

Minutes of a Meeting of Kinross Community Council

Wednesday 7 March 2018

at 7.30pm at the Masonic Hall, Muirs, Kinross

Present: CCLrs Bill Freeman, (Chair), Eileen Thomas (Secretary), Jonathan Bryson, David Colliar, Dave Cuthbert, Barry Davies, Ian Jack and David West; P&K Cllrs C Purves and R Watters; and five members of the public (MoP). Lynne MacKay was also present and was co-opted to the Community Council during the meeting.

1. **Apologies** were received from CCLrs M Blyth and T Stewart; and P&K Cllrs W Robertson and M Barnacle.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (7 February 2018): Agreed as a true record. Proposed: CCLr D Colliar. Seconded: CCLr I Jack.
4. **Co-option of Member:** PKC CC Liaison had been in touch to say that a valid nomination had been received, for Lynne McKay. CCLr West proposed that Mrs McKay be co-opted to the CC. This was seconded by CCLr Cuthbert and unanimously agreed. Lynne was welcomed to the CC.
5. **Police Report:** No police present and no report received.
6. **Kinross Hockey Club proposal for KGV Playing Fields:** Gurdial Duhre, President of Kinross Hockey Club, was present to explain the club's proposals for a piece of land at KGV Playing Fields between the artificial pitch and the back of houses on the Muirs. The club would like to "take responsibility" for this for three reasons: (i) health and safety, (ii) to enhance the sport facility; and (iii) to prolong the life of the pitch. The piece of land would become part of the artificial pitch compound and would be fenced off to prevent general access. Some grass would be replaced by an artificial permeable surface. The existing high fence would be replaced by a lower spectator fence. A shed may be erected.
The health and safety benefits are: no more walking on dog faeces with possible transfer of same on to the hockey pitch; creation of a spectator area off the pitch; no bags left lying at the side of the pitch. The enhancements to the sport facility are: creation of a warm-up area off the pitch; scope to create dugouts for kit and subs; creation of spectator area with a lower pitch-side fence; storage facility (e.g. shed) for equipment.
The pitch life would be prolonged by: reduced mess coming on to the pitch; absence of bags etc on pitch which can fold the pitch fibres over; reduction of maintenance requirements for Kinross Astro and PKC, as there would be less grass to mow; reduction of grass minimises debris being blown on to the pitch during mowing.
The CC asked some questions. Mr Duhre was asked if the club would be paying rent for this piece of land. He replied that the fields are owned by PKC and leased to the KGV Playing Fields Association. The hockey club sub-leases the area on which the artificial pitch stands from the Association. The hockey club is looking to extend the area of the sub-lease and have agreement from the KGV Playing Fields Association. CCLr Davies asked if the club had considered creating a spectator area on the east side of the pitch instead. Mr Duhre replied that the rugby club was not agreeable to this. CCLr Thomas noted that the club had applied to the Kinross CC Newsletter charitable fund in 2015 for funding towards the new artificial pitch (with £2,000 being granted.) However, at that time, the project made no reference to a "phase II" development. Mr Duhre replied that there had been no plans for a phase II at that time. CCLr Thomas noted that the documents sent to the neighbouring properties referred to there being "four or five" trees on the site, with consideration being given to their removal. She pointed out that there are actually six trees in the area concerned. Mr Duhre said only one tree is now being considered for removal. The hockey club has contacted the neighbours affected and received some feedback. The next stage is to seek the support of hockey club members at their AGM in May. Mr Duhre was thanked for his attendance.

