

Portmoak Community Council

June Meeting

Tuesday 11 June 2024, 1930 – 2100hrs

Meeting On-line via Zoom

Minutes

- Attendance & Apologies:** WCllrs WRobertson; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), DMorris (Vice-Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, DPaterson; Mark Craig Police Liaison and Ashley; and 1 member of the public.
- Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC April meeting on 14/05/24:**
Proposer: DPaterson. Seconded: KDonaldson
- Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update, and Kinross-shire Active Travel Master Plan: Cllr DMorris had produced a very concise and detailed document in reply to the Kinross-shire Active Travel Master Plan to be incorporated into the master plan. DMorris clarified that for the previous meeting in March the Chair & Vice-Chair had been unable to connect as the wrong contact email address had been circulated. The essence of the work Dave had done was to clarify there should be off-road routes all the way around Loch Leven with appropriate mitigations e.g. Kinnesswood in certain areas as a top priority e.g. a crossing at the Kinnesswood Village Shop. Looking at Transport Scotland are proposing a new Aviemore to Carbridge walking and cycling route and this was very much the direction of funding for active travel. Questions will be fielded to ARUP via DMorris. Final document will come before KLC in August. Chair thanked DMorris for his clarity and knowledge and time in preparing the information. Query on whether the response should be circulated to Portmoak Community at this stage, but it was felt at this stage that PCC could field a response to ARUP with cc to WCllrs. WCllrs asked DMorris to resend his comments and response to ARUP as the files had been blocked by PKC IT restrictions due to the size.

Item 2: Road Safety Action Update: Speedwatch campaign has been live for a couple of weeks, MOCC coordinating that. Allan at MOCC reports uptake has been quite slow. The Facebook website address is as follows for updates and information <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558727684719> and if interested in volunteering please email: speedwatch.ks@gmail.com Once volunteers are registered MOCC are prepared to come and do a presentation at the village hall to explain next steps. In terms of recent road safety anecdotally there appears to be a great number of motorbikes travelling the A911 often at high speed. Minuted items from May24 PCC meeting included requests for school road crossings and whether or not to petition PKC to address these. Obviously, there are other road safety items recently confirmed as priorities to PKC and as yet unactioned, so new requests need to sit alongside the existing items and be prioritised accordingly.

Item 3: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: Chair had met onsite with WCllr WRobertson and Dave Stubbs (Greenspace, PKC), and Nick Mainprize (TRACKS) and looked at options for feasibility study for the path. There is some movement forward with this feasibility study which will give access to supplementary funding. Chair has issued notification to all the relevant land owners to appraise them of the feasibility study. Nick and Dave agreed to look at funding streams for the study and PCC are happy to tap into their expertise on this front. WCllr WRobertson agreed this was a good synopsis of the meeting, positive of finding a way forward. Chair felt that some traction had been gained. Feel sure that the Community would support any movement forward. PCC to await updates and hopefully have some news for July PCC meeting.

Item 4: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green: The Chair had seized the opportunity at meeting with NMainprize to discuss this item. NMainprize was apologetic for the situation and for the delays that had been caused and the upset for the gala arrangements. This was felt to have been unavoidable at the time. The reasons for delay had been minuted at the June PCC meeting. Everyone has been very patient. No update on the dates for work starting. Concerns to avoid the same delays happening again in 2024 or 2025 due to excessive wet weather.

Item 5: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: The Chair had seen correspondence relayed to PCC from Kinnesswood Development Trust (KDT): the Community right to buy application has been approved by Scottish Government ministers in the last weeks. KDT will try to get an indicative valuation on the site once the

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gala arrangements were finished. Start funding applications soon. KDT may try to agree a reduced purchase of the part of the car park to allow parking for any future owners of the church building.

Item 6: Sustainability Group Meeting: the Secretary was due to attend a Renewables Sustainability Group (RSG) meeting on 19/06/24. No update until July PCC meeting.

