

Portmoak Community Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, February 8th 2011 in the Primary School.

- 1. Attendance and apologies:** CClr's M. Parkin (Chairman), J. Bird, R. Williamson, R. Cairncross, S. Forde, M. Wilson, M. Strang Steel, WClr's Robertson, Barnacle and Baird and 15 residents.

Apologies were received from CClr T. Smith and WClr S. Miller

Louise Gordon, the head teacher of the Primary School, introduced herself to the meeting. The Chairman wished her well in her new role.

Tracey Walker, from the Kinross-shire Community Learning and Development Group gave the meeting information on the Better Place to Live Fair which was being held in March

- 2. Previous minutes:** were approved and signed.

3. Police Report

PC Euan Mitchell informed the meeting that there had only been 7 calls made from the Portmoak area to the police in the past month and only one theft reported, which was the batteries from the traffic light system being used opposite Portmoak Hall. He also explained that the police were trialling a social media project using twitter, which is under the address of milnathort pc. He also explained the use of mypolice.org which can be used by the public to leave independent stories about the police and this was being used as a trial throughout the UK.

Although it was good to see the police embracing new technology a resident questioned the time the police spent twittering may be better used on the streets, although it was explained that the twittering took place in office based time. However it was suggested that this availability of time would be considered following the results of the trial in 3 months time.

The objective of these new ideas was to engage the younger element of society and therefore this means of communication was more appropriate.

4. Treasurers report

Very little movement of funds either in or out of the account since last month, £716 in the account.

5. Matters arising from previous meetings

1. Stephen's field, Kinnesswood

There has been some progress on this matter. A Landscaping Layout planning application 11/00073/FLL has recently been submitted by A.J. Stephen detailing changes to the landscape plan. These changes were made following a site visit in August last year with P&KC Public Space Management team, the builders and 3 community councillors. The CC made two direct requests at the meeting. The first was to retain the pathway adjacent to No27 Whitecraigs which is used as an access way onto the field and the second was to retain the trees alongside the golf course. It had been suggested to remove these trees but that would have removed the protection of walkers from stray golf balls. There were also a number of requests made by P&KC regarding tree planting and pathway construction which the CC agreed with. These requests have now been included in this application so assuming the application takes a normal passage of time through the planning process it looks as though the field will be handed over to the Community in a few months' time.

With regard to the group of residents set up to look at the future of the field the 'leader' of the group informed the meeting that he would be leaving the area. The Chairman thanked him for his input.

The CC ownership of the field also raised issues about other pieces of community ground scattered around Portmoak and the CC would have to consider the practicalities and responsibilities of ownership of all these pieces of ground.

2. Balgedie Toll to Mawcarse Road.

Signing work to be carried out.

3. Hedge alongside playing field, Kinnesswood

The plants are in stock, waiting for suitable ground conditions before making a start. Assistance with the planting has been agreed with the school council.

4. Kinnesswood Bus shelter area.

Awaiting decision and procedure on how to proceed.

5. Meeting with Gliding Centre

The Gliding Centre has instituted a procedure for reporting incidents although since the planned meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather the procedure has not been seen by the Community Council.

6. Build Outs

Latest information from the Roads dept is that the work is planned to start in March and will also include any bollards that need replacing. A Cllr said the condition of the bollard at the North end of Kinnesswood required immediate repair and Wllr Baird agreed to look into it.

9. Scotlandwell Wash House update and Sign.

A Cllr gave an update on what was currently taking place and planned :- input into the Newsletter and a leaflet, the next meeting of the group would be in the Spring 2011, the money raised so far was £75000, open days at the wash house were planned and the whole project was expected to be completed by Feb 2012. Signage was being considered locally.

11. The use of other methods of snow clearance to be considered.

Although it was a good suggestion to consider alternative methods of snow clearance the practicality did not lend itself for further consideration. Item Closed

12. More grit bins for Portmoak.

Although it was too late in the season to consider more bins it was hoped that the CC could discuss with P&KC where more bins were needed.