7. **Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 7 February 2018.**

- a. **Muir's Defibrillator Funds:** Cllr Davies now has details for the Scottish Ambulance Service account to which the surplus funds should be transferred. He will supply these to the Treasurer, Cllr Jack. **ACTION: Cllrs Davies and Jack.**
- b. **Community website kinross.cc:** The CC received a response on 19/2/18 from Alasdair Stewart of the Kinross-shire Partnership (KP). The CC has discussed possible ways forward for funding and management. It was agreed that the CC should request a meeting involving some Cllrs and some KP directors. No funding will be provided by the CC without detailed management accounts. **ACTION: Secretary.**
- c. **Kinross Common Good Fund:** It is now possible for common good fund committees to have a non-voting community representative member. Representatives need to be available for day-time meetings. Cllr Thomas has a good knowledge of local community groups through her Newsletter work. She was proposed by Cllr Jack and seconded by Cllr West. Cllr Purves will ask Committee Services how community representatives will be included in notification of meetings. **ACTION: Cllr Purves.**
- d. **War Memorial Railings:** Cllr Colliar awaits a reply from PKC regarding a site meeting.
- e. **M90 Fencing:** A response from BEAR Scotland was read out. Part of it said: "The M90 at this location is subject to safety inspections at seven day intervals. In addition and following notifications from landowners regarding deterioration, we have completed a full inspection of the boundary fence on the M90 to identify and prioritise areas requiring maintenance. Defects identified during each inspection are categorised accordingly and programmed for repair within timescales defined within the Term Maintenance Contract with Transport Scotland, subject to available funding.
"Should any individual wish to report a specific trunk road defect they may do so via Transport Scotland's Freephone Customer Care number, 0800 028 1414, or through BEAR Scotland's website under the 'report a defect' function."
The letter informed the CC that motorway information signs are managed by Traffic Scotland (TS) and provided a link to TS. It was agreed to query the loss of electronic motorway sign prior to entering the M90 south from Kinross to TS. **ACTION: Secretary.**
A member of the public mentioned huge potholes on the M90. This is a BEAR Scotland responsibility.
- f. **CC Finance/wreaths:** The Treasurer has still not received payment for wreaths from the Girl Guides or Army Cadets. He recommends not purchasing a wreath on their behalf in future. Cllr Freeman will speak to the cadets. **ACTION: Cllr Freeman.**

8. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings without Update:**

- a. **Recycling:** Does PKC export any of its recycling matter? (Cllr Purves).
 - b. **Ninewells:** When does current car parking contract at Ninewells Hospital expire? (Cllr Purves).
9. **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):** Cllr Purves explained that there is £300,000 in the budget to be split between VAS and the 20mph revised policy. This might allow for perhaps 15 VAS per year. (A VAS costs £10,000.) The CC agreed to put forward the following suggestions: One on Muirs, near Loch Leven Leisure, facing north to slow traffic coming from Milnathort; Two on Springfield Road, one in each direction; One on entrance to Kinross near the auction mart; One on Station Road, just after the roundabout at the junction of Springfield Road on the way into Kinross. The CC should write to Cllr Barnacle as Convenor of the Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee. **ACTION: Secretary.**
Cllr Watters reminded the CC that, as learned at the traffic modelling, traffic lights can be made to stay on red longer if traffic is travelling too fast. This could be more effective than a VAS in some situations.
10. **Kinross Town Centre Regeneration:** Since the last CC meeting, reflective strips had been stuck to the granite bollards in the level surface area around the former Town Hall. It was acknowledged that these

are required for safety purposes, however Cllr Thomas expressed the opinion that the strips look hideous and that the granite bollards were a design failure from the beginning of the project. Cllr Davies also said the design was a disgrace. A MoP raised the question: "How many problems had there been on the High Street before the regeneration project?"

The secretary wrote to PKC's Chic Haggart on 19 February suggesting single-lane traffic controlled by lights at the Town Hall area while development of the building is underway. No reply has been received yet. Cllr Barnacle wrote to Chic Haggart on 12 February suggesting that a review of the shared space scheme is required. No reply has been received yet as far as the CC is aware.

There was some discussion regarding the metal bollards near the Salvation Hotel, with Cllr Colliar stating that one of them causes larger vehicles difficulty in using Avenue Road.

