



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: M. Wardlaw **Vice:** A. Butters **Treasurer:** A. Butters
Contact Secretary: J. Taylor
Members: L. Lauder, M. Butters, G. McClure, P. Mills, S. Wilkinson and J. Wood

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2019
IN THE TOWN HALL, PITTENWEEM

Present: Margaret Wardlaw, Jim Taylor, Linda Lauder, Peter Mills & Jim Wood.

Councillors: Cllrs Linda Holt & John Docherty.

Apologies: Cllr Bill Porteous, Martin & Anne Butters, Gary McClure & Susan Wilkinson.

Public Attending: Mr William Wood.

Opening of Meeting

MW welcomed everyone to this early meeting as the hall is being used next Thursday as a Polling Station. **MW** then asked **Mr Wood** to address the **C.C** members.

Mr Wood told the **CC** "The church bells could not be rung on Sunday, they fitted a new lock to the door and no one thought of giving me a key. I am here to ask your help to get a key. **Cllr JD** will request a spare from **FC**.

Mr Wood went onto tell everyone that he has been ringing the bells for the last 21 years, and that he enjoys the different and varied conversations he has with locals and visitors who come in to watch, and sometimes help, him pull the ropes. He reported the Church Coffee Morning raised £950 towards a heart machine for Kirkcaldy Hospital. **MW** thanked **Mr Wood** for attending.

Previous Minutes Approval: Proposed by J. Taylor Seconded by L. Lauder

Councillors Report:

Cllr JD attended a meeting run by the North East Fife Health & Social Care Locality Planning Wider Stakeholder Group. They will be starting a N.E Fife "Living well with long term conditions" Hub for people with long-term mental issues. There will be informal cafe style meetings. They will also "sign post"

community groups to give support. There will also be online guidance. The group also mentioned that 15% of 40 or under age group & 58% of people over the age of 60 have a long-term mental and physical condition.

Cllr LH said she had a few items to report on, but would give her input as the agenda progressed.

Matters arising

West Braes Project will hold their A.G.M in the Community Coastal Church in Session Road on 17th December opening 6:45pm for 7:00pm start. **PCC** members are invited.

Skate Park: **Cllr LH** reports that this is going well and that there is now a constitution and a committee of members. The pupils at Waid Academy are enthusiastic about the project and to include them, the next working group meeting is to be held on Wednesday at 1pm lunchtime. The people who were involved in getting the skate park in Tayport up and running will be attending this meeting.

Administration can be difficult and take a long time, as the **WBP** found out, since any lease or purchase of Common Good land must be ruled on by a Sheriff of the Court.

Nicola Thomson was worried that funding would be lost due to problems with paper work, as it turns out it's good news for both the projects, funding is safe.

OOHS: PM reported that the St Andrews OOHS Group met on December 4th to review progress. The new OOH service started on November 4th with very little publicity from the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership (FHSCP). The service is to be called the Urgent Care Service omitting both Primary Care and Emergency from the concept rather suggesting that it is an extension of the minor injuries unit. The service is offering reduced hours at the St Andrews Community Hospital but at least it is still open. Details of opening times are still variable and may depend on availability of staff. Currently it is hoped to have it open from 6-10pm on weekdays and possibly 9am to 10pm at weekends. Access to care should be through NHS 24 but it is well known that walk-in care is also available at the Hospital in an emergency.

There is concern that FHSCP are planning to reduce the availability of GPs at the service and gradually replace them with urgent care practitioners (nurses). This is not acceptable to patients or the nurses asked to take on this extended role. The Urgent Care Service is currently fully staffed with local GPs who remain committed to supporting the OOH care of North East Fife patients. After hours (10pm) NHS 24 can ask a mobile car unit to attend patients at

home or provide taxi (one way) to Kirkcaldy where the OOHS remain open for 24 hours.

The Group plan to monitor the service carefully and have further meetings with the FHSCP arranged. Patient feedback on the service would be appreciated.

