

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 6 September 2017

at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall, Muirs, Kinross

Present: CCllrs Bill Freeman (Chair), Eileen Thomas (Secretary), Margaret Blyth, Jonathan Bryson, David Colliar, Ian Jack, David MacKenzie, Thomas Stewart and David West; P&K Kinross-shire Ward Councillors M Barnacle, C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters; and five members of the public, including Dr A McCracken of Loch Leven Health Centre.

1. **Apologies** were received from CCllr Barry Davies and the community police officers.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Minutes of meeting of 2 August 2017:** Agreed as a true record. Proposed: CCllr Colliar. Seconded: CCllr Cuthbert.
4. **Changes to NHS Acute Services:** Dr A McCracken from Loch Leven Health Centre addressed the meeting. NHS Tayside is running a consultation regarding proposed changes to surgical services, which would involve all unscheduled surgery taking place at Ninewells. Only scheduled surgery would take place at Perth Royal Infirmary (PRI). In fact, Dr McCracken says these changes are already happening, as it is not possible to get patients with certain acute conditions admitted to PRI. Although the consultation was supposed to have begun on 3 July, he only learned about it in early August. There has been no consultation with rural GPs. This accords with the emails received by the CC; these began in early August with links to information and general posters about the consultation. Posters giving dates and venues of engagement events had only been received on 6 September. These events are to be held in Stracathro, Dundee, Pitlochry and Perth. The dates are 13 – 26 September, which is very close to the consultation deadline of 3 October. There is no engagement event for Kinross-shire, even though this area will be affected more than most. Current ambulance arrival times are 30 minutes, then instead of the 20-minute drive to Perth, a 40-minute drive along the accident-prone A90 to Ninewells in Dundee will be required. This is also a big consideration for residents in the Pitlochry area.
Dr McCracken expressed concern that, although the Perth area has an increasing population including increased numbers of elderly, services are being taken away. Other services at Perth have been reduced or withdrawn, e.g. Paediatrics, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Plastic Surgery, ENT Surgery. He believes there is a risk of losing the Intensive Care Unit at PRI and that, indeed, the future of PRI is in danger.
Dr McCracken also mentioned mental health services. Despite a large sum being invested at Murray Royal in Perth, some patients are sent to Dundee to be assessed before being returned to Perth. A consultation on mental health services is also ongoing.
There was some discussion. Some points made were: perhaps the poor level of consultation is a result of the new joint integration board; joint boards are now in place in all but one Scottish local authority; the NHS is underfunded; Tayside is the worst place in the UK for bed blocking (integration has not helped); there is no evidence that centralisation improves matters; the Perth & Kinross population is growing while that of Dundee is declining. Dr McCracken said it is much more difficult trying to communicate with consultants at Ninewells compared to PRI. He predicts prescribing will increase as GPs try to take on more care.
Cllr Purves will try to get a briefing arranged at PKC. He will pass on information about a meeting being organised by the local Conservative group. **ACTION: Cllr Purves.**
The CC will complain to the organisers about the timescale of the consultation, asking to have it extended and for a consultation event to be held in Kinross and other rural communities, e.g. Crieff, Auchterarder. The CC will also write to MSPs, MPs and the Joint Integration Board with its concerns. **ACTION: Secretary.**
5. **Police Report:** Police not present but a report had been sent. Incidents in the month to 1 September were listed. On 19 August, an elderly female was the subject of an attempted handbag snatch in Station Road. The enquiry is ongoing. On 22 August, a shed was broken into in High Street. On 31 August, a ten-year-old female was subject to a hit and run (bike) between Kinross and Milnathort near Lethangie Farm and suffered a broken shoulder. When PC Spalding submitted this report, he said enquiries were ongoing.

However, since then, a post on the Tayside Police Facebook page says that a 27-year-old man has been charged in connection with this incident.

Sgt Forrester, Community Sergeant for Kinross-shire, is moving to take up the Community Sergeant post in Blairgowrie. A new Kinross-shire sergeant will be appointed soon.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of 2 August 2017.

- a. **Roads Maintenance Schedule.** Cllr Purves had provided this. Cllr Cuthbert asked if anti-skid surfacing could be applied to zebra crossings. **ACTION: Cllr Purves** will request this. There is a pothole/sunken drain cover on Station Road to the west of the roundabout at its junction with Springfield Road. **ACTION: Cllr Robertson** will report this.
- b. **Reserved Spaces at Kinross High School:** Cllr Purves reported on a meeting with PKC's Karen Robertson. Pupils from Fife and Clackmannan make up 21% of the KHS roll. The roll for S1 was previously 200, but has been reduced to 180 for this year with more reserved places. Long-term, the roll will keep being reduced with more reserved places for families in the KHS catchment as more house-building occurs. Cllr MacKenzie pointed out that if a child moves from outside the area to this catchment after the census date (September), there is no budget for that child. He also said that some children have been moved to KHS because of conflict issues at other schools, sometimes bring problems with them.
- c. **Access Audit of Kinross & Milnathort:** Cllr Watters reported that PKC's Frank Mills is coming to check the Muirs in Kinross, bringing a representative from Inclusive Living. It should be possible to arrange a community street audit, where any interested person can meet and walk through the town. He will continue to progress this. **ACTION: Cllr Watters.**
- d. **Kinross-shire Survey:** Cllr Bryson has not progressed this yet.
- e. **Kirkgate Park Play Area:** Cllr Robertson reported that some equipment has been taken away for repair. Some items were worn out, others vandalised. It is hoped to replace these items soon. The park is very popular.
- f. **Payment for Plaque:** Treasurer Cllr Jack confirmed payment has been made.
- g. **Kinross-shire Forum on LDP2:** Cllr Barnacle reported briefly on this. He has written to Peter Marshall, copying to CCs. Peter Marshall won't be responding directly, but the letter would be discussed at briefing sessions for local members. Cllr Barnacle mentioned some of the topics covered. Only items raised previously will be considered by PKC when producing the next stage of the LDP. Cllr Cuthbert suggested that the CC should write to PKC about open spaces. He will draft something for the next CC meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert.**

7. Planning Matters

- a. **New Planning Applications.**
 - 17/01225/FLL** Change of use from ancillary store (class 7) to micro-distillery (class 4) at Green Hotel, 2 Muirs, Kinross, for Montgomery Hotel Group. No CC comment.
 - 17/01240/FLL** Alterations, extension and formation of an access ramp at Kinross Curling, Green Road, Kinross for Kinross Curling. No CC comment.
 - 17/01279/LBC** Alterations at Courthouse Restaurant, 21-25 High Street, Kinross. Closing date 8/9/17. Cllr Colliar reported on Historic Environment Scotland's comments.
 - 17/01333/FLL** Installation of replacement windows at first floor, 127 High Street, Kinross. Cllr Cuthbert noted that there was a conservation officer report for this application, yet there was not one for the former High School site. It was agreed to write to PKC raising this. **ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert.**
 - 17/01388/FLL** Erection of stables at land 70m SW of Gellybank Cottage, Kinross, for Mrs R Drummond, New Bungalow, Gellybank Farm, Kinross. No CC Comment.
 - 17/01348/FLL** Change of use of agricultural land to form additional garden ground and erection of a fence, Craigwell, Milnathort. No CC comment.
 - 17/01405/FLL** Erection of 2no. holiday accommodation units, land 250m NE of Leepark, Coldrain. No CC comment.
 - 17/01466/FLL** Erection of 4 dwelling houses (plots 88-91 addition of solar panels) at former Kinross High School, High Street, Kinross. This is an application for solar panels on the retained Edwardian building. There was no comment on this specific application, however members of the CC raised concerns about this development of this site, particularly the extent of demolition of the Edwardian building, lack of progress with its restoration and the appropriateness or otherwise of the height,

design and finishes of the new-build houses in the conservation area. It was noted that condition 8 of the decision notice for this development states that the alterations to the retained building must be completed before the development is occupied. Cllr Robertson will write to Planning regarding the conditions. It was agreed that the CC should invite Mr Brian to a daytime site visit and also to the next CC meeting to discuss concerns. **ACTION: Cllr Robertson and Secretary.**

17/01441/MWM Application under Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to develop land without complying with Condition 2 (period of extraction) of planning permission 04/01322/MW (extraction and processing of sand and gravel), **Balado Quarry, Balado.** D Geddes Ltd wish to extend the period of operation of the quarry for a further eleven years. Two members of the public present, who live at Easter Balado, object to the extension, in particular out of concern for their private water supply. There was some discussion. It was agreed that the Secretary should apply for an extension to the period of consultation for the CC. She also offered to place an item about this on the CC Facebook page as a way of gauging public opinion. **ACTION: Secretary.**

17/01351/FLL Demolition of dwelling house and change of use of land to form vehicle hardstanding and erection of fence (in part retrospect) at Lochside House, Kinross, for BCA Auctions. It was agreed to object to this application as it will have a serious impact on the local residents. Cllr Cuthbert to draft an objection for the Secretary to submit. **ACTION: Cllr Cuthbert and Secretary.**

b. **Planning Applications Determined by PKC.** Cllr Colliar reported on these.

c. **Lathro Farm.**

- i. **Flooding Query:** Cllr Purves has been in contact with Lisa Simpson, PKC head of legal. He has given her information by flooding expert Professor Crichton. He will report further when he hears back from legal. **ACTION: Cllr Purves.**
- ii. **Social housing query:** It was confirmed that “planning application 17/00893/FLL will not affect the agreed position of the affordable units under 15/01512/FLM.” A map showing the position of the affordable units was provided.
- iii. **Tree Preservation Order:** Secretary, Cllr Thomas, reported that she had submitted further supporting information. However, the officer who used to deal with this, Richard Welch, has retired. She sent her letter on to other relevant staff. A direct reply was not received but she was copied into an email to the Civic Trust, telling them that their request for a TPO had been turned down. It was agreed that she should write again to ask for this decision to be reconsidered. **ACTION: Secretary.** Cllr Watters referred to a 2009 policy document and said the threat had to be ‘real’. Cllr Barnacle had spoken to Anne Condliffe of planning and given his view that the site is no longer a working farm. Cllr Barnacle has said in his letter to P Marshall that there is not enough protection for trees. He thinks the tree officer, R Brough, should have a locus in planning (he currently does not). Cllr Purves wonders if the 2009 policy should be revised.
- iv. **Radon gas:** Cllr Watters will make enquiries as to what provision Persimmon is making to ensure the houses are not contaminated by radon. **ACTION: Cllr Watters.**

d. **Other Planning Matters.**

- i. **Request for investigation into PKC Planning:** A bland, standard response was received from Scottish Ministers, suggesting the CC complains to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. Experience of others is that this is a waste of time.
- ii. **Westfield:** Cllrs Colliar and Cuthbert attended a meeting on this. They went through the letter by Portmoak CC. The planners from Fife seem to be listening. A transport impact assessment is going to take place.
- iii. **Transport Assessment/Jct 7:** Cllrs Bryson and Cuthbert met Peter Marshall and discussed possible upgrading of Jct 7. They were asked for vehicular pinchpoint places. It is expected that a meeting will take place in Perth in early October involving some representatives of the CC, Bob Mitchell and representatives of Milnathort CC to see transport model outputs. Cllr Bryson said they were told that enlarging jct 7 is not simply a case of adding an S ramp; the whole junction would have to move 200m at a cost of £12-15 million. Pinchpoints suggested at the CC meeting were: Springfield Road and Muirs junction; Lethangie Road and Muirs junction.

- iv. **Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Guidance:** The CC received a copy of Cllr Barnacle's submission regarding this.
 - v. **Place Standard Tool:** A workshop will take place on Thursday 26 October.
8. **Kinross Town Centre Regeneration:** Cllr Robertson reported. Councillors have been given a preview of a possible zebra crossing at the south end. If it were to go ahead, it would mean the removal of three parking spaces and moving the bus stop. The CC will receive a letter about it. Bollards will be installed soon.
 9. **New Primary School.** Nothing to report.
 10. **Miscellaneous Correspondence.** There were approximately 50 items of mail. Most had been forwarded to members of the CC and a summary provided. Important items had been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
 11. **Reports from Perth & Kinross Councillors.**
 - A977:** Cllr Barnacle had met with the project officer responsible for mitigation measures to the A977.
 - Winter service:** Cllr Barnacle reported that, at the Environment Committee that day, it was agreed that under the winter service an additional two night shifts will operate out of Kinross.
 - Potholes:** Cllr Watters reported on a further paper regarding maintenance of roads. All the Councillors added comments on this subject.
 - Landscaping upgrades:** Cllr Robertson said that renewed landscaping for the public parts of some social housing areas will take place (Coventry Place, Burns Begg St etc).
 - Costcutter path:** Cllr Robertson had copied the CC in to an email during the past month regarding the public footpath by Costcutter which is inaccessible during building work. He is still checking the situation and will report back. **ACTION: Cllr Robertson.**
 12. **Any Other Competent Business.**
 - a. **Kirklands Garage:** It is understood that this has been sold to a housing developer.
 - b. **Remembrance Day Parade:** Cllr Freeman is to organise a meeting.
 - c. **Muir Grove:** Cllr Blyth thanked Cllr Robertson for getting the double yellow lines extended.
 - d. **Link Road verges:** Cllr Davies (not present) requests that grass verges on the link road are cut. **ACTION: Cllr Purves.**
 - e. **Mud on road (Lathro site):** Cllr Davies (not present) raised this problem. Cllr Robertson said Persimmon are now sweeping the road and have been asked to install tyre washing equipment.
 - f. **Mary Queen of Scots Festival:** Cllr Davies (not present) said this event was very welcome but felt that parking had been a major problem.
 - g. **School children at shops:** Cllr Davies had submitted a comment. We have previously been informed by the High School that children should not be at the shop during lesson time. He had recently witnessed at least 25 children in the shop at 10.35am on the previous Thursday. Many of the children crossed the road outwith the pedestrian crossing.
 - h. **KCCNL charity:** Not many funding requests have been received. The new bank account is open.
 - i. **Campus Management Committee:** Cllr Bryson wondered if there is supposed to be a CC representative on this. **ACTION: Cllr Purves** will check. There was some discussion as to whether the community campus concept was working. Cllr Watters has raised this with a council officer. There are three groups complaining that they cannot access facilities during the day.
 - j. **Politics:** Cllr West gently reminded the councillors that discussion at the CC should be non-party political. (There had been remarks about party positions regarding the approach to dealing with potholes.)

13. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4 October 2017.

The meeting ended at 21:50 hours.

All minutes are draft until approved at next meeting.