The CC had been copied into some emails regarding Avenue Road and Talla Park. Cllr Robertson was taking the lead on this and was not present.

11. Planning Matters.

- a. **New Planning Applications:** No comments were made on the following:
 - 18/00285/FLL** Erection of garage, workshop/store and carport, Oak Brae, Hatchbank, Kinross.
 - 18/00248/FLL** Erection of replacement garage, 29 Muirs, Kinross.
- b. **Planning Applications Determined by PKC:**
 - 18/00155/FLL** and **18/00156/CON** Part demolition of buildings, erection of 2no. dwellinghouses and 6no. flats and associated works, former Kirklands Garage, 10 High Street, Kinross. Application Withdrawn.
 - 18/00053/FLL** Alterations and reinstatement of window, Royal Bank of Scotland, 55 High Street, Kinross. Approved.
 - 17/02199/LBC** Alterations to wall, the Walled Garden, Burnbrae, Kinross. Approved.
 - 17/002260/ADV** Display of signs, the Co-operative, 54-56 High Street, Kinross. Approved.
 - 17/02273/ADV** Display of sign, land 300m NW of Lathro Farm, Kinross, for Springfield Properties plc. Approved.
- c. **Former Kinross High School site:** A copy of the bond between Persimmon and PKC is now on the planning portal under reference 16/00255/FLM along with a copy of the schedule of works for the Edwardian building. This appears to indicate that the rebuilding and renovation should be complete by mid July 2018.

An article in the Perthshire Advertiser of 6 March 2018 revealed that the end price paid for the site by Persimmon was a little over £1million, whereas Persimmon's original bid had been over £3.5million. Member of the public Ken Miles had written to the CC requesting that the CC seek accountability from the Council. He said this is another topic that requires scrutiny. Cllr Jack reminded the CC that when the new campus project was put forward, the CC was told that the old High School site would have to be sold to help fund the new campus, but that the Council expected to get £3million for the site. The CC asked the Councillors for comment, but only Cllrs Purves and Watters were present, and they had not been Councillors at the time of the former High School site disposal.

It was agreed that the CC should write to PKC's Head of Legal to ask for clarification regarding the original price, the end price and the reason for the difference. The PA journalist had obtained a document through FoI but the reasons for the price reduction had been redacted. Cllr Cuthbert said the transaction is now complete and so should no longer be secret due to commercial sensitivity. The CC should also ask how the consequent hole in the PKC school estate budget is being managed. **ACTION: Secretary.**

Cllr Cuthbert informed the CC that one of the new-builds at the former High School site is 1.5metres higher than in the plans that were part of the planning consent. Consequently a house at 27a Alexander Drive is overlooked. Cllr Robertson has submitted a letter on behalf of all the ward councillors to Eddie Jordan, Enforcement Officer, about this.

d. **Planning Correspondence and other Planning Matters:**

- i. **Planning & Development Training Workshop:** PKC's Diane Cassidy sent the CC an invitation to this event, to take place on Sat 28 April at the North Inch campus, Perth. Cllr Thomas might attend.
- ii. **Green Park Play Area Survey:** The CC received an email with a link to the survey on the PKC website. The survey is open until 31 March and all with an interest in this park are encouraged to complete it. Cllr Thomas has publicised this on Facebook. The CC asked ward councillors to check what has happened to Persimmon's contribution to the Green Park play area. This had been a condition of the consent for the former High School site housing development.
ACTION: Ward Councillors.
Cllr Watters has received a suggestion that the Davies Park requires upgrading. This would probably not happen until 2021/22.
- iii. **Balado Quarry:** Planning application 17/01441/MWM for an extension to the period of operation of the quarry will go before the PKC's planning committee on 14 March.

12. **Licensing:** No applications.

