

Portmoak Community Council

July Meeting

Tuesday 08 July 2025, 1930 – 2100hrs

Minutes

- Attendance:** WCllr WRobertson; Cllrs AMiller (Chair), ADavidson (Treasurer), SMcGregor (Secretary), KDonaldson, LHatch; Kinnesswood Development Trust; DSmart from Glenfarg Community Transport; and 1 member of the Public.
Apologies: WCllr DCuthbert, JHornal and AClark
- Comments and Approval of previous Minutes from PCC May meeting on 13/05/25**
The June meeting had been cancelled.
Correction to Attendance ADavidson was not in attendance
Proposed: KDonaldson Seconded: ADavidson
Final Draft Minutes from 13/05/25 May PCC meeting approved
- Matters arising from Previous Minutes:**
 - Item 1: Kinross-shire Committee update:** Meeting on 15/05/25 and LHatch had tried to attend but had difficulty with IT issues. PKC had acknowledged IT issues. The next meeting is on 18/09/25 which LHatch intends to attend this time in person to avoid any IT issues. Video of meeting of 15/05/25 is available online.
 - Item 2: Kinross-shire Active Travel Master Plan:** no update
 - Item 3: Portmoak Travel Plan:** PCC were pleased to welcome DSmart from Glenfarg Community Transport (GCT) to the meeting to talk about a pilot for digital demand responsive transport. Glenfarg Community Transport (GCT) are successfully currently running the Community Bus Service# 55 between Perth–Kinross, and the #23 Kinross-Tillicoultry, with long term aspirations to run these services throughout Kinross-shire. On the 55 and 23 they are introducing a digital App for booking and showing where the services are on their route. This App also has functionality for a fully bookable service, for an on-demand service that does not operate like a normal bus service. Using the app, customers could book to travel to specific locations e.g. Cleish -Vane Farm or Kinross-Vane Farm. GCT are planning a 4 month pilot over the Summer which would operate during the day for 3 days a week (Wed,Thu, Fri), and which if successful could be part of the jigsaw to provide a supplement to regular bus services. It will not run or compete with existing bus services. The contract for the current 201 Stagecoach Service between Kinross-Glenrothes runs until 2028 and the Community Bus Service is not intended to compete with other services. The GCT bookable service would operate in between existing bus times and may travel on alternative routes e.g. along the B9097 which does not have an existing bus service. The booking service would not be a taxi service, so if booked customers would be travelling on a bus with other travellers. GCT are hoping to launch pilot with approximately 6 volunteers in Mid-August and if the pilot is successful, they will apply for funding from several charities who fund transport for people with access problems. GCT are particularly interested in having people to test the app who have access or mobility issues, so they can test the services fully, what works and what doesn't, and put together a package of proper buses with disabled friendly access in 2026. If any members of Portmoak Community are interested in volunteering in beta-testing the app please reach out to PCC. What GCT have established to date is a great example of a good community bus service. Looking to the future GCT, which is a charity would be looking for a member of PCC (or wider Community) to become a Trustee on behalf of Portmoak as the organisation is a Community Transport Group and should be based within the communities it serves. In addition to the Glenfarg Trustees there is already a Fossoway trustee and GCT would like Trustees from Cleish, Portmoak, Kinross, and Milnathort so the whole community is represented. PCC were wholly in support of the pilot and to keep involved if it is successful and future expansions of the service. The Chair thanked DSmart for his time in attending the meeting and PCC agreed the pilot was welcome news and offered their support.
 - Item 4: Road Safety Action Update:** at last meeting PCC were informed that Speedwatch was still active though PCC are aware it is approaching 12 months since the original Speedwatch meeting. Speeding still occurs regularly around Portmoak. Footpaths along the A911 are quite overgrown and needing cleared to the point that they are totally blocking the footpaths. Landowners are reminded that they need to maintain verges on their land edges.

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

There had been two accidents at the fishtail junction at the B9097-Ballingry road. Police will not report these unless there are casualties. WCllr WRobertson commented on the general concern about the condition of the surface of the B9097 road, Road Officers will do an inspection of the road. There had been written communication from a resident on the B9097 listed with concern about the road condition and increased heavy traffic volumes and requesting improvements to include a cycle path along the road, introduction of a road speed limit of 40mph, improved road markings at the fishtail junction, and better blind summit signage. It was felt that the presence of the LL Heritage Trail on the South side of the loch precluded a cycle path along the road. the creation. A reduction of heavy haulage traffic is unlikely as the B9097 is the proposed route for the Westfield site, it was felt this would be contentious but unlikely to be an alternative route proposed. WRobretson offered to forward the resident's email to the PKC Officers for review and felt that road resurfacing and improved road signage were more possible and a good idea and would report back at the August meeting.

Item 5: Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: no specific update. Chair is awaiting response from Church of Scotland and the Woodland Trust with regard to the Glebe ground on the opposite side of road from Portmoak Church.

