

MINUTES of a Meeting of Kinross Community Council
On Tuesday 24th November 2020
Via Zoom Conference

Present: CCLr W Freeman (Chair), CCLr D Colliar, CCLr M McFarlane, CCLr L Mckay, CCLr H Phillips, CCLr T Stewart and CCLr M Wood.

Ward Councillors: Cllr W Robertson and Cllr R Watters

Public: Three Members

Minutes: Mrs C Aird

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

CCLr W Freeman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the new Community Councillors, Hannah Phillips and Malcolm Wood

Apologies had been received from Cllr C Purves and Paul Laidlaw, PKC.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 27th October 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by CCLr D Colliar and seconded by CCLr M McFarlane.

4. Police Report

CCLr Freeman welcomed PC Ashley Mitchinson to the meeting.

PC Mitchinson advised that while she and PC Martin Gemmell were new to the area and therefore keen to work with the CC, she commented that Officers had been asked to limit their interaction in the community, unless offences were being committed. She went on to highlight a number of incidents which had occurred in the area recently including the theft of a quad bike and tractor (tractor has since been recovered) and a theft from a shed in Crook of Devon. PC Mitchinson also advised that there had been two residents in Milnathort who had been diagnosed with Covid-19.

She went on to highlight an issue regarding a scam with the Snapchat media platform in local schools where a group is created with a person being asked to invest around £50 but that person is then informed that the money had not been received and a request was sent to send the money again. PC Mitchinson advised that she could help anyone worried about this scam with the settings on mobile phones, and they should get in touch with her if they needed help.

There had been a number of incidents (24) in respect of road traffic offences, including drivers with no MOT and a number of cars being seized. She was aware of the incidents in relation to speeding and this is an area she will monitor.

PC Mitchinson advised that she had information relating to the setting up of a speed watch campaign and she was happy to circulate this. Councillor L McKay confirmed she would be interested in this area, particularly around the options available opposite the Salutation Hotel. Councillor Freeman confirmed that he also would be interested in the speed watch group and wondered if it would be possible for some PC cutouts to be provided for the area. PC Mitchinson confirmed that she would look into this and report back.

Councillor W Robertson advised those present that there was a meeting of the Kinross-shire Forum early next month (2nd December at 7 pm) and that they had been trying to set up a speed watch group for over a year without success. PC Mitchinson agreed to join the meeting to discuss this matter further. Councillor Robertson agreed to circulate information to the local CCs and set up another meeting with PC Mitchinson in due course.

ACTION: Cllr W Robertson

Councillor Freeman reported that he had received a telephone call from an elderly resident who had been concerned that a number of youths were throwing stones at her window recently. It was agreed that Councillor Freeman would forward the details to PC Mitchinson so that she could investigate further.

ACTION: Councillor W Freeman

It was also suggested that a neighbourhood watch scheme could be set up in the area and PC Mitchinson confirmed that this was in the pipeline.

5. Flood Resilience Group

Councillor R Watters advised that there had been a lot of interest in the proposed group, with a couple of companies keen to get involved. He introduced Keith Colville, PKC, to the meeting and asked him to update Members on his role and next steps.

Mr Colville advised that he was an Emergency Planning Office in PKC and part of his role was to encourage communities to create resilience groups. He had spoken to Mr W Wright and provided him with a template for setting up the group, and had also put him in touch with Katie Garrett in Alyth who had experienced a lot of trouble with flooding and therefore set up a similar group which had been active in procuring flood mitigation equipment. Mr Colville confirmed that he would do all he could to help the CC set up the resilience group, and he would send a website link to a SEPA gauge.

In response to a question from Councillor Watters, Mr Colville confirmed that it was important that any resilience group was linked to the CC, with the main reason being that the CC is a constituted group and therefore covered by PKC's third party insurance.

Mr Wright advised that he had spoken to Ms Garrett and they had discussed some of the paperwork. Mr Wright advised that he was aware of the SEPA gauge as this was outside his house and went on to mention that Ms Garrett had obtained a monitor

which had been fitted upstream and therefore alerted her when a problem was likely to arise. Mr Wright confirmed that there was a gauge around the Campus area but that this was in the wrong place – Mr Colville advised him to get in touch with SEPA to see if it was possible to obtain an additional gauge. He also mentioned Flood Track which shows real-time information in relation to flooding.

A member of the public advised that their elderly mother and brother lived in Queich Place and had been flooded out of their homes twice this year and it was imperative that some sort of flood defence system was in place to avoid this catastrophe happening again. They advised that they had a meeting arranged with Paul Laidlaw, PKC, on 8th December to discuss the different types of equipment and it would be useful for Mr Wright and members of the CC to join this meeting, if possible/interested.

