

Portmoak Community Council

May Meeting

Tuesday 14 May 2024, 1930 – 2100hrs

Meeting On-line via Zoom

Minutes

- Attendance & Apologies:** WCllrs DCuthbert and WRobertson; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, and DPaterson; MCraig (Police Liaison); and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: WCllrs NFreshwater & RWatters

- Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC April meeting on 09/04/24:**

Proposed: Dave Morris. Seconded: Ann Davidson

May 2024 Minutes approved.

- Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update, and Tayside Active Travel Master Plan:

PCC members had been reviewing and discussing the Tayside Active Travel Master Plan, with a focus on the Kinross-shire Active Travel Plan. Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair had attempted to join the scheduled ARUP (the contractors) meeting on 27/03/24 but had not been able to and had had no response from ARUP on this. As a result, there are currently omissions about connecting routes through Kinross-shire and Portmoak. PCC views on the Active Travel Master Plan are yet to be included in the Kinross-shire plan, as there had been no response from ARUP contractors following the March meeting. Cllr DMorris would be raising this at the KLC meeting on 16/05/24. WCllr DCuthbert commented on the upcoming KLC meeting on 16/05/24 and agenda items: the Kinross-shire Active Travel plan was a working document and would be discussed as the last item on the agenda. Lots of comments were expected and views would be welcomed, the document was still very much in draft phase. A Roads update would also take place. Update on Blaringone Primary School, where a Community Asset Transfer was taking place and KLC were involved acting as a shield or buffer to protect the project, as there had been many delays, and KLC involvement was intended to time to put pieces of the project in place. Financial update outlining £50K of KLC funds which have become available from another project, so KLC will discuss this and try to identify other projects which could benefit from the available funds. Final update on South Kinross flood protection scheme: there are 2 objections to the flood scheme which need to be discussed and negotiated, and it is hoped these will be withdrawn. The building of an affordable supermarket can only be progressed at the BCA British Car Auctions site only if the flood protection is in place. WCllr DCuthbert couldn't comment further as he sits on the Planning Committee.

Item 2: Road Safety Action Update: Speedwatch was covered in Police Liaison update (see Item 5a). Chair reiterated that if there is enough uptake, we can get some traction on highlighting issues of speeding along the A911. WCllr DCuthbert highlighted that people from any area can move to another area should they have concerns about visibility within their local criteria, or can choose to stay in their own locality if they prefer. It was felt that most people had concerns about their own area and would be happy to work locally.

Cllr KDonaldson flagged the problem with the B9097 road surface which was badly needing resurfaced. Previous patching was already breaking up.

Cllr ADavidson had noticed on Portmoak Community FB page requesting signage for Children Crossing near Portmoak Primary School, as there were concerns about disregard by car drivers to children in the area. Cllr DMorris a crossing point around the Kinnesswood shop. One suggestion discussed was the creation of an extended shared use zone along the centre of Kinnesswood, similar to what is seen in Kinross centre from the roundabout down the High Street where a long part is 20mph. There is no single formal crossing point between Milnathort and Leslie. Chair agreed, thought speed pavements were the best solution, where speed cushions really had minimal effect.

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: The Chair had issued further communication this week, including the landowner of the lower Southern section between Church and Scotlandwell. WCllrs had been CC'd on this. It was hoped this would gain traction. Chair had initiated communications with TRACKS, arranged a meeting for an on-site meeting w/beginning 20/05/24. It was thought that half a path was better than no path and PCC were

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keen to progress as quickly as possible another section of off-road path before any possible funding was withdrawn. The crossing that is proposed will be a stand-alone section. WCllr WRobertson agreed and referred to the LLHT which was built in sections and partly delayed due to landowner objections. Cllrs KDonaldson and the Secretary were in agreement. The PCC members and WCllrs were in agreement to move forward with the path section between Community Woodland and the Church.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: The Chair had received correspondence from coordinator Susan Whyte at PKC Greenspace Communities. The work was supposed to be commencing in Jan/Feb 24 and tree surgery work was completed. However, the rain in the early part of 2024 had delayed the work as the ground was too wet to proceed. Now the tender process was delayed. Unfortunately, the Portmoak Gala has had to have been relocated in anticipation of the facility upgrade commencing. There is likely to be frustration and disappointment from Gala organisers that time, effort and money have been spent needlessly relocating the gala to another site along Grahamstone when work has been delayed until after the gala date. It was felt PKC Greenspace had dropped the ball on this item. WCllr DCuthbert agreed and commented that delays were also happening in Davies Park in Kinross where work was being delayed until the end of the Summer24. Funds had been made available by ScotGov for playparks and there has been a surge in applications for play facility upgrade all across Scotland and the tender process was now being delayed as a result of the volume of tenders. Suggested looking at any local construction firms who may be able to step in. Chair hoped that work would start soon when the ground was dry during the Summer months and not delayed again.

Item 5: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: no significant move forward. The Chair thought it would be prudent to look for local funding opportunities like the Westfield fund. WCllr D Cuthbert supported the idea of moving forward with obtaining valuations and funding opportunities and supposed this would be another Community Asset Transfer from Church to Community and advised the value of having a Community Development Trust to handle projects like this. Cllr DMorris confirmed Kinnesswood Development Trust were moving forward the project for the acquisition of the car park. Chair suggested that funding initiatives could start even without a valuation, with any surplus used for other Community projects. WCllr DCuthbert suggested DMorris raise the question at KLC meeting. Lee Haxton is the Officer at PKC who manages Capital Asset Transfers. Cllr DPaterson recalled at a previous meeting on this item, it had been indicated by Church representatives that it may be possible for the Community to obtain a part of the Glebe. Chair deferred to KDT as the group who were managing this project. COS would be looking as a charity to raise a fairly substantial amount of money for the sale. WCllr WRobertson expressed minimal concerns due to the good communications between the Trustees and the KDT, and thought funding was likely to be available, and the Trustees did understand the importance of the car park to the Community. Also did not want to see the Portmoak Church fall into disrepair, so it was also important to have the church in a position for development. PKC Planners have confirmed that the carpark would not be looked at for housing.

Item 6: Sustainability Group Meeting: update: WCllrs DCuthbert flagged two applications received by PKC for windfarms in the Ochils, one through the Energy Consents Unit which will come to committee in August. And one that had come direct to PKC. Secretary did not have an update, pending next meeting on 19/06/24 but had recently reconnected with the Renewables Sustainability Group. Cllr DMorris commented on public meeting he had attended at Community Centre In Kinross, it was a public meeting, there was no discussion about benefits to the Communities, there seemed to be suggestion of considerable opposition to the wind farms, and that that the financial was a massive bribe to keep Communities onside and not object to planning. The wind turbines are going to be colossal to reach into the laminate air flow. In Norway they consider construction of windfarms onshore as ridiculous due to the uneven flow of air. There is going to be a significant move to off-shore wind. WCllr DCuthbert said the purpose of the community councils getting together is to ensure that, if consent is given, then all the communities benefit. 3 applications in the Ochils are likely to be forthcoming. NPF4 makes consent much easier and planning legislation may determine likely outcomes and make it more difficult for communities to resist. The Secretary commented that it was important to be in the discussions in a neutral framework, despite both sides of the argument for and against on-shore and off-shore wind farms. Developments in the Ochils are likely to be visible from most parts of Portmoak which was a visual issue, but we should continue to engage so that if planning policy was pushing the projects forward the community did not miss out. WCllr WRobertson suggested connection for the proposed wind farm would run through Portmoak to Westfield and was likely to be an overground connection

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Item 7: Scotlandwell footpath between Wellside Park & The Green: issue with ironwork has become raised on the footpath and perceived to be a hazard. Local residents are looking at putting in some reparations themselves. Chair thought that it was not a good idea for residents to attempt any fix to the path as they may become legally responsible for the it and it should be the responsibility of the Council. A PKC planning letter from 17/01/14 stated the path would be adopted by PKC when Wellside Park was adopted. Residents would be responsible for any defects or repairs on a non-adopted scheme. Further consultation has shown that PKC Roads officer visited roads twice, to note defects for snagging, second visit was after these defects were remedied. Two questions need confirmation: the status of the Wellside Park adoption by the council. And secondly why the path between the Wellside Park and the Green has not been adopted. Developer has received bond back.

Cllr DPaterson: as a developer has to do a road bond, councils only adopt a finished article, if road is up to standard required by council.. WCllr WRobertson was doubtful that the road had not been adopted. PKC would not have returned the bond if the road wasn't up to standard. WRobertson asked that the CC leave the issue with him to pursue further questions and information on the status and best way to proceed.

A Resident of Wellside Park provided some context: PKC have never done any work on the path, but they did extend the path to the Well Park. The resident was the last house to buy in 2016 and no work had been done since then, the last planning approval advice states footpath between plots 9 and 10 should remain free from obstruction and shall be maintained by the applicants or their successor. Path sits within the communal part of the properties. The resident had made a request to PKC that because the path is use by the community and it was intended to be used by community that some contribution be made by council for reparation. 16 out of 18 houses had agreed to proceed reparation work but some had raised concerns, which had then created doubt about the status of the road adoption also. The resident commented that on the latter point it seemed odd that there were regular bin collections, road sweeping and maintenance of lighting if the road wasn't adopted. Their deeds do state it was responsibility of the Developer to secure the road adoption. The Chair thanked the resident for their contribution and understood the concerns. Agreed to leave the issue with WCllr WRobertson for investigation. The Chair reiterated the initial planning consent that path itself be adopted when the principle road was adopted. There was agreement that need to establish if the road is adopted, and clarification about the responsibility for the path going forward.

