

# Portmoak Community Council

## January Meeting

Tuesday 14 Jan 2025, 1930 – 2100hrs

Meeting Online via Zoom (see details at bottom of Agenda)

### Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** WCllr WRobertson; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, DPaterson, LHatch, JHornal; and 3 members of the Public.  
**Apologies:** WCllrs DCuthbert, NFreshwater, RWatters
- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC November meeting on 12/11/24:**  
Proposed:KDonaldson    Seconded: ADavidson  
Minutes from 12 Nov 2024 meeting were approved

**3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**

**Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update:** Chair had tried to join the last meeting but link was invalid. WCllr WRobertson had attended and outlined a number of items discussed: NMainprize from TRACKS had done a presentation re: upgrade of the section of the LLHT which runs through Portmoak, the section from Loch Leven Larder to RSPB Vane Farm will be upgraded in 2025 to minimise path flooding. All funds are in place. Also intended upgrade to path from LLL down to the trail to improve accessibility. WRobertson was going to try to get funding for upgrade links that connect to the LLHT, including the Findatie zig-zag link: a special rubberised surface .which has worked really well in other locations was proposed.

The Chair asked about Portmoak cemetery expansion but WCllr Robertson confirmed the PKC Officer had no substantial update on this item, except comment that PCC had been very supportive of PKC efforts to obtain more land and this was appreciated. Land ownership issues were contributing to the lack of progress in securing more land in the existing area adjacent to the Portmoak Church cemetery. The Chair intended to try to pick up on this item once again regarding the existing location and other possible sites.

**Item 2: Kinross-shire Active Travel Master Plan:** At last PCC meeting there had been a bit of a crossover on what was being discussed. The ACTIVE Master Travel plan was due to be updated for the P&K area with additional new route. WCllr WRobertson confirmed there were no definite timescales for the update. WCllr WRobertson understood that Sustrans have large reserves of funds available to promote active travel, the amounts were not confirmed. And Active Travel plan should have been sent to all CCs. WRobertson agreed to forward the plan to the Secretary who would circulate to PCC members for review.

The Chair requested to add a new ongoing Item to the monthly PCC agenda which is the Portmoak Transport Forum, (in addition to the Kinross Transport Forum), we now have to explore options for better modes of transport through Portmoak, Glenfarg being an exemplar of a Community Bus Service, instead of standard bus companies on contracts who appeared to be unwilling to supply additional services. There is a need to engage with Community to ascertain if the Portmoak Community would use a Community bus service. This engagement would start with Initial information outlining the parameters of a Community Bus service, how flexible it would be and stress that this is not a fully formed project yet, there is still a great deal of discussion and exploration to be done. There was enthusiasm for the idea with suggestions of how the service might operate around local need, peak times for travel, and what is possible, for example the Glenfarg bus doesn't run at night. Most local Portmoak residents own cars so while there are certainly residents who do not own cars, was there even any appetite for using a bus service. PCC agreed to look at the options and see what is possible. The Chair had contacted Glenfarg Community bus but had been advised that the service did not have capacity to include Portmoak in their existing service. The Chair indicated that any Community Bus services would need to start small and be focussed and to ensure funding was not wasted.

**Item 3: Road Safety Action Update:** No update at this time. Speedwatch project was awaiting a next step response from Police Scotland. Need to identify locations for Speedwatch and get these approved for Portmoak. PCC would push for an update from Police Scotland.

**Note:** the Minutes of Council can be found on the Community Council website. [www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)

**Item 4: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path:** Unfortunately there had been no response to the last enquiries on this item, and the activity had gone quiet. The Chair had communicated with the PKC Officers who had issued a letter to the landowners in Nov24 but was uncertain if any response had been received from the landowners. PCC are keen to enter into dialogue. The Chair had written to PKC asking for an update, but no reply. WCllr WRobertson asked that the chair resend the email so he could follow up

**Item 5: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green:** Chair was pleased to report that council officers have confirmed the end of Feb25 for the start date for play facilities upgrade. It was hoped for clement weather in the meantime. Chair had contacted PKC re: permission for siting a storage container at the far end of the Green and putting in a lay-down area for this. The Gala Committee had a need to site a large storage container from its current location which was no longer tenable. The request had been received quite well by PKC to be included in the upgrade works.

**Item 6: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park:** some communications had been received from KDT and it appears that progress was being made in the attempt to purchase spaces from the existing car park for Community parking. PCC wished KDT continued success with this project.

**Item 7: Renewables Sustainability Group update:** minutes had been circulated as agreed at last PCC meeting. WRobertson had updated that one scheme had been withdrawn and the other had been resubmitted with an amendment for fewer turbines and fewer of the extra high turbines. It appeared that the concerns of Portmoak Gliding Club had been considered.

WCllr WRobertson confirmed that Planning Officers expect 2 new applications lodged probably around Mar/ Apr. The whole procedure would then start again, and it was important to reiterate that any person who wanted to make comments in support or objection would need to lodge these again when the new planning applications became live.