Abbey Wall Road wall: Cllr LH reported there seems to be a dispute about who owns the wall. In 2018 defects were found which should have been sorted. They are looking at how to relieve the build up of water behind the wall, maybe with inserting drainpipes, and to prevent the amount of water running out across the pavement and down the road. In an earlier report it was suggested that clearing the gullies at the bottom of the wall would do that. Cllr JD suggested contacting Historic Scotland to see if the wall was listed.

School Crossing: Cllr JD reported FC also looking at other areas in Fife. A report should be out in February/ March.

Tolbooth Tower: Cllr LH suggested we get in touch with Fife Historic Building Trust to ask them to come to talk to the public on how they can help. She suggested we fix a date for another meeting soon.

It is said the repair the top of the tower will cost about £200,000 and FC would like to use the Common Good Funds to pay for the repairs. It was asked if it was known if this was just for the steeple, or the complete tower, and will FC continue to fund the scaffolding that has cost £60,000 already.

PM reported that an engineer has supposedly been checking the building every 4-5 years, and he thought a full survey was last done in 2014. JT said he had been told that the stonework of the older bottom part of the building is different from that of the newer ornate upper part and not so much of a problem. The stone steps inside the tower are worn and will no doubt need repairs done if the public are to have access.

PCC are trying to get permission for John Davidson to gain access to the tower to take photos so that our members have an idea on how it looks inside prior to the next meeting. Cllr LH said she would push for permission.

PM said it was not feasible for us to set up a Trust by ourselves, FC have to be on board and share responsibility.

Cllr LH said FC have all sorts of objections to forming the “at arms” length organisation PM was suggesting, and won’t help with financing since they cannot see how the building can be self sufficient and provide a service that would help raise funds for the upkeep. She expanded on this and gave various ideas on how the building could be used were gone over again.

Cllr LH then said that Janice Laird would like us to push ahead with forming a group to prevent FC deciding to go ahead with repairs using Common Good Funds, since only the minimum of work would be done, and you will have lost your funds. We should set up a meeting as soon as possible. PM is to contact or write to the Heritage Trust and she, Cllr LH, will contact the others.

After looking at the New Town Hall diary, the 16th January 2020 at 7pm was decided on.

After the meeting **FC** can be contacted to discuss help with funding. It was also agreed to invite the FC Chief Executive to attend the meeting.

Play Parks: FC are unable to help with even half the costs of play park items, as there seems to be no money in the funds. Communities are being asked to find their own funding. It was suggested that **PAF** should be asked to help.

The “let’s talk about play parks & open spaces” meeting with **Kevin O’Kane** didn’t give any new insight, covering exactly the same talk and slides as his last meeting. The gentleman with him was more hands on, discussed what they were trying to achieve with very little funding, and explained that the splitting of responsibilities between sections was a problem. Savings cuts introduced by one section of Parks and Open Spaces meant a greater load being put on another. i.e. no joint up thinking!

This repeated the theme we heard regarding refuse collection and fly tipping.

Police Report: Report was not sent on time since we did not let them know about the change of date. Report will be posted in notice board when received. MW said it was reported that the occupants of a white transit van & a Black 4x4 have been looking at lock ups & garages.

PM reported that there seems to be a lot of activity at the West Braes late at night.

CC Review Scheme: emails have been sent regarding training again.

James Street Shop: It is now being dealt with it. Some members felt that **PCC** should try to help new businesses that are starting up by pointing out the permits and licences they may require. JT reminded us that we only see planning applications relating to such ventures, and that the complaints are coming from established businesses.

Cemetery Gates: because it has been so long since the gates were last painted they now might need sandblasted and parts replaced. **Cllr J.D** to look into this.

M.U.P: PM and **SW** remain in contact with both Fife Council and Sustrans regarding the planned extension of the cycle path. We have made our views very clear about the need to undertake a feasibility study of a possible route through or around Pittenweem. The current Anstruther Cycle Group concept of ending the Path at the busy junction of the A917 and Milton Road is not acceptable or safe. Fife Council has had changes of staff that have delayed progress but we remain committed to pushing this ahead.