4. Reports:

- a. **Police Reports:** Mark Craig, Kinross Police Seargent, introduced Ashleigh Community PSYV role, also known as the Cobras. If there are any events on can speak to Ashleigh. About 10 calls to local Police in the last month, of note only a residential house break in on Leslie Road, currently under enquiry with good lines of enquiry so hopeful for a positive outcome. Half marathon last week went quite well. A quiet month otherwise.

Community Speedwatch: Alan Macrae of MOCC has taken the lead. Chair was able to explain that Portmoak has created a Portmoak Community Speedwatch page with link to MOCC, where potential volunteers can be coordinated. Link to MOCC to coordinate any volunteers directly. Seem to be a lot of local Portmoak residents who are keen to participate. Alan Macrae has offered to do a presentation when enough numbers of volunteers are registered. PCC members felt that speeding had got worse in recent months and hoped residents would get involved. The Chair hoped that the Speedwatch would gather data that may identify hazardous areas. The Police liaison were encouraged by this. Willie Robertson thanked Mark for his contribution. WCllr WRobertson highlighted complaints he'd received from residents about speeding on Leslie Road, and requested some surveillance on that road. Mark Craig agreed to add this item to the police patrol. WCllr DCuthbert also thanked police on behalf of residents who had commented that the police had been more visible checking speeds. The Chair thanked the Police for attending.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

- a. 24/00522/FLL | Formation of hard standing and erection of a garage/workshop | The Lindens The Cobbles Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HL.
Last date for public comments: Fri 24 May 2024
PCC had looked at the plans. No substantial concerns. Comment that that the proposed garage was totally disconnected from the main carparking area and appeared to be more of a workshop. Cllr DMorris had not looked at the application but commented that the existing garage was considerably separated from the house at present. The Chair proposed no comment from PCC. No comment from other meeting attendees.

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- b. 24/00691/FLL | Installation of replacement windows and solar panels | Allandale The Cobbles Kinnesswood Kinross KY13 9HL
Last date for public comments: Fri 07 Jun 2024
PCC had reviewed the planning applications. The Secretary confirmed the application was in the Kinnesswood Conservation Area. There was some discussion about the orientation of the panels. The Chair agreed to try and view on-site and make comment if necessary.
- c. 24/00245/FLL: Part change of use agricultural building to dog breeding facility | Land 40 Metres North East Of Glenheart Farm Glenlomond Kinross KY13 9H.
Additional new application highlighted by Treasurer. Secretary apologised for the omission and would investigate. PCC will review and discuss and make representation as necessary.

(2) Existing Applications: no items for review

(3) Planning Decisions

- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: Cllr KDonaldson had attended recent meeting. Firing and testing this year, pending operation starting in 2025. At a recent meeting in Ballingry it had been discussed that the Westfield site would be used to collect electricity from Ochils windfarms before transmitting it onto other Southern parts of the UK such as Northumberland and Norfolk. Cllr DMorris commented that there was no discussion on prospective power lines bringing power to Westfield and it should be considered if these would be underground or overground through Portmoak. WCllr WRobertson commented that he had posed this question to Ochils Wind Farm Developers and had been told incoming power lines would be over-ground.
- (b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: DMorris suggested this needs to be wrapped into the ARUP Discussions.

6. Paths Group update: current project underway for the top of the Cobbles to put in a large drain which will cost around £10k, fundraising is under way.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts:

CC Account: £829.29

Invoices finally received for Zoom licenses and these funds would be paid out to the Secretary

MB Account: £2183.71

Grant received by Paths Group for £500

8. Ward Councillors' Reports: Nothing further

9. Matters notified to the Secretary

Item 1: Funding Opportunities: Secretary had posted 3 funding opportunities to the Portmoak Community Facebook page. These were as follows:

The Toy Trust - Grants to UK registered charities, for projects working with disadvantaged children aged 13 and under. Applications can be submitted at any time, for consideration quarterly (applications submitted by mid-June will be considered at the July meeting). [Home - Toy Trust](#)

The Bank of Scotland Foundation/Energise programme - Due to reopen for applications in 1 month. Next deadline: 6th June, 2024. Focus to be solely on helping charities who support vulnerable groups/people. Funding will be unrestricted, and can be used towards core costs, delivery costs, project costs and/or general running costs. [Bank of Scotland Foundation](#)

The Corra Foundation Boost Fund - launches on April 30th. Grants of £250 - £3,000 to support community-led activity addressing the challenges faced by children and families impacted by poverty. [Boost Fund supporting children and families \(corra.scot\)](#)

10. AOB: nothing further

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 June 2024, online via Zoom

12. Chair closed out meeting at 2103hrs

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