6. Subcommittee reports

Management Group

The presentation by the CC on the Main Issues Report had been completed, submitted to P&KC and it was hoped to have a copy on www.portmoak.org shortly. The Chairman thanked Cllr Cairncross for the hard work he had put into the report.

A resident explained to the meeting that he had used the MIR reporting system to raise the question of access into Stephens field from Bishop Terrace.

Planning

Cllr Cairncross spoke about the numbers of application that had been submitted in 2010 and detailed the numbers as follows:-

40 applications, 25 approved, 3 withdrawn, 3 refused and 9 still pending. There were still 6 applications pending from 2008/9. Concern was expressed over the number of windfall sites suggested by P&KC in the future compared with the number that had been seen in Kinross-shire over the past few years.

There were currently 5 applications awaiting decision by P&KC. No comment would be made by the CC.

The question of planning gain was discussed which had been highlighted by the apparent lack of knowledge of a payment of £400 for trees at the Green in Scotlandwell. The question was asked if this money was in a pot waiting to be spent and whether other money was also available to be spent in the community.

WCllr Baird agreed to provide some information for the CC on this matter.

A resident raised a number of issues over the input of information on the P&KC website for the application at Kilmagadwood, stating that there had been a number of discrepancies which were not easily accounted for.

WCllr Baird agreed to seek clarification on the points raised.

Paths

The Chairman explained that consideration was being given to putting the original paths group under another heading with wider responsibilities and more information would be available at a later date.

7. Ward Cllr reports

WCllr Robertson had given his report earlier.

P&KC's budget was going to be cut in line with the rest of the Country although £7million was going to be carried forward from last year's budget to try and lessen the burden on services for this year. Approximately 300 staff would be lost mainly through wastage and retirement. By modern standards P&KC were quite a slim organisation.

Everyone is able to see the state of the roads throughout the county so it will be difficult to keep up the standards.

WCllr Baird did not raise any new points but would seek answers to a number of points raised during the meeting

WCllr Barnacle explained the reasoning behind his report on the Main Issues Report which can be seen in full on the P&KC website after February 11th 2011.

8. AOCB

1. On January 16th 2011 a Kinnesswood resident informed the CC that he was experiencing some flooding to his garden and property. A programme of gorse cutting and burning had taken place on the hill and where some of the gorse had been cut, but not removed or burnt, it was left to lay in the burn and consequently created a dam effect.

This dam effect created an overflow of water which ran down the hillside in the area to the south of the water tank in the Sheep Field and ended up flowing continuously for at least 24hrs into the Whitecraigs estate.

A temporary repair was carried out the same day which stopped the flooding and the following day a more permanent repair was made by two local residents.

This is not the first time that this has happened at this particular spot on the hillside and a resident explained further reasoning why this had occurred in the past.

It was agreed that the CC would investigate a permanent solution to the problem.

2. A letter had been given to the Chairman at the meeting, and the Chairman answered the points raised in the letter.

9. Communications

The following Communications had been received since the January meeting, further details of which were with the secretary.

6.2.11 Minutes of 64th Convention of P&K CC's

4.2.11 e mail from Gliding Centre re incident reporting

4.2.11 e mail from P&K paths group. Answer to an e mail from a resident.

3.2.11 T in the Park local community forum 23rd February

1.2.11 P&KC weekly list of planning applications

31.1.11 P&KC re planting of hedge in Kinnesswood

26.1.11 P&KC review of CC election process

24.1.11 P&KC offer of a talk on waste and recycling

21.1.11 P&KC e funding news

19.1.11 P&KC Kinross-shire music festival in November

17.1.11 Letter from resident re burn overflowing

17.1.11 P&KC computing for clubs workshop

10.1.11 P&KC Better Place to Live fair March 5th 2011

10.1.11 P&KC letter re training for planning in the community

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 8th 2011 in the Primary School at 7.00 pm

(Please note a change to the previously advertised date for the April meeting. It is the 12th and not the 5th in Portmoak Hall.)

www.portmoak.org