Item 6: Portmoak Church – the future for the church and car park: The Church had agreed to sell the larger part of the car park to the Portmoak Community. The price offered was £1500 and KDT were hoping to raise £6000 to account for legal fees for the transfer. The KDT were attending the meeting and were able to provide an update. A lawyer has been appointed to act for the conveyancing. The Community Right to Buy lasts for 5yrs. KDT estimate maybe 6months to complete the transaction, unless it becomes more complicated. There had also been delays also in trying to get a bank account but this has not been resolved. KDT are also looking for directors to join KDT to assist. Another consideration is the ongoing maintenance of the car park. PKC Bereavement team are keen to support the KDT in their efforts to acquire the carpark and take on responsibility for the maintenance. PKC are likely to adopt the car park in the long-term.

Item 8: Adoption of road: Wellside Park, Scotlandwell: WCllr WRobertson updated. The road is still not adopted, but there are still upgrades required to the SUDS pond which PKC will action, and then they will adopt the road once the works are complete.

4. **New Matters arising:** nothing additional

5. **Reports:**

a. **Police Reports:** circulated to PCC distribution lists for end Jun'25.

b. **Planning**

(1) **New Applications:** none

The Secretary raised a query to the WCllrs about the planning application for a high 2m barrier at Burleigh Sands and if they had information about the intention behind the application. WRobertson and NFreshwater had attended a meeting about the application and the barrier is intended to stop Caravans and Camperwagons parking overnight. Aggressive behaviour towards Wardens was also a concern although it was acknowledged that other campers with tents would still be able to camp and park. There was discussion about the Fife Country Trust rules for overnight camping and an honesty system for payment.

(2) **Westfield Site Update**

(a) **Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee:** KDonaldson provided an update. The site is now up to capacity with incineration, there should be electricity generation. The fact that the incineration is at capacity suggests that there shouldn't be an increase in HGVs. Fife Council are also sending bin lorries into the site. Next meeting in August.

(b) **Westfield Paths Feasibility Study:** no further correspondence for a number of months.

Consultation being finalised with ARAP. The Paths around Westfield are going ahead.

Communication from Westfield expected once they have finished the consultation process.

6. **Paths Group update:** The group had provided an update of recent work:

1. Repaired of the drain we built on the Tetley Trail - we will however need to install a small pipe to prevent repeated infill of debris. We will determine the cost and seek reimbursement from our available PCC budget.
2. The paths in Stephen's Fields, Kinnesswood have been cut back to facilitate access for walkers/users
3. The path adjacent to the Golf Course and the housing estate has been cleared of accumulated debris

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4. The steps up from Portmoak Church onto the hill have been repaired and are looking very good. The steps have been infilled and some of the loose timber rails have been replaced. This was in response to an email from a resident who had flagged the repair work.

5. Unfortunately, the Paths Group reported fly tipping of vegetative waste onto the upgraded path from the Cobbles to Gamekeepers Road and the Fairy Steps. The matter has been raised with Greenspace at PKC to address this officially with the household responsible.

7. Treasurer CC Accounts

PCC Account balance £562.54

- Paid out £84 for website. Interest paid of £1.59

MBW Account £1276.50

- Interest paid of £3.17
- Treasurer highlighted that the funds in the MBW Account continue to grow as Paths Group have not made any purchases recently. Secretary to flag the Group that funds that are available for their purposes.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports:

WRobertson: reminded the CC that PKC are on recess for Summer holidays, so minimal activity at present.

NFreshwater: Enquired if Portmoak Church was of interest to the KDT? ARobertson updated that this had been discussed but there was concern about the impact on Portmoak Village Hall and maintenance of two structures was a step too far to obtain volunteers and funding.

9. Matters notified to the Secretary:

Item 1: Craighead Wind Farm Planning Appeal to ScotGov. The Secretary had received notice from the applicant, Galileo, that an appeal had been lodged with ScotGov and this notice had intimated that PKC Planning had not made a decision by the specified date. However, subsequent correspondence from WCllr DCuthbert highlighted that PKC Planning had been waiting for data to be provided by Galileo and this had not been provided to PKC despite multiple requests. The data had been provided within the Appeal but not in the original application. WCllr NFreshwater and WRobertson commented that they had been surprised by the appeal and that it had been allowed to be lodged given the circumstances and the absence of requested information to determine the original application. Both felt that it was unfortunate that now the appeal decision would not be made at a local level. NFreshwater was positive about the level of engagement that Galileo had undertaken prior.

10. AOB:

Item 1: Restoration of Well at Scotlandwell: Scotlandwell in Bloom currently are custodians and had procured an engineer's report that indicated stone, iron, and woodwork were all required and these constituted significant reparations. A specialist construction company was required to enlist skilled tradespeople for traditional building maintenance techniques. Rather than Scotlandwell in Bloom continuing to be custodians, it was thought to be in the interests of Well & Wash-house to have a dedicated group, a specific legal vehicle or charity, to look after the two buildings. There was some discussion raising concerns about conflict of interests in terms of funding applications. It was important to make the Community aware of this change in circumstance, and there will probably be an appeal for volunteers to join a new group to take on the administration at a future date. There was feeling that there was scope for future Community discussion regarding local groups trying to work together for funding applications.

11. PCC August Meeting: to be held on 12/08/25, 1930 – 2100hrs. Online meeting with Agenda & details as follows:

Topic: Portmoak CC Aug Meeting 12/08/25

Time: Aug 12, 2025 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81994540087?pwd=WevPbJjhLApvGxn7XhJclDfGrDoIvI.1>

Meeting ID: 819 9454 0087

Passcode: 320206