13. **Miscellaneous Correspondence:** Over 30 emails had been received. Most had been circulated to the CC and a summary provided. Important mail had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

14. **Reports from Ward Councillors:** Cllrs Purves and Watters mentioned certain items from the administration and opposition proposed budgets drawn up recently prior to the debate that took place at a full Council meeting. There was some discussion regarding the introduction of a charge for brown-lidded (garden waste) collections. The approved budget will see this rise from £25 in Financial Year 2018-19 to £30 the following year and £35 the year after that. Cllr Purves said that £35 is the optimal annual charge, i.e. experience elsewhere indicates that, beyond that sum, uptake of the service reduces to the extent that income drops. Recycling centres are staying open with the current opening hours. Cllr Cuthbert pointed out that, in Fife, only the administration proposed budget is published and six months is allowed for comment. He thinks that is a more sensible method. Cllr West commented that a certain press report published prior to the PKC budget debate was deliberate scaremongering. Cllr Purves agreed that the way PKC conducts the budget process creates uncertainty. Cllr Purves mentioned a £1.2million Community Investment Fund. He will let the CC know when the relevant paper comes before a committee. **ACTION: Cllr Purves.** Cllr Davies mentioned the intended retirement of PKC's Chief Executive, Bernadette Malone, in early summer. Cllr Purves explained that three administration and two opposition councillors will consider internal and external candidates.

15. **Other Competent Business.**

- a. **Brown-lidded bins:** When the new permit system comes in, neighbours may share a garden waste bin if they agree.
- b. **Primary School:** Cllr Cuthbert wonders if there will be a formal opening or open day for residents. Cllr Bryson thinks there may be an event in April. A MoP said there is an accumulation of rubbish along the school fencing.
- c. **Gritting of Paths:** Cllr Cuthbert thinks there are inconsistencies regarding which pavements are cleared in the event of heavy snow, such as that recently experienced at the end of February/beginning of March. Cllr Watters agreed to ask for a route plan of what is supposed to happen. **ACTION: Cllr Watters.**
- d. **Homecare:** Cllr Cuthbert is aware of the homecare system failing an individual badly recently. Various options are supposed to be available under Health and Social Care Integration. Cllr Purves will find out more. **ACTION: Cllr Purves.**

- e. **Action Partnership Participatory Budget (PB):** Cllr Cuthbert reported that KLEO applied for PB funding. KLEO received an email rejecting the application, saying it did not meet the criteria. A KLEO representative then received a phone call saying it was a mistake and was given the opportunity to explain more about the KLEO project. However, others who are rejected don't know why. Cllr Cuthbert said the Cricket Club would never apply again following their experience. Kinross Primary Parent Council (KPPC) are waiting for feedback but Cllr Bryson's understanding is that KLEO's proposal was very similar to KPPC's, yet KPPC's was not short-listed. It appears that actions which caused upset last year are being repeated. Cllr Thomas again commented on the timescale of the process. If the application deadline and consequent arrangements had been at least a month sooner, a description of the short-listed projects could have appeared in the Newsletter, raising awareness and encouraging turnout. The CC will write to Keith McNamara. **ACTION: Secretary.** Cllr Cuthbert said he had applied in December to fill a vacancy on the Action Partnership and has not even received an acknowledgement.
- f. **Hockey Club proposal:** The secretary asked if any action is required following the presentation earlier in the meeting. It was agreed to write to the club president to thank him for attendance and to request that, if the plans progress, the CC is kept informed and sent copies. **ACTION: Secretary.**
- g. **Snowploughs:** Two members of the public present complained that Douglas Crescent had not been visited by a snowplough until several days into the recent snow event. Cllr Jack said the B918 did not see a snowplough and was dealt with by tractors etc. Cllr Purves explained the category system of road priorities. The repeated return of snow meant that snowploughs had to keep returning to the priority routes as they became covered with snow again. Residents said even a grit box would help. Cllr Purves noted this. More grit boxes generally would be useful. [Post meeting note: Cllr Davies suggests the SSE Resilient Communities Fund could be a source of funding for grit boxes.]

16. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4 April 2018.

The meeting ended at 9.24pm.

All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting.