

Portmoak Community Council

March Meeting

Tuesday 11 Mar 2025, 1930 – 2100hrs

Meeting Online via Zoom

Minutes

- 1. Attendance & Apologies:** WCllrs WRobertson; Cllrs ADavidson, SMcGregor, LHatch, JHornal, KDonaldson, AClark
Apologies: WCllrs DCuthbert, NFreshwater; Cllrs: AMiller, DPaterson. Police Liaison.
- 2. Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC February meeting on 11/02/25**
Proposed: AClark Seconded: JHornal
Final Draft Minutes from 11 Feb 2025 were approved
- 3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**
 - Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update:** The Chair had sent an update in his absence which the Treasurer relayed. The Chair had been unable to attend the most recent meeting but Cllr LHatch had agreed to attend as a regular attendee, with AClark volunteering to attend as a sub. WCllr WRobertson to send contact details. The WCllr WRobertson confirmed the 20/02/25 KLC meeting did go ahead and there were a number of items discussed: P&K wide Visitor Levy: to apply across all P&K hotels, campsites and BnB, and currently going out to consultation, come back for consultation in Autumn 2025 probably. There was also a transport update and some verbal reports on Road Safety from PKC Officers.
 - Item 2: Kinross-shire Active Travel Master Plan:** no update at present
 - Item 3: Portmoak Travel Plan:** no update at present. Chair to update at April PCC meeting
 - Item 4: Road Safety Action Update:** KDonaldson reported that the B9097 road surface is becoming increasingly badly potholed with road surface getting particularly bad from Vane Farm to Righead. Also the section of the C40 towards Ballingry. WRobertson wasn't able to give any info. on a date for reparation but agreed with KDonaldsons comment and offered to raise this as an issue at the next PKC Road safety meeting in April. Cllr JHornal questioned the latest police report referencing the absence of any "speeding reports" from Portmoak and should residents escalate complaints? Secretary to raise question to Police Liaison what is the definition of a "speeding report" and to clarify the process of what info. is required and how to report speeding complaints.
 - Item 5: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path:** The Chair had reported an outreach from the landowner. Initial discussions had been made with PKC Officer DStubbs. Further face to face meeting on 17/03/25. This is clearly a positive development and will be reported at PCC April meeting. WCllr WRobertson confirmed forthcoming meeting on Mon 17/03/25 between DStubbs, AMiller and the Landowner.
 - Item 6: Play facilities at Scotlandwell Green:** Chair had updated in advance work is now well advanced on the play facility renewal and upgrade. It is hoped that the facility will be opened and commissioned by the next PCC April meeting.
 - Item 7: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park:** updates had been received from both the Chair and Kinnesswood Development Trust (KDC) on this item. Ongoing discussions were taking place regarding the possible purchase of the car park from Church of Scotland (CoS). This was being led by KDC. KDC have requested confirmation as to the extent of any PKC involvement prior to KDC expending what will be a lot of time completing Scottish Land Fund applications. There is a fairly tight timescale for their process over the next few months into beginning of Jun 25 and then a decision possibly in Sep25, though there are still uncertainties that could mean a decision being delayed until Nov25. If successful, funds would be released when missives are exchanged/ agreed. There is no guarantee that SLF funding will continue after that due to forthcoming elections. KDC have not yet heard back from CoS regarding their valuation of the car park but note they will also have to amend all the land titles etc. Depending on the valuation there will likely be an initiative to raise some funds locally from the Community. WCllr WRobertson suggested that to avoid a burden on the Community, that once acquired the carpark maintenance be handed over to PKC.
 - Item 8: Renewables Sustainability Group update:** Secretary intends to attend upcoming meeting in late March.

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Item 9: PKC query on membership status for KDonaldson: Secretary had clarified with PKC that it is not mandatory to have a Vice-Chair, PCC just need another Member to step up if Chair is absent. The issue with a non-elected member being Chair is that if there is a decision or vote then they are not officially allowed to preside. Secretary to have co-option nomination forms resubmitted to co-opt KDonaldson to PCC and then at next PCC AGM, KDonaldson can be elected as a full member of PCC.

