

Portmoak Community Council

February Meeting

Tuesday 11 Feb 2025, 1930 – 2100hrs

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

Minutes

- 1. Attendance:** WCllrs WRobertson and RWatters; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), AClark, KDonaldson, LHatch, JHornal; and 2 members of the public.
Apologies: WCllr DCuthbert; DPaterson and Police Scotland Liaison
- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC November meeting on 14/01/25**
Proposed: KDonaldson; Seconded AClark.
Minutes from January meeting were approved
- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**
 - Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update:** Next KC meeting is scheduled for 20/02/25. WCllr RWatters outlined the main items on agenda: update from Sustainability Group for Community Benefit for Windfarm planning applications; update from Road Safety; PKC initial paper for review on topic of a transient visitor levy for Perth; ISP (Intensive Support Provision) for severe ASN in Kinross-shire; Electrical vehicle charging 1.1M funding for PKC infrastructure funding to PKC; rewilding and bio-diversity gain update from PKC Officers as to how councils can support local areas to get this right; and lastly an update from Active Travel strategy regarding funding put aside for a mapping app, for Kinross-shire and Glenfarg. There was some discussion about local paths app for Kinross & Glenfarg, including options for including additional local info. such as location of defibrillators and other useful local information. The idea of “Dark Villages”, (whereby street lights are not illuminated through small hours of morning), to benefit biodiversity was raised briefly, with a discussion as to the benefits and implications such a policy might have for residents who did not work 9-5 roles, emergency services and carers attending patients through the night, women’s safety, and property security, though there was interest for the environmental and energy saving aspects. PCC were open to information and discussion around this topic. WCllr RWatters agreed to make enquiries on the idea.
 - Item 2: Kinross-shire Active Travel Master Plan:** update forthcoming following KC meeting, as covered in Item1.
 - Item 3: Portmoak Travel Plan:** no update on this item
 - Item 4: Road Safety Action Update:** Chair needed to catch up on the status of applications following the Speedwatch meeting. The Speedwatch potential locations also need to be confirmed. No further updates at present. WCllr WRobertson suggested sending a shortlist of potential locations to Police Scotland and would provide an update to the Chair following the MOCC meeting in two days.
 - Item 5: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path:** no update on this item
 - Item 6: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green:** PKC were still promising work to start at end of Feb25. PKC Officers were providing regular updates, and had even been out to Portmoak Primary School to talk about how they design the playparks. PCC are hopeful March will bring an update that work is well under way.
 - Item 7: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park:** no update at present. Agreement to leave this on agenda. Kinnesswood Development Trust were handling this project proposal to purchase all but 6 car parking spaces at the existing Portmoak Church Car Park for use by the community.
 - Item 8: Renewables Sustainability Group update:** no update. Secretary to compile an update to circulate.
- 4. New Matters arising:**
 - Item 1: PKC query on membership status for Kenneth Donaldson:** The Secretary had been liaising with PKC Officers on this item regarding an issue with a late receipt date at PKC of KDonaldson’s nomination form submitted in advance of the AGM and Election in October 2022. KDonaldson had been on holiday at the time and this had caused a delay in submitting the necessary form. This meant he was not technically elected to PCC as a Full Member and as such it was not possible for him to continue as Vice Chair on PCC. It was possible however, for him to be co-opted onto PCC and Full Membership sought at the AGM in Oct2025. The Secretary would continue to work with PKC and KDonaldson to resolve the issue to best effect. Under the circumstances the Chair moved to appoint an interim Vice Chair, it was suggested Cllrs LHornal, AClark or DPaterson could potentially step up for the rare occasion that the Chair was not available.

Note: the Minutes of Council can be found on the Community Council website. www.portmoak.org

Item 2: Consultation on River Leven Path: WCllr WRobertson had flagged up the start of a consultation regarding a project to create a connected path for the entire length of the River Leven. WCllr WRobertson to resend some info. on the project and more information and updates would follow in upcoming months.

Item 3: Portmoak Gala update: AClark had joined the Committee and provide an update. The Committee had met at the end of January. A few people were coming off the committee and despite initial concerns there weren't enough people, new volunteers have stepped up, which is great. The location will be the same as in 2024 in the field down the Grahamstone Farm track. Date is the May 31st 2025.

Reports:

a. **Police Reports:** Police Liaison were not in attendance, but had provided an update which the Secretary outlined: 14 calls had been received from Portmoak, and 3 crimes recorded: dangerous driving on A911 subject to live investigation; a failure to stop at Balgedie Toll junction; and a car had been stopped that had no insurance. General reports of speeding around Portmoak. The Chair highlighted the road traffic nature of the calls and reported crimes and asked WCllrs to ask Police to provide more patrols.

b. **Planning**

(1) New Applications:

	PKC Application# and Description	Closing Date for Public Comment
a.	24/01963/FLL Extension to dwellinghouse and formation of balcony	Wed 12 Feb 2025 Agreed no comment
b.	24/01951/FLL Erection of a dwellinghouse and associated works	Fri 14 Feb 2025 Agreed no comment

(2) **Planning Decisions**

(a) **Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee:** No substantive update. KDonaldson confirmed the site was still in testing phase. There had been reports of quite a lot of noise, but it was expected this may be resolved during testing. Next meeting on 30/04/25 which KDonaldson will attend.

(b) **Westfield Paths Feasibility Study:** Trying to commission an area of public walkway and car parking connecting to Kinglassie. WCllrs were unable to provide any further info. on a paths update.

6. Paths Group update: Secretary had not yet connected with the right person for regular updates, but would continue to reach out as an actionable point. In Jan'25 PCC meeting there had been a discussion about other potential connected paths in Portmoak that could be added to the Core Paths Network, so it was hoped to expand on this discussion.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts: Cllr ADavidson provided a report on the current status.

PCC Account: £ 664.34
£21 invoice for hall hire.

MBW Account: £1270.20

There is a need to establish who on the Paths Group is going to organise expenditure for the MBW Account as we move into the busier period of the year.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports:

WCllr RWatters: made brief mention that PKC are heading into budget process. Choice of whether to protect services or put up Council Tax, which was a difficult decision. A lot of demand on PKC resources. Cares is due to get a significant amount of money for renewables schemes for villages and town halls, maybe worth local communities being proactive and contacting Cares and getting information on this, if they were interested in making assets, like village halls etc., more environmentally sustainable.

WCllr WRobertson: had circulated info. about the River Leven Path consultation. He had also requested an update from Andy Clegg & Dave Stubbs about the Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church path. Request to MOCC to ensure Speedwatch was on agenda for meeting this week to see in WCllrs could assist in moving project along. Finally, issue in Scotlandwell with drains on main street flooding, need to find a long term solution. Suspicion that drains aren't flowing properly and are perhaps silted up, WRobertson has requested that they are investigated.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary: Kinross Half Marathon, 11/05/25, second Sunday in May. Secretary to post info to subscribers and Social Media. There would be traffic restrictions through Portmoak as in previous years, same scenario. More information to be circulated.

10. AOB:

Online meetings: WCllr WRobertson commented on the PCC online meetings (remotely) and thought these were a positive thing. There was general support for online meetings, particularly on cold dark Winter nights, with approximately quarterly meetings in person at the hall, but that online meetings were inclusive for those who could not manage to attend in person for many reasons.

PCC Meeting on 11 Mar 2025: Chair gave his advance apologies. Treasurer agreed to stand in to Chair the next meeting. PCC members were in agreement to proceed.

11. March Meeting: to be held on Tue 11 Mar 2025, 1930 - 2100hrs. Online and Agenda to follow

Chair closed meeting at 2042hrs