There was discussion around setting up a Facebook page (already done, but no information uploaded yet) and a What's App group to help residents and Cllr McKay asked if it would be possible to set up a rapid response team for all emergencies, as most of the residents in the affected area were elderly. Mr Wright advised that Ms Garrett informed him that the Alyth group had set up a 'phone tree' where she would phone two people to advise of an issue, and then they would also phone two people and so on.

Cllr Freeman said he would contact a number of local business who had previously been flooded, to see if they would be interested in joining the group.

ACTION: Cllr W Freeman

Cllr Watters commented that there were around 320 houses in the affected area and that PKC were currently in the design phase of their flood defence scheme, which was due out in a few months for consultation. He also felt it was important that the CC were actively involved and suggested that the Ward Councillors pursue PKC to move this work as quickly as possible.

There was a discussion around the number of CC members Mr Wright would like to be involved in this project and he commented that one or two would be acceptable - Cllrs McKay, Freeman and McFarlane all said they would like to be involved. Cllr McFarlane volunteered to be the link between the CC and the resilience group and suggested setting some targets for specific pieces of work. Mr Wright confirmed that he was aiming to complete a lot of the work by the time of the meeting on 8th December and it was confirmed that a CC member would join the meeting.

Cllr Watters agreed to give Paul Laidlaw an update on the evening's discussions.

ACTION: Cllr R Watters

Members thanked Mr Colville for attending the meeting.

6. Matters arising from meeting held on 27th October 2020

All matters arising were covered by the agenda.

7. Kinross Town Centre

Cllr Colliar asked if there was any update available in respect of the High Street and Cllr Robertson advised that he would investigate when the report would be available.

ACTION: Cllr W Robertson

8. Appointment of Office Bearers

Cllr Colliar confirmed that there was a need to re-establish the CC office bearers for the next 12 months and that there were a number of positions available, namely Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary/Correspondence and Planning Officer.

There was a long discussion and a number of people were nominated for the vacancies. These were agreed as:

Chair – Cllr L McKay, proposed by Cllr Colliar, seconded by Cllr T Stewart

Vice-Chair – Cllr W Freeman, proposed by Cllr M Wood, seconded by Cllr M McFarlane

Treasurer – Cllr M McFarlane, proposed by Cllr Colliar, seconded by Cllr Freeman

Secretary – Cllr H Phillips, proposed by Cllr Freeman, seconded by Cllr Colliar

Correspondence – Cllr W Freeman confirmed that he was happy to continue in this role

Planning – Cllr Colliar confirmed that he was happy to continue in this role

It was agreed that Members would look group membership at the next meeting.

ACTION: Minute Secretary

In response to a question from Cllr McFarlane regarding co-opting members, Cllr Colliar advised that the CC could co-opt people onto the CC for a specialist issue. At the moment it is possible to co-opt up to four people onto the CC.

Cllr McFarlane suggested that it would be beneficial to co-opt Mr Wright onto the CC in respect of the work being undertaken around flood prevention. It was agreed that Cllr McFarlane would send the appropriate forms to Mr Wright for completion.

ACTION: Cllr M McFarlane

Cllr Freeman then handed over the chair of the meeting to Cllr L McKay.

9. Planning Matters

(a) Planning Applications Received

20/01634/LBC – Alterations at property at 102 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AJ

20/01633/ADV – Display of a sign and canopy at 104 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AJ

20/01632/FLL – Alterations to shop fronts at 102 and 104 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AJ

20/01512/FLL – Extension to dwelling house at 46 Ochil View, Kinross, KY13 8TN

20/01617/FLL – Erection of a fence and gate at Warden’s Office, Whyte Court, Kinross, KY13 8FE

20/01371/IPL – Residential development (in principle) at land 40 metres west of Berryknowe, Hatchbank, Kinross. It was noted that PKC had received 13 objections to this application, including one from the Civic Trust and three reports from statutory bodies. CClr Colliar advised that he had succeeded in requesting a short extension to the closing date for comments and that this had been agreed. Comments were to be submitted by 1st December.

CClr M Wood urged members to look at this application and submit objections on planning grounds. After discussion it was agreed that CClr Colliar would forward a draft letter of objection to CClr Phillips to submit.