The Vice-Chair emphasised the need to not mix up the Planning with the entirely separate project to combine information and expertise within the RSG. Planning discussions for Windfarm applications have to be kept completely separate. The RSG is a collective of affected CCs who are pooling resource and knowledge to be best prepared if planning is granted for windfarm projects, and as such the RSG was a completely neutral group. Some local CCs have experience of involvement with wind farm projects in recent years and there was a wealth of knowledge and information that could be shared to ensure preparation for the best outcomes for all affected communities, if planning was granted and funds made available for community benefit. Each CC could represent its community in objection against or in support of the windfarms through the Planning process. Individuals could also object or support directly within the planning framework.

Item 7: Scotlandwell footpath between Wellside Park & The Green: WRobertson had clarified that there is a meeting onsite on 25/06/24 to discuss SUDS provision and if all is ok then PKC will adopt Wellside Park road. The Chair felt this was a positive outcome. Regarding the footpath that is not being maintained by PKC: a small amount of extension work has been done but this does not demonstrate ownership, adoption or responsibility. It appears the path may be under ownership of some or all the Wellside residents. Residents have held off on repairs to date awaiting clarification on this point, but now it seems the responsibility is not that of PKC, but it may be a cooperative cost to do the upgrade. Cllr DPaterson commented that many non-residents of Wellside Park and suggested that other residents or funding streams could potentially contribute to some extent. Residents should be able to use the access to the park. The Chair suggested that Scottish Water should ensure that ironworks are well maintained along paths. WCllr WRobertson suggested in other circumstances Scottish Water have a precedent with upgrading ironworks on private paths. WCllr Robertson felt it would be useful for affected Wellside Park residents to contact Scottish Water to request assistance on this issue. Preplanning had suggested that if road was adopted then the path would be adopted, however, later missive docs later when houses were transferred have shown that the path is non-adopted.

4. New Matters arising:

Item 1: Arnot reservoir Woodland creation, Scottish Water: PCC had communicated with Bell Ingram to invite them to attend the PCC June meeting. PCC were in principle in support of the application, particularly the native broadleaf planting. Planting to take place towards the end of 2024. No comments from PCC. Vice-Chair queried why PCC were being consulted, the Secretary clarified that Bell Ingram had informed that the 1-hectare project was a Scottish Water was part of net-zero initiative being part funded by the Forestry Grant scheme and were contacting PCC as part of the stakeholder process. Secretary to email Bell Ingram to say PCC were in principle in support of the project.

5. Reports:

- a. **Police Reports:** Mark Craig and Ashleigh Duncan from Police Scotland provided an update. There had been some anti-social behaviour from campers at Loch Leven Sluice house with damage to garden hedging. Dangerous driving on B9097 6/6/24 involving a single car overturned in a field and the driver charged. Also an accident in Scotlandwell on 3/6/24 with an RTC and a car on its roof, no one was significantly injured. Police apologised for being unable to attend the gala day but there had been a lot on that day that had prohibited their attendance. The Chair asked if any traffic speed monitoring provision had been made in the Bowhouse area as discussed in May PCC meeting? MCraig confirmed that there was a large patrol matrix in the area but could not confirm if the local officer patrols had been out and about around Portmoak, though they do get out to Portmoak when they can. DPaterson raised an issue regarding cyclists from clubs travelling in large clustered groups, sometimes 5 cyclists abreast, between Ballingry and Scotlandwell and the obstacle they posed when travelling then slowly up the hill from Scotlandwell. MCraig highlighted cyclists are entitled to use the road and to form a peloton, but must adhere to the rules of the road and groups should not be impacting the other side of the road and traffic approaching. MCraig suggested if specific clubs could be identified and relayed through the police liaison, he would be amenable to having a conversation with the club concerned. The Chair validated DPaterson's comments having also seen large groups of cyclists as described which were difficult to pass.

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b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

- a. 24/00716/ECU36: Windfarm at Brunt Hill
Up to 18 turbines, 10 up to 200m tip height and 8 up to 185m tip height and includes a battery energy storage system (up to 50MW) and ancillary infrastructure including foundations, crane hardstandings, met mast and aviation lights, substation and control building.
https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00004654&fbclid=IwZXh0bGhZWCMTAAAR0j63_UlcnDJv2GEOdFOBQwPpDegAL5-q6KtSdoczYgzBjJnTp1q-bbwVA_aem_AUVuXdUJkA7X4qGkA7jxex59tZmezuufgtVmHQiNo1MQtaANiGkwKmbIMonLA3OI0Lczqpl0upPzS0pQQq6L50nO

The Chair outlined the application details. The Vice-Chair had provided a detailed response in objection to the application. The Chair expressed reservations about the height of the turbines and the siting and as such his support was waning for such on-shore turbine projects. The Ochils were becoming saturated with turbines. The Chair did not think he could wholeheartedly support this project, but as a Community Council it was necessary to represent the Community. 2 objections had been received regarding the Brunthill application. The Chair considered onshore wind turbines were a short term fix, and were great when they were working and generating, but only had a 25yr lifetime. The Brunthill turbines would ideally be sited offshore. If we are to go forward need to decide as a CC whether we are going to oppose the application or not and invited comment. Secretary felt that though there was an energy crisis such huge turbines were best sited off-shore like the huge off-shore windfarm on the coast of East Sussex in Brighton. Also with consideration to the transmission of power, infrastructure would almost inevitably go through Portmoak to Westfield for power storage and transmission to other parts of the UK. Flicker was a legitimate complaint that would also affect a large number of properties across Portmoak. Cllr KDonaldson referenced the turbine height at Westfield is just over 110m, so the Bruntfield ones would be almost twice their height. Cllr DPaterson was similarly in basic opposition, the height was unsafe from a small aircraft height and shouldn't be allowed on-shore requested that the Vice-Chair include this also in any comment. Cllr ADavidson queried the PKC criteria for valid objections, and thought that safety was one of those, but possibly not visual impact. The Vice-Chair thought that visual impact and cumulative effect in an area would be considered as objections. Also, that the project was extraneous and not needed in the context of the 420GW waiting to be connected to the grid from existing windfarm projects. The ViceChair thought there existed in terms of ScotGov policy a general presumption in favour of windfarms, but instead there ought to be a general presumption in favour of smaller wind-turbines of up to 50m for communities and farms. The Chair commented that small scale windfarms are not generally supported due to lack of grid connections. Large energy companies were in the position to bring forward the large scale projects such as Brunthill and the infrastructure for transmission into the grid. Agreement on representation to place an Objection to this project on behalf of PCC and Portmoak Community.

(2) Existing Applications:

- a. 24/00525/FLL: Part change of use agricultural building to dog breeding facility | Land 40 Metres North East Of Glenheart Farm Glenlomond Kinross KY13 9HF
Last date for public comments was on: Fri 03 May 2024.
PCC has considered the previous application Ref. No: 24/00525/FLL for a dog exercise facility which was approved, but this was an additional application for a dog breeding facility. The comment date was past, and the application approved. ADavidson had received comments from residents regarding noise from barking dogs. Secretary to query dates of application with PKC Planning.
Cllr DMorris raised another issue with regard to the location, and reports of aggressive behaviour from the landowner to people using the farms tracks for access. Made comment with regard to Land reform legislation: if owner does not want people to go through the farm, a diversionary path and signage should be created. Planning Officer should be made aware of this requirement for future applications.

(3) Planning Decisions

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- (a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: no update. Next meeting in July24.
- (b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: Cllr DMorris has wrapped this detail into the ARUP response. Additionally included in ARUP response was the requirement for an off-road route along B9097 per the Westfield Feasibility Study.

6. Paths Group update: lots of strimming around the area, particularly in Stephens Field. Application has been made for funding for the drain project at the top of the Cobbles.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts:

CC Account: £397.53
Paid out: £127.16 for PCC website web hosting
£330 for Zoom licences
MB Account: £2,333.71
Grants paid in to the Michael Bruce account, £500 and £150 in May24.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports: nothing additional

9. Matters notified to the Secretary: nothing additional

10. AOB: Thanks to the Organisers of the Portmoak Festival, Gala Day, Pudding Club and other events, and for the Community for participating to make the Festival weeks a fantastic success. It is remarkable that we have these occasions and that people in our Community make this happen. PCC would like to extend their gratitude to the organisers and all the people involved.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday 9 July 2024, online confirmed.

12. Chair closed meeting at 2056hrs