Yellow Lines: There is some confusion re where the yellow lines are to be laid in South Loan. **J.T** to send a letter to Colin Stirling to confirm the locally suggested plan, and to request yellow lines down one side of Lady Wynd.

Street Signage: Stuart Goodfellow has replied saying he cannot accommodate a tourist type sign at the bowling green, but there will be a redesigned brown sign at the Charles Street/James Street junction.

East Neuk Forum: Three members attended and a report will be issued when minutes are received. It was asked if the company building the houses at the old bus garage were given permission to narrow the roadway in such a dangerous manner. Anstruther CC Chair said it had already been discussed and will be improved on by using road signs and markings.

Common Good Register: to be discussed at a later date.

Planning: **JT** reported 13 notifications in period, 5 permitted, 4 new, 2 completed, 2 work started. They were no neighbour complaints.

Treasurer's Report: **AB** had sent her apologies. No report.

Secretary's Report: Everyone had been given a copy of a list of all emails that had been sent. Comments follow on those that have to be noted.

Kevin O'kane sent an **apology for poor communication re play park meeting.**

Letter on **Delegated disposal of Common Good Land by Fife Council** - Consultation on precedent case - we need your help and objection. Have we all read it, and do we respond?

On the **Common Good Fund** consultation, we have answered the questions asked by the FC property team re confirming named areas. It appears it is up to **PCC** to prove who owns what, as there does not seem to be any proper records for property. There was a discussion on the "garden" below the Town Hall and on who accepts the £5 rental for the Old Man's Club?

Letter received re **COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRAINING 2020** asking for suggestions on times and topics.

An email "**Lets talk about transport**"- was sent which is for both the CC and individuals to fill in. There were complaints that the mail gave no information. **JT** said that in some of the emails sent from **FC** you had to scroll further down the page or dig deeper into the email to find links to what you were supposed to be commenting on.

An **Enforcement** notice has also been sent to "the jam maker" of West High Street and to the owner of 59 James Street.

A letter was sent to **Greg Grant** re the Anstruther Multi Use Path and he writes **confirming receipt of it.**

Chair Person's Report

It was noted that there were out of date notices tied up around the Square. Would it be possible for notices to be removed by the people who put them up after the event is finished? It was suggested "the man that delivers books by bike" could put a permanent sign in the notice board.

Pittenweem Committee Fund Raising: **M.W** reported that the tree cutting machine stopped working after pruning the first tree at the top of Water Wynd in the High Street. The remainder of the trees will be pruned once it is repaired. It was found that the metal cages surrounding the trees had been bent by traffic and forced against the trunks, cutting the wire of the tree lights meaning some of the new lights don't work. **PCC** had applied for funding but unfortunately cannot claim for the lights. Uncertainty of a completion date means too little notice to organise a turning on of the lights event this year, but hopefully something can be arranged for next year.

MW then mentioned spending funds on a PC to keep records. This brought about a conversation re the possibility of us all sharing a "Cloud" account via our own devices. **Cllr L.H** suggested it might be a good idea to add "how to use cloud storage" to the subjects we would like to see in PC Community Training.

MW then said we had overrun so we will leave the planned discussion on Facebook to another meeting.

A.O.C.B

No points were brought up. The meeting ended at 9pm.

Next Community Council Meeting is 9th January 2020, 6.45 – 7pm.

Abbreviations:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council. MW - Margaret Wardlaw, JT - Jim Taylor, AB - Anne Butters, MB - Martin Butters, PM - Peter Mills, SW - Susan Wilkinson, GM - Gary McClure and JW - Jim Wood.

Cllr LH - Councillor Linda Holt, Cllr - JD Councillor John Docherty and Cllr BP - Councillor Bill Porteous. FC – Fife Council.

OOHS - Out Of Hours Service, MUP - Multi Use Path, PAF - Pittenweem Arts Festival, NTH - New Town Hall. WBP – West Braes Project.

CGF – Common Good Fund.