ACTION: CClr D Colliar/CClr H Phillips

(b) Planning Applications Determined

20/01506/LAW – Extension to dwelling house (proposed) at 13 Gallowhill Wynd, Kinross, KY13 8RY (**REFUSED**)

20/01387/FLL - Extension to dwelling house and erection of boundary fence at 1 Devonvale Place, Kinross, KY13 8FR (**APPROVED**)

20/00497/FLL – Erection of a dwelling house and garage/studio (revised design – plot 2) at land 90 metres south east of Hill View House, Gairney Bank (**WITHDRAWN**)

20/01213/FLL – Alterations to dwelling house at The Rowans, 3 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AW (**APPROVED**)

20/00289/FLL – Erection of kennels building, manager’s accommodation unit and associated works (in part retrospect) at land 200 metres north of Baltree Farm, Hatchbank (**APPROVED**)

20/01079/FLL – Alterations and extension to dwelling house, formation of steps, landscaping and associated works at 23 Sunnypark, Kinross, KY13 8BX (**APPROVED**)

(c) Other planning matters

No other planning matter were raised.

10. Reports from PKC Councillors

Cllr W Robertson commented that it had been a busy month and he had raised issues around speeding with PC Mitchinson, and drainage issues at Springfield Road/The Muirs with PKC.

He also advised that the closing date for the appeal by Persimmon Homes was due shortly and that a number of residents had submitted concerns about this.

Cllr R Watters advised that there had been a meeting of the bus group recently, and while there had been technical issues, he felt it had been a very good meeting. It would appear that there were a lot of people in the area who had a lot of knowledge around bus routes/services, with John Fallon providing a lot of very useful information. It had been agreed that Margaret Roy would collate all the information. Conversations were to be held with representatives from Stagecoach and First Bus.

Cllr Colliar suggested that it would be useful if the route could be extended to Dunfermline.

11. Reports from CC representatives

Cllr Colliar:

- Provost's Lamp – due to be connected to the main electricity supply around 12th January 2021.
- Letter of objection regarding the Persimmon Homes planning application had been submitted
- He had written to Stuart Dall regarding the flooding at Springfield Road who had subsequently passed it to Jake Eadie to deal with – no response had been received as yet. Cllr Robertson agreed to forward Jake Eadie's email address to Cllr Colliar.
ACTION: Cllr W Robertson
- Christmas lights switch on was scheduled for 26th November prior to the Christmas market. He advised that Light up Kinross were looking for more committee members and urged Members to consider this, as the group could not operate without CC members. Several members advised that there were a number of dull lights in the town, and Cllr Colliar agreed to look into this.
ACTION: ALL/Cllr D Colliar
- There was due to be a Kinross-shire Fund meeting on 7th December but at the moment no applications for funding had been received.

Cllr McFarlane:

- The Market was on this Saturday (11 am until 3 pm) and it would be good for people to support it. He advised that there had been an issue with the field so people should wear appropriate footwear.

- He would circulate information to members about Gigabyte Kinross-shire, a company rolling out superfast broadband for residential and business properties via the downloading of vouchers.

ACTION: Cllr M McFarlane

- An application to form a constituted body in respect of the electric car project had been submitted with an opportunity to apply in March 2021

Cllr Stewart:

- Whether the builders working on the Kirklands Garage had permission to block off the road and it was suggested that this would have been part of the original planning application. Cllr Colliar agreed to look into this matter.

ACTION: Cllr D Colliar

- Fly tipping at the flyover – Cllr Robertson agreed to report this the following day.

ACTION: Cllr W Robertson

Cllr L Mckay

- Could anything be done about the traffic following the removal of the poles at the narrow end of the High Street? Having been in the area speaking to someone outside the opticians, she was aware that vehicles were very close to pedestrians and felt it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident. Cllr Colliar felt that the only solution would be traffic lights (not ideal as would be on a hill) or a diversion around the bypass.
- Highlighted flooding in the vicinity of the trees at the Co-op.

12. Licensing applications

One application had been received.

13. Correspondence

Cllr Freeman confirmed that all correspondence had been forwarded on receipt.

14. AOCB

- Thanks

Cllr McFarlane wished to note his thanks to Cllr Freeman for all his efforts over the years. This sentiment was echoed by all Members.

Cllr Mckay also thanked everyone for taking on new roles on the Committee.

- Papers for future meetings

There was a request from Cllr Colliar for the agenda and minutes to be issued in advance of the meetings. After discussion it was agreed that the papers would be issued around 7 – 10 days prior to the meeting and would also be uploaded onto the Facebook page, along with Zoom log in details.

It was also agreed that the minutes would be printed off and placed on the noticeboard/bus shelter.

ACTION: Minute Secretary/Cllr W Freeman/Cllr L Mckay/Cllr M McFarlane

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 22nd December 2020 at 7.30 pm by Zoom Conference.

The meeting ended at approximately 9.10 pm
All minutes are draft until considered at the next meeting