Item 10: Portmoak Gala Update: AClark is on Gala Committee. Reported that the Committee are really active, and really motivated. AClark is organising a Raffle, and prizes needed. Volunteers are still needed for set up before, and take down the following day. Raffle prizes are needed if any businesses or individuals would like to contribute. Raffle tickets are being printed available from Portmoak Primary School, Kinnesswood Village Shop, and via Committee Members to friends and neighbours.

Item 11: Loch Leven Half Marathon, Sun 11 May 2025, 0845 – 1200 approx.: Reminder of the forthcoming event. Road closure is official notification via PKC so residents are reminded that they should plan ahead around the race times. Secretary had met with President of Kinross Road Runners and was to send round updated info. to Portmoak Community Facebook, and PCC subscriber list. PCC requests that drivers do respect the road closure for this long running and increasingly popular local event.

4. New Matters arising: nothing additional

5. Reports:

a. Police Reports: The Secretary had circulated the local police report and the Commanders report. Low crime reported which was positive.

b. Planning

(1) New Applications:

	PKC Application# and Description	Closing Date for Public Comment
a.	25/00246/TW Tree works Ashtrees Cottage Wester Balgedie KY13 9HE	Not applicable Agreed no comment
b.	25/00296/TW Tree works 8 The Crescent Scotlandwell KY13 9JG	Not applicable Agreed no comment

(2) Westfield Site Update

(a) Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: KDonaldson updated. Still commissioning at site, with a lot of noise. There is a committee meeting in May25. Lorries trundling in with rubbish for incineration, mostly via B9097 which is causing the issues with the road surfacing.

(b) Westfield Paths Feasibility Study: at present only landscaping and paths onsite, but also links to Pilgrims Way. No updates on any connections to the LLHT this will require engagement with local landowners.

6. Paths Group update: The secretary had made contact with GSmith who is the new contact for the local Paths Group. The Paths Group recently met with the PKC Ranger to discuss plans for the coming year. As a group priorities were identified as: 1. Confirm ownership of the path above the school with a view to upgrading the surface. If owned by PKC as this is a school access path seek their support for upgrade. 2. Speak to the farmer regarding transfer of consolidate to support upgrade to MBW. 3. Upgrade path next to bench on MBW. Potentially on the 12/03/25. 4. Assess work/costs of improving steep eroded section of MBW. 5. Path's Group to improve drain at the top of eroded section of MBW. 6. Clear path between golf course and Whitecraigs with PKC Ranger. 7. Upgrade steps from Whitecraigs and Stephen's Field. 8. Routine clearing of gorse in Stephen's Field is underway. 9. Order of new equipment for group. 10. Confirm grants that are available to support major upgrade projects in 2025. Group will next meet on the 12th of March to continue path maintenance. Secretary offered to relay any Path issues onto the Paths Group if there were issues for consideration in other areas.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts:

PCC Account: £643.34

MBW Account: £1270.20 funds available for equipment

8. Ward Councillors' Reports: WCllr WRobertson reported briefly on PKC budget including 9.5% increase on Council Tax: one problem PKC has had are council tax freezes which causes financial bottlenecks, rural libraries have been

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kept open, and music teaching in schools. Money in budget for extra road drainage, ditch clearing. Some money allocated to upgrade paths to the LLHT e.g. at Findatie improve surface. Community Investment Fund (CIF) – funding has been preserved. No funding for new swimming pool complex in Perth, report to Council in June, 2026 to get an idea of funds required for that.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Item 1: Climate Connect Perth and Kinross: initial meeting Fri 4th Apr, 12:30pm to 4:30pm at Civic Hall, Perth

Item 2: Renewable Energy & Energy Savings event, Thu 13th Mar, 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Crook of Devon

Item 3: Consultation: SEPA - Proposed Changes to the Environmental Regulation (Scotland) Guidance on Public Participation and Fit and Proper Person Test - closes 30/03/25

10. AOB:

Item 1: Chair met with reps of Scotlandwell in Bloom. SiB have commissioned an engineers' report for the Well in Scotlandwell. SiB are custodians of the building. Secretary to add to agenda for April PCC meeting.

Item 2: path repair and upgrade has started on the Heritage Trail from LLL to Vane Farm, sections are currently closed during the day for work but accessible after hours.

11. April Meeting: to be held on Tue 8 April 2025, 1930 - 2100hrs. Details and Agenda to follow
