has written a report that is with the Secretary. During recent months of extremely poor weather, the path has turned into a stream and requires a drain to contain the surface water and rebuild the path on top of this. This has been estimated at Circa £10k to do the required remedial work. Request from Paths Group for PCC agreement to contribute £1,500 to this project. There were concerns among PCC members that the remedial action may be ineffective. Cllr DMorris had walked the path and the stream has created a gully that makes the path difficult to walk. The landowner is involved in the discussion. There is some work going on between the Paths group and the Woodland group to complete wildflower planting.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts:

Portmoak CC Account: £829.29
Michael Bruce Way Account: £1683.71

Suggestion to stop using Zoom and instead use Microsoft teams which is free up to about 90 users. Secretary will look into this. Platform is very similar and may save some costs to PCC.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports:

WCLlr WRobertson: the path link from Lochend to LLHT, via Levenmouth road, has been completed. The Chair thanked WCLlr WRobertson for his persistence on this project and overcoming the difficulties that had arisen. On PKC: WRobertson explained that as part of a cost saving exercise a large number of eligible PKC employees have taken retirement. This was expected to impact the pool of expertise that is available in the short term, which may cause some delays in actioning or progressing projects.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

- Item 1:** "Onshore windfarms in our hill landscapes": Public debate, 15 Apr 24, at Kinross Campus in evening
- Item 2:** "Big Place Conversation" – from 2023 PKC consultation. Initial collated results and comments were now available.
- Item 3:** Scotlandwell footpath between Wellside Park and The Green, in need of repair. The Chair would raise and try to progress this within the context of the Green play facilities upgrade.
- Item 4:** Proposed Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Dunshalt Local Place Plan for comment. Secretary to recirculate to PCC members.
- Item 5:** Kinross Road Runners Half Marathon, road closures from 08450hrs - Sunday 12th May 2024
Chair & Secretary had been in contact with Ann Malcolm of KRR. KRR had been appreciative of the PCC communications sent in to 2023. Secretary to recirculate info. for 2024.

10. AOB:

Item 1: Cllr ADavidson highlighted a problem in Glenlomond with a semi-derelict building which had become unsafe during recent storms and was now deemed unsafe. There had been plans by owner to demolish and create a new building, but these had been rejected by PKC planning. Glenlomond Community were keen to have the rebuild progressed. PCC suggested that if a building is structurally unsafe the owner needs to make it safe, and not accessible. If the Community feel it is unsafe the landowner needs to demonstrate it is safe and cannot be accessed.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday 14 May 2024, online via Zoom

12. Chair adjourned meeting at 2059

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