#### 4. New Matters arising:

**Item 1: Co-option of Amanda Clark to Portmoak CC:** The CC welcomed Amanda Clark to the members of PCC. PKC had approved Amanda's application and the members of the PCC agreed with the co-option.

**Item 2: Tactran People and Places Programme 2025/26, invitation to submit and Expression of Interest:** may be of interest to other local groups. Secretary to circulate to subscribers and on FB. There was discussion about potential paths that could use upgrade in the Portmoak area, and potential new routes that would be welcomed. Cllr JHornal raised that it was important to consider any path upgrades in the context of the existing paths and their suitability for either walking or cycling. There was discussion around creating a path from Scotlandwell to Lochend Farm shop as many people walk along the Causeway road where there was no pavement. KDonaldson commented that starting the process for creating any path links was important given how long it can take to move plans forward. WCllr WRobertson confirmed several local paths as Core Paths which indicated that for these specific routes PKC could complete maintenance without landowner agreement. Cllr JHornal expressed support for a cycle access path along the Causeway to link the Lochend-Levenmouth path while maintaining the Moss as a pedestrian route.

Cllr AClark had noticed a huge surge in cyclists and walkers along the Lochend – Levenmouth path, and thought that speed mitigation could be advisable around the crossing point over the main road to Lochend, extending to the New Gullet Bridge. The Chair agreed that requests for signage could be made to PKC but these would always be considered in a priority schedule so may not be actioned quickly.

#### Reports:

- a. **Police Reports:** The Secretary outlined the report in brief: there had been a theft at Buchan's garage in Nov24. 6 calls to police and 2 crimes recorded for Portmoak. In Dec24 there had been 14 calls to the police but no crimes committed. Complaints about speeding to which the police had responded that they would add local speed checks to their matrix for patrols.

- b. **Planning**

- (1) New Applications:

	<b>PKC Application# and Description</b>	<b>Closing Date for Public Comment</b>
a.	<b>24/01788/FLL</b>   Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse The Hirsle Levenmouth Scotlandwell Kinross KY13 9JH	Thu 16 Jan 2025 No comment

**Note:** the Minutes of Council can be found on the Community Council website. [www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)

## **(2) Planning Decisions**

### **(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee:**

KDonaldson updated that the Plant was functional and running tests with official start in March / April 2025. KDonaldson had flagged that a lot of large vehicles were bringing in waste via Auchmuir Bridge. Nothing additional to report.

### **(b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study:** ARUP feasibility of the main routes, PCC had not seen an update since Dave Morris had updated in Sep24. ACTION: PCC need to liaise with the coordinators of the Feasibility Study. PCC need to get someone to attend meetings ongoing.

**6. Paths Group update:** Secretary had reached for a new contact, out but no response yet.

### **7. Treasurer CC Accounts:**

Portmoak Community Council account - £664.34, which includes the £397.55 grant from PKC and £0.93 interest. Michael Bruce Way account - £1270.20, which includes an interest payment of £4.01

Treasurer had requested statements for up-to-date figures in advance of the meeting, but had not had a response. Credit Union had been taken over by ScotWest and requests need to go through Glasgow and any actions may take a bit more time. No big changes: the invoice for the hire of the hall for the AGM in Nov24, but not much movement since the AGM consolidated accounts, and November updates. PKC have confirmed the annual grant had been paid.

**8. Ward Councillors' Reports:** WRobertson reported forthcoming budget discussions at PKC in Feb25, discussions proposed council tax increase 10%, then 10% and 6% in subsequent years. WCllr WRobertson had voted against these increases. It was expected that other costs such as additional garden waste bin would increase. Closing libraries Birnam, Auchterarder, and Dunkeld. Council financial cutbacks each year were very difficult to manage.

**9. Matters notified to the Secretary:** nothing additional

### **10. AOB:**

**Item 1: Orwell Farm + LBA: Phase 2 of Developments at Orwell Farm:** the Developers had contacted PCC for comment and response on their plans which were to be submitted. PCC noted that the development falls outwith the Portmoak Area and is within Milnathort & Orwell CC, as such PCC would not submit any comment at this stage. Individuals are able to comment in support or objection accordingly via PKC planning portal at <https://planningapps.pkc.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application> or in Writing to: Planning and Development, Pullar House, Kinnoull Street, Perth PH1 5GD. Or by Emailing [developmentmanagement@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:developmentmanagement@pkc.gov.uk). PCC members were generally amenable to the opportunities that the development would bring for business and employment in the area. The Secretary flagged that any development brings with it increased road traffic and that it was reasonable to ask for awareness of local speed limits and signage.

**Item2: Next Monday 20/01/25 Gala meeting for volunteers:** the Gala Committee were urgently looking for volunteers for the gala. PCC encouraged people to get involved as the Gala was of tremendous benefit to the Community. Anyone who can offer help to the Gala Committee would be welcomed.

**Item3:** The Chair expressed congratulations to David Buchan on his retirement, and thanks for his contribution to the Community and wished him well for the future.

**11. February Meeting: to be held on Tue 11 Feb 2025, 1930 - 2100hrs. Details and Agenda to follow**

**12. The Chair closed the meeting at 2050hrs**

---

---