

Kinross Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 7 September 2016

at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall, Muirs, Kinross

Present: CCllrs Bill Freeman (Chair), Eileen Thomas (Secretary), Margaret Blyth, Jonathan Bryson, David Colliar, Barry Davies and David MacKenzie. CCllr Thomas Stewart joined the meeting during Matters Arising. Also in attendance were: P&K Cllrs D Cuthbert and W Robertson; and four member of the public.

1. **Apologies** were received from CCllrs I Jack, M Scott and D West; P&K Cllrs M Barnacle and J Giacomazzi; and the Police.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of meeting of 3 August 2016:** Agreed as a true record. Proposed by CCllr Colliar, seconded by CCllr Davies.
4. **Police Report:** No Police present. The police misunderstood the Chairman's query re cut-out figures. They thought the CC wanted to obtain cut-out figures of police and wondered why. It was repeated to the Police that the cut-outs have been used as a speeding deterrent in Fife. Sgt Amanda Nicolson is making enquiries and when she has more information she will come back to the CC.
The Commander's bulletins of 11, 18, 25 August and 1 September were noted.

5. **Strategic Master Plan:** Peter Marshall (PKC Strategy & Policy Manager, Planning & Development) has turned down the invitation to attend a CC meeting for now at least, because he is due to meet the ward councillors on 20 September to discuss the LDP. The subject of a "Vision" is on the agenda. He also needs to discuss resource issues with his management team. This is about all major settlements, not just Kinross. He might meet with some or all of the CC at a future date.

CCllr Cuthbert said he had put forward the idea that there should be a "visions statement" for each community. Cllr Robertson said the topic of a Kinross strategy is on the agenda for 20 Sept. PKC is working on a Perth City Plan at the moment.

Kinross-shire Ward councillors are keen to have junction 7 (M90) upgraded. This would help to remove some traffic from the A977 (Muirs and Springfield Road) through Kinross. This will become worse when the Lathro Farm site is developed. The possibility of an upgrade has been mentioned to PKC's head of Development Management but because junction 6 is coping at the moment, Transport Scotland is not interested. Cllr Robertson suggested an upgrade of junction 7 could be funded, partly at least, from developer contributions. If a fund is started, it could be added to from other sources. CCllr Bryson suggested there should be an economic appraisal.

Persimmon's application for 300 houses at Lathro Farm is due to go to the Development Management Committee on 14 September and has been recommended for approval. CCllr Thomas asked the ward councillors how this could be, when the Local Development Plan stated only 140 houses on this site up to the year 2024. Cllr Cuthbert said it was unlikely that the Council would be allowing all 300 before 2024.

The councillors will report on their meeting with Peter Marshall to the CC at the CC's October meeting.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes of 3 August 2016

- a. **Hearing Loop:** CCllr Bryson sent a more detailed request to PKC's Barbara Renton than the Secretary had done in May. This included reference to the Equality Act. However, no response has been received, even after a follow-up email. He should forward the emails to the ward councillors and they will chase up.

ACTION: CCllr Bryson & Ward Councillors

- b. **Provost's Lamp:** Cllr Robertson reported that this had been blown down in gales. Mrs McBain's son-in-law is trying to repair it but is having difficulty sourcing spare parts. CCllr Thomas has photographs of the lamp prior to damage if that would help.
- c. **Fun Fair:** Cllr Cuthbert reported that the Fun Fair at the Kirkgate Park was licensed. He will check whether the CC should have been consulted on the licence application.
ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert
- d. **Overgrown hedges:** CCllr MacKenzie had received a message from a member of the public with concerns about overgrown vegetation at a particular location. Cllr Robertson told him the email address of the council officer who should be contacted.
ACTION: CCllr MacKenzie
- e. **Play Park upgrades:** Community Greenspace officer Dave Stubbs had sent some further information following his attendance at the August meeting:
Lathro Park Play area: The long grass section is planned because the grass is poorly drained and pernicious weeds can be spot treated to give the wildflowers the best chance. In the worst case, a short grass regime can be reinstated once the bulbs have flowered in the Spring. The proposal includes four items of play equipment, targeted at the younger age group, and includes a sand digger and sand pit, swing unit with cradle and flat seats and a roundabout. New furniture will be one bin and one seat. The bin can be used for dog waste.
Green Park play area: Mr Stubbs will keep a note of the comments made and will use these to inform the design process in due course. The developer contribution from Persimmon is £45k. A member of the public had made a further suggestion to the CC's Facebook page re Green Park. The Secretary had forwarded this to Mr Stubbs.
Myre: CCllr Bryson had submitted the information required to Mr Stubbs.
Davies Park: Cllr Cuthbert has received a letter re Davies Park and has asked officers to have a look at it and report back.
Bowton Road: A member of the public mentioned that there is a new small play area at the end of Bowton Road.
- f. **Toilets at the Pier:** Cllr Robertson reported on a meeting that he and Cllr Cuthbert had had with representatives of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Kinross Estate Company (KEC) to see if these organisations and PKC might work together to find a solution to the need for public toilets at the pier. Sheila Best from PKC Environment Service and Barry Davies from Kinross CC were also present. SNH and HES warned that they have limited financial resources available for such a project. KEC has earmarked land that could be used and will set it aside. Ms Best said that finance from PKC's Comfort Scheme could assist with running costs. Cllr Robertson said TRACKS could help to source funds. Cllr Robertson intends to allow six weeks for representatives to consult with their own organisations and will then call another meeting.
250,000 people per year use the Heritage Trail. The castle attracts 12,000 visitors per year.
Julie McGrattan and Jason Barker, proprietors of the Boathouse restaurant were present at the CC meeting. Ms McGrattan recapped on the problems they have experienced with high numbers of visitors to the trail, loch and castle looking for toilets (see minutes of August meeting) and other facilities. She puts bins in the car park, empties them and gives out dog waste bags at her own expense. She said that the infrastructure for visitors is just not there; visitors go to the castle, get back in their cars, then leave. She suggested that if there were better car parking facilities, visitors might leave their cars and explore the town. Cllr Robertson agreed that the car park is the next big issue and needs a better entrance. It is possible to have a dog waste bin located on private land. The question of ownership of the land was raised, with CCllr Colliar stating that part of the car park area was once common land.
HES will proceed with their application for a staff welfare facility; this is quite separate from any public toilet project.
No costs for toilets have been mentioned so far; this will be for the next meeting.
Cllr Cuthbert said ideally a visitor centre should be planned. Ms Shepherd of Mandy's Hairdresser was present; she said that a lot of visitors come into her shop asking for

information. She would be willing to stock bus timetables etc. She suggested a large map in the centre of town would be useful. (There used to be one adjacent to the phone box at the PO sorting office.)

7. **New Primary School:** CCllr MacKenzie reported that work will resume in earnest in October. The CC received a message of thanks from local resident Dr Scott for taking forward to PKC his and other residents' concerns about the possible effects of the additional pedestrian access in the School Lane. Double yellow lines are to be painted at Emslie Drive and Douglas Crescent where they have junctions with Station Road.
8. **Queen's tree, Queen's Crescent:** CCllr Colliar explained that a few years ago it was agreed that a cherry tree should be planted in Queen's Crescent to replace the one (now missing) originally planted by the Queen, and also another one on the opposite side. The cost is about £30 each, and a plaque up to £150. He suggested funds come from the CC bank account. There was no objection. October would be an appropriate time to plant and it would be good to do it this year, to mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday. CCllr Colliar will contact R Brough of PKC.

ACTION: CCllr Colliar

9. **Town Centre Regeneration:** The Secretary reported the following:
 - The CC received a response from Willie Young (PKC Environmental and Consumer Services) to its letter requesting the prompt reinstatement of a **light controlled crossing** in the High Street. His team is working on a design and researching funding sources with a view to taking the proposal to the November meeting of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee.
 - A vehicle struck one of the **granite bollards**, causing considerable damage to the stone setts. Cllr Robertson reported the damage to the Council.
 - **BBC Scotland News** made a short film in August featuring a **blind reporter** trying to negotiate the shared space in Kinross. This can be viewed on Facebook and has been shared on the CC and Newsletter FB Pages. The original post attracted around 200 comments.
 - Shortly before this meeting the CC received a copy of a letter by **Mr Ken Miles** to the Leader of the Administration of PKC listing Mr Miles' concerns about the redesigned High Street. He has also submitted to PKC 133 letters signed by local residents expressing concern over the redesign.

There followed some discussion.

Cllr Cuthbert said that Mr Young is looking into various concerns raised by the ward councillors but Council officers appear unwilling to take measures that are seen as reversing the shared space concept.

Ms Shepherd said that she observed the BBC filming. At one point the cameraman had to abandon his camera and rush into the middle of the road to stop a speeding car from colliding with the reporter. She says police cars regularly travel through Kinross High Street over the speed limit, which is meant to be 20mph in the central part of the High Street.

Some community councillors suggested ramps or bumps at each end of the 20mph zone to slow cars down.

Other problems mentioned during discussion were: indiscriminate parking; no indication of priority at junction with Burns Begg Street; lack of reflectors on granite bollards; dead trees beside Co-op. In relation to parking, Cllr Robertson said we have been let down by PKC Enforcement and Police.

Cllr Cuthbert said the Kinross regeneration project has won a silver award within PKC. The project has also been shortlisted for a regeneration award in the Herald Property Awards for Scotland 2016. CCllr MacKenzie reported that minutes of the 'Perth Connect' group record PKC's Jim Valentine claiming the Kinross shared space is a success.

It was agreed that Cllr Robertson would write to the Police regarding their vehicles speeding through the town.

It was agreed that the Secretary would draft a letter to the Chief Executive recording the CC's concerns and suggestions regarding the redesigned High Street. This is to be

circulated around the CC before submission to ensure all relevant points are included. It is hoped that additional measures to make the space safer could be included in the proposals going to the E&I Committee in November. The Secretary will also invite Willie Young to take part in a site visit with representatives of the CC.

ACTION: Cllr Robertson and Secretary

10. Planning

a. **Planning Applications Submitted to PKC.** No comments were raised by the CC.

- i. 16/01289/FLL Change of use, alterations and extension to form microbrewery: former public convenience, Muirs, Kinross.
- ii. 16/01390/FLL Extension to dwelling house, 21 Montgomery Street, Kinross.
- iii. 16/01384/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house: 16 McBain Place, Kinross.
- iv. 16/01257/FLL Erection of a dwelling house, land 60m SW of Baltree Farm, Hatchbank.
- v. 16/00983/FLL Erection of a dwelling house, land 70m NW of Gellybank Farm, Kinross.
- vi. 16/01465/FLL Extension to dwelling house, 85 Lathro Park, Kinross.
- vii. 16/01425/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house, 1 Lethangie Cottage, Kinross.

b. **Planning Applications Determined by PKC**

- i. 16/00259/CON Demolition of buildings, former Kinross High School, 8 High Street, Kinross. Approved.
- ii. 16/00255/FLM Erection of 91 dwelling houses and associated infrastructure, former Kinross High School, 8 High Street, Kinross. Approved.
- iii. 16/01098/FLL Change of use and alterations from office/storage to beauty centre (class 2), Websters Development, 14 High Street. Approved.
- iv. 16/01247/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house, 21 Hatchbank Road, Gairney Bank. Approved.
- v. 16/01006/HH 4 Balado Wynd. Reduce height of hedge. Planning officer concluded that the trees and shrubs did not meet the definition of a high hedge as defined by the High Hedges (Scotland) Act and therefore could not serve a High Hedge Notice.

c. **Planning Correspondence and other Planning Matters**

- i. **Former High School site:** letters received regarding the formal planning consents being issued.
- ii. **Planning workshop:** The presentations given at the Planning Workshop attended by some of the community councillors on 22 June are now available on the PKC website.
- iii. **300 houses at Lathro Farm:** This application is recommended for approval at the Development Management Committee meeting on 14 September. See item 5 above (Strategic Master Plan) for discussion.
- iv. **Beaufield:** Cllr Cuthbert said that application 16/01996/FLL (8 houses on land 110m SE of Beaufield, Balado) is also recommended for approval at the Development Management Committee meeting on 14 September.

11. **Miscellaneous Correspondence:** A summary of mail received between the August and September meetings had been circulated to community and ward councillors prior to the meeting and was available to view. Items mentioned at the meeting were:

- a. **Insurance form:** PKC acknowledged receipt of it.
- b. **Change to bus services:** PKC public transport unit informed the CC about changes to bus services. This information was put on the CC Facebook page and an article placed in the Newsletter. Some comments from Facebook were: "Getting to Edinburgh, the link between buses means you miss one by a minute and you have a two-hour wait" and "How are folk from Crook supposed to get to Kinross for work if the first bus is at 10am. Shocking." Ward councillors have had lots of feedback from the public on this subject.
- c. **Seminar on financial harm** in Perth, 14 October: Invitation to send a representative. No one available.

- d. **CC accounts:** There was a Freedom of Information request to PKC to see all CC accounts for last financial year, so that will include Kinross CC's. Names of individuals and signatures will be redacted.
- e. **Community Volunteer Awards:** Invitation to CC to send up to four representatives on 28 September. CCllrs Freeman, Blyth and Davies will attend. The Secretary will respond to the invitation. CCllr Thomas is attending as Newsletter editor.
ACTION: CCllrs Thomas, Freeman, Blyth and Davies
- f. **Action Partnerships:** Email from Cllr Cuthbert about the Locality Community Planning Partnerships, which are to be called Action Partnerships. Ours will be the Almond & Earn Ward and Kinross-shire Ward Action Partnership. Cllr Cuthbert would like two Kinross community councillors to attend a meeting at LLCC on 27 September at 7.30pm, which would be a forum of Community Councils. From that forum, one community councillor will be elected to go on to Action Partnership, which will meet on 6 October. CCllrs Davies and MacKenzie will represent Kinross CC at the forum meeting.
ACTION: CCllrs Davies and MacKenzie
- g. **Poppy Scotland:** A new organiser is required for this area. A representative would like to come to talk to a CC meeting. Invited to October meeting, though availability to be confirmed. The organisation has also been invited to put an article in the Newsletter.

12. Reports from Perth & Kinross Councillors

- a. **Parking:** Cllr Cuthbert reported that the former High School has now been fenced off and is no longer available for public parking. The parking survey awaited by the ward councillors has now been completed but not yet distributed to councillors and will now have to be redone!
- b. **Campus review:** Cllr Cuthbert reported that PKC's Education service is going to carry out a campus review. The service needs to save £180,000 across the campuses that are hubs. For example, campuses might open at 8am instead of 7am. Cllr Cuthbert felt PKC had made it too difficult for community groups and small businesses to use the campus, e.g. by disallowing catering except by Tayside Contracts and making room hire expensive or awkward. Small businesses were making their own arrangements, e.g. creating exercise studios elsewhere in town, although there are suitable facilities in the campus. He would encourage PKC to allow comment by the public as part of the review process.
- c. **Speedwatch:** Cllr Robertson referred to the successful trial of this (volunteers monitoring the speed of traffic) in Crook of Devon a few years ago. However, when the single Police service took effect, the Chief Constable at the time did not want it. However, the new Chief Constable may be more amenable. Cllr Robertson will suggest trialling it in Kinross-shire.

13. Any Other Business

- a. **Funding for Primary School:** CCllr Bryson thanked Cllr Cuthbert for a suggestion he had made regarding funding, which has enabled Kinross Primary School to purchase many more iPads.
- b. **Kinross-shire Fund:** CCllr Colliar reported on a recent meeting he attended. Grants are to be awarded to Crook and Drum in Bloom and a Blairingone pre-school group. There will be efforts to raise more money for the Fund.
- c. **Remembrance Sunday:** CCllrs Colliar, Blyth and Freeman will meet in late September to make arrangements.
ACTION: CCllrs Colliar, Blyth & Freeman
- d. **Pothole:** CCllr Stewart reported a huge hole at the entrance to Chance Inn Farm. The councillors are aware of it.
- e. **Grass cutting:** CCllr Davies wondered why the public grass areas to the south of the road running alongside the school (i.e. the areas adjacent to Burnbank B&B and the Health Centre) are not cut as often as the verges around the school.
ACTION: CCllr Robertson

f. **High School pupils/shop/litter:** CClr MacKenzie suggested the CC ask the head teacher of KHS what is being done to stop children going to the shop outwith intervals. CClr Davies has been monitoring litter since the new shop at Lathro opened. He thought it had not been too bad, although pizza boxes do not fit in litterbins. A member of the public commented that litter has been very bad around the skate park. Another said that the language used by some of the children is terrible.

ACTION: Secretary

g. **KCCNL grants:** CClr Davies has received some enquiries since the grants have been advertised again. He will book a room for Wednesday 26 October for the CC to meet to decide on the applications received by 30 September. All community councillors to put 26 October in their diaries.

ACTION: All Community Councillors

h. **Verges around heritage trail:** CClr Robertson has been chasing up maintenance work, which should be happening this week.

14. **Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5 October at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm.

NOTE: All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting.