

Portmoak Community Council

Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 12th November 2024, in-person at Portmoak Village Hall

Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** WClr Richard Watters; Cllr AMiller (Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson and DPaterson, plus 4 members of the public.

Apologies: WClr WRobertson and NFreshwater

- 2. Approval of previous Minutes – October 2023:** Proposed: DPatterson; Seconded: AMiller. AGM Minutes from 2023 Approved

- 3. Matters arising from previous Minutes:** none

- 4. Chairman's Annual Report of 2023-24:** See Appendix 1: Chairman's Letter

- 5. Treasurer's Annual Report of 2023-24:** See Appendix 2: Treasurer's Accounts and Statements of Account.

- 6. Approval of Annual Accounts**

The Chair signed the Treasurer Accounts.

Proposed: KDonaldson

Seconded: AMiller

Treasurers Accounts were approved

- 6.5. Co-option Of new members**

Validated co-option forms for the following 2 residents had been received at PKC, and so both were accepted formally at AGM as new members to Portmoak Community Council:

1. Lynn Hatch
2. Joanna Hornal

- 7. Demit of current office bearers, and election of office bearers: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, new members.**

Chair: AMiller Proposed: DPaterson Seconded: KDonaldson

Vice Chair: KDonaldson Proposed: AMiller Seconded: DPaterson

Treasurer:	ADavison	Proposed: AMiller	Seconded: SMcGregor
Secretary:	SMcGregor	Proposed: AMiller	Seconded: DPaterson

New members: Lynn Hatch and Joanna Horal

- 8. Date of Next AGM: Tuesday 14th October 2025**
- 9. The Chair invited any further comments, of which there were none.**

Meeting closed at 1950hrs

Appendix 1:

Annual General Meeting – 12 Nov 2024

Chairman's Letter

Another Community Council year, 2023 – 2024, has passed. As I compile this year's Report, I feel ongoing frustration, that recurring agenda items have not been adequately addressed or resolved. Indeed, the main topics of discussion from last year, feature heavily in this year's report. Tangible progress in some areas has however been made, and all members of PCC are committed to continue to try to move things forward. The Chair and PCC would also like to thank the current elected WCllrs (W Robertson, R Watters, N Freshwater & D Cuthbert) for continuing to assist, and addressing the various issues raised within the area.

PCC completed the 2023-24 year with 6 members, who represent all areas of the PCC catchment. Dave Morris, who has served on PCC for many years, has recently left Portmoak for pastures new. We wish to thank Dave for his stalwart service and extend the very best of wishes for the future. With reduced numbers, we would however ideally like to fill all vacant CC allocation, so that as broad a spectrum of the community is represented as possible, and it is pleasing to note there are individuals interested in joining PCC.

Due to a variety of reasons the majority of PCC meetings have been held online this year with a couple of scheduled meetings having to be cancelled. There is no doubt that, irrespective of format, Community engagement at the meetings remains limited. I would once again extend sincere thanks to PCC Secretary - Cllr S McGregor for her continued efforts in updating the PCC page on social media, and the Newsletter, communicating meeting information, minutes, events and issues of potentially local importance to the wider community.

The lack of any reasonable Public Transport service within Portmoak remains an issue for all residents, with private car use almost inevitable for everyone. With recent political discussions concerning the potential introduction of 'Pay-per Mile' taxation in lieu of Vehicle Road Taxation, yet again, rural communities and those with no viable alternative, will be hardest hit. There have been preliminary discussions within the Kinross-shire Community Transport Forum, regarding the possible provision of supplementary services through Portmoak, potentially connecting with Glenrothes and the Park and Ride facilities in Kinross. These are at a very early stage, although the success of the Glenfarg Community Transport initiative is an exemplar of what could potentially be achieved. Whether the option of a Portmoak led scheme similar to Glenfarg is viable, or whether the current Glenfarg Transport scheme could be extended, are current potential options, and PCC will try to gauge local opinion in the coming weeks. I think all would agree, anything additional is betterment.

The Kinross-shire Local Committee Meetings continue to be held every 2 months, with ongoing agenda items selected to try to encompass issues relevant to Kinross-shire and the 6 local Community Council areas. With representatives from the CC's, Ward Councillors and PKC Officers, the purpose is to discuss the varying issues which affect the whole of Kinross-shire. The Chair would like to extend thanks to the former Vice-Chair, Cllr D Morris, for representing PCC at these meetings, and a new representative will be sought to continue participation on behalf of PCC.

The problem of speeding vehicles through our Community remains a high priority topic discussed at every PCC meeting. The 'temporary' 20mph speed reductions put in place during Covid have now been made permanent through the population centres, and the long outstanding 40mph speed restriction order from Scotlandwell, to the Bowhouse development, on the A911 is now in place – and indeed, has been extended to Auchmuirbridge. Still, serious concerns remain that the limits are being largely disregarded. It is therefore welcome news to report that the Portmoak Community Speedwatch Campaign has launched within the last few days, with an information meeting hosted by Allan Macrae of MOCC, held at the Well Country Inn. There was good response from Portmoak residents with 17 in attendance, and it is hoped that volunteers and co-ordinators can be recruited from all areas. Once appropriate vetting and training has been provided, and locations approved in conjunction with Police Scotland, it is hoped the Speedwatch campaign can be passed to the individual co-ordinators to implement in their respective areas.

A review of Planning Applications within Portmoak continues to form part of monthly CC work, and over the last year the CC have reviewed and discussed a considerable number of Applications. Despite PCC personal representation on behalf of the Community, the LDP zoned H54 site in Scotlandwell passed initial Planning approval, although issues relating to Building Control and end user safety remain to be addressed if, and when, construction commences.

Individual representations continue to be made by members of the Community in respect of Planning Applications and PCC welcome this. One of the recent applications subject to representation to PCC was in respect of the Craighead Wind Farm, which is sited immediately adjacent to the larger Brunt Hill Windfarm application (determined by Scottish Ministers). PCC were not subject to initial consultation in respect of either application by the developers, being deemed 'too distant to be

impacted', despite the turbines being up to 200m in height. PCC were however contacted by senior members of the Scottish Gliding Centre who raised legitimate significant concerns regarding the proliferation of turbines in the Ochils, the extent of which now threatens the very existence of the SGC and impacts heavily on tourist income to the entire Kinross-shire Community from Gliding. SGC advise that to date, they have been able to navigate around wind turbines due to their limited extent. Development of either Brunt Hill or Craighead would change the situation to a virtually continuous barrier to glider flight across the Ochils, and would therefore have a seriously damaging impact of the future viability of SGC. Irrespective of the immotive issues normally associated with onshore turbine development, the undeniable impact on SGC and the local Community cannot be ignored and PCC have made representation accordingly.

The CC continue to participate at the liaison meetings for the Westfield Energy Recovery Facility and ongoing thanks are expressed to Cllr K Donaldson for keeping the CC informed of developments. Issues regarding road signage, access road deterioration, vehicular movements are often discussed and it is understood additional road safety signage has been installed. Of particular interest to voluntary and community sector organisations within Portmoak, is the availability of grant funding through the Westfield ERF Community Fund. PCC would urge any Groups that are seeking supplementary funding to consider applying. <https://westfield-erf.co.uk/westfield-erf-community-fund/> . Grants of up to £2,000 are available for qualifying applications.

The long-standing efforts to provide a safe public 'off-road' path connecting the villages of Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood remains a regrettable constant PCC Agenda item. Members of PCC met with WCllr W Robertson, members of PKC Greenspace and Tracks in the early summer, to discuss the route proposals. It was confirmed that 100% funding was available for the required 'feasibility study' and to undertake the viability assessment, although landowner permission is required. As landowners of the upper proposed path section, the Woodland Trust and the Elders of Portmoak Church, have confirmed their written support for the Path initiative. With regard to the lower path section, from the Church to Scotlandwell, PCC have tried to contact the landowners on numerous occasions for engagement but have been unsuccessful. Following a recent precedent, PKC have however invoked Path Creation Orders using Compulsory Purchase Powers. Correspondence has been issued to the Landowners requesting dialogue, with a 'back-stop' of the possibility of the use of relevant compulsory powers if necessary. It is hoped however, that agreement can be reached, and that a feasibility study can be commissioned in the near future, with the project finally driven forward with the assistance of the WCllrs and various paths groups.

It is worthy of reporting that the Paths Group in Portmoak continue to work on path maintenance and vegetation clearance, maintaining access to the fabulous local path networks to the benefit of all. It is also of note that the paths group managed to secure full funding for the repairs required to an important section of the Michael Bruce Way at the top of the Cobbles in Kinnesswood. Likewise on 'paths' news, the proposed path link from Lochend Farm to the Heritage trail has now completed and PCC thank WCllr W Robertson for his assistance in this regard.

To the disappointment of many within the Community, the long overdue upgrade of the Play facilities at the Well Green in Scotlandwell remain outstanding. PKC Greenspace advised a problem with contractor procurement has now been resolved and a revised projected completion prior to the end of March 2025 is now advised. PCC have expressed their dissatisfaction with the ongoing delays, particularly given the impact to the Portmoak Gala in June 2024. Given the complexity of rescheduling and finding a suitable alternative, assurances have been sought at this time that the Gala will not be impacted by the works completion in 2025.

Other newsworthy snippets from PCC meetings ... The heartiest of Congratulations to Kinnesswood in Bloom for winning various awards, including Village Gold, at Britain in Bloom. This really was a community effort and thanks to all for the hard work. I would also like to mention the ongoing success of the Portmoak Festival and Gala and everyone hopes this will continue next year. The Portmoak Festival Activities provide a fabulous week of events for all ages and interests. As always, PCC would like to extend thanks to all of the volunteers and groups who continue to maintain the Community Woodlands, orchards, paths, gardens, flowerbeds, Hall, Well & Washhouse and make our communities such lovely places to stay. As in previous years, it is worth re-iterating that these are all voluntary groups who would welcome additional members. If you feel you can give even a small amount of time, I am sure it would be welcomed.

In closing, I would like to once again thank all of the current CC members and WCllrs for their and valued input over the past year. Special thanks are extended to Cllr S McGregor for her ongoing invaluable assistance as Secretary.

Best regards to all

Andy Miller – Chair Portmoak Community Council

Appendix 2:

Annual General Meeting – 12 Nov 2024 Community Council AGM 2024 - Treasurer's Report

Portmoak Community Council Account

The Council began the year with £577.95 in the bank but had invoices for £164.29 which were not processed in time for the end of the financial year so the actual balance was £413.66.

Income

A grant of £286.34 was received from Perth & Kinross Council.

£0.28 interest was received from Perth & Kinross Credit Union, now merged with Scotwest Credit Union. This merger was good news as there is no longer an annual fee for Credit Union membership and interest will now be paid annually on the account balance.

Expenditure

£35.00 was paid for use of Portmoak Hall.

£304.60 was paid to the Secretary to reimburse her for Zoom licences covering the period December 2022 to May 2024.

£127.16 was paid to Krystal Hosting Ltd to host the Portmoak Community website until June 2025 and to renew the portmoak.org domain until June 2026.

At the end of the year the bank balance stands at £397.81 with invoices still to be processed to the value of £95.36.

Treasurer's Note

During the year a grant to the Michael Bruce way account was erroneously credited to the Community Council account. This was reallocated to the correct account once the error was noticed.

Michael Bruce Way Account

The year began with a balance of £1677.24.

Income

£6.47 bank interest from the old RBS account was credited to the new Credit Union account.

Grants of £150.00, £500.00, £2000.00 and £7032.00 were received throughout the year.

A dividend (interest) of £4.41 was received from the Credit Union.

Expenditure

£23.93 was paid to the Paths Group for replacement of strimmer line.

At the end of the financial year the bank balance stood at £11346.19 with an invoice of £10080.00 still to be processed. This will leave £1266.19 in the account.

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 - 31 AUGUST 2024

	2023/24	2022/2023
INCOME	£	£
Administrative Grant	286.34	226.28
Bank Interest	0.28	
Other Income		
Total Income	286.62	226.28
EXPENDITURE		£
Accommodation Costs	35.00	29.00
Subscriptions (Zoom)	304.60	57.56
Photocopying		
Stationery		
Postage		
Telephone Calls		
Website expenses	127.16	47.99
Examiner Fee		
Publication of Minutes & Agendas		
Publication of Newsletter		
Travel Expenses		
Other Expenditure (Credit Union)		7.50
Total Expenditure	466.76	142.05
Surplus/Deficit for Year	-180.14	84.23
Creditors	131.95	164.29
Surplus/Deficit brought forward	577.95	493.72
Surplus/Deficit carried forward	265.86	413.66
Represented by:		
Cash Position as per Bank	397.81	577.95
Less Creditors	131.95	164.29
Net Cash Position	265.86	413.66

ASSETS - (e.g. computer)

Certified that the above accounts have been presented for examination and found correct with vouchers exhibited as at 31 August 2024

Treasurer's Signature:

Date Prepared: 9/10/2024

Chairman's Signature:

Examiner's Signature:

Examiner's Designation:

Examiner's Name:

Examiner's Address:

Examiner's Contact Details:

**PORTMOAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 - 31 AUGUST 2024**

Michael Bruce Way Account

INCOME

Grants	9682.00
Bank interest	10.88
Other income	
Total income	<u>9692.88</u>

EXPENDITURE

Maintenance	
Equipment	23.93
Other expenditure	
Total Expenditure	<u>23.93</u>

Surplus/Deficit for Year **9668.95**

Opening Balance	1677.24
Income	9692.88
Expenditure	23.93
Closing Balance	<u>11346.19</u>

Represented by:

Cash position as per Bank	11346.19
Less Creditors	10080.00
Net Cash Position	<u>1266.19</u>

A Davidson, Treasurer
Date 12/11/2024

Andrew Miller, Chair
Date 12/11/2024

Certified that the above accounts have been presented for examination and found correct with vouchers exhibited as at 31 August 2024

D Calderwood, Examiner
Date