



The Royal Burgh of  
Pittenweem and District  
Community Council

**Chair:** M. Wardlaw **Vice Chair:** 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 the New Town Hall**  
**on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7pm**

**Present:** Margaret Wardlaw, Jim Taylor, Linda Lauder, Gary McClure, Peter Mills, Susan Wilkinson, Jim Wood.

**Councillors:** Cllr. John Docherty, Cllr. Linda Holt.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Bill Porteous.

**Public Attending:** John Davidson.

**Minutes Approved:** Proposed by P. Mills Seconded by G. McClure.

**Opening of Meeting.**

The Chair welcomed everyone, wished a Happy New Year to all, and then proceeded to the Councillors' report.

**Councillors Report:**

**Cllr LH** reported Janice Laird would look into using cloud for storage on the website suggested by Fife Council.

Clarification is needed as to when the last survey was actually done on the Clock Tower as well as on any maintenance done.

**Fife Historic Buildings Trust** or **FHBT** may be interested in helping us with the Clock Tower but it will be mentioned later.

Tony McRae is asking Communities if they have any large road projects that are needed such as Traffic calming, traffic lights, pedestrian crossings etc.

This led to **SW** bringing up the question of the parents complaints re the school crossing. **Cllr JD** replied saying a report is due out between Feb/March.

**Cllr LH** finished by saying the 20/21 Area Roads Programme has been published.

**Cllr JD** reported he had been successful in having a key for the clock tower issued to allow bell ringing.

## **Matters Arising**

**West Braes Project: MW** was to appear at the Dundee court if we had any changes to request re the application made by the **WBP** to lease ground at the West Braes. A Notice regarding the lease had been in the High Street Notice Board for 2 months with no objections other than the suggestion that no access should be denied to any land area. The date for the court hearing is set for 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

It became a concern for **PCC** on the 31<sup>st</sup> December when the Courier published a court notice mentioning the **sale** of land.

Contact was made with Courier editors who confirmed the wording was as sent by Fife Council. Phone calls were made to Fife Council when the public holiday was over, and after stating the error had been missed in the proof reading, a new notice was issued.

**MW** asked if anyone still felt she should attend the Court, and if we were all happy with the assurances given. It was agreed there was no need to attend the hearing.

**Skate Park:** The new committee has formed and a constitution set up but there will be no further progress until young people get involved.

**OOHS: PM** attended a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December where Robert McNeil was also in attendance. There were some hopes of progress, some data was been made public but there are still issues that need to be clarified. There is another meeting next month.

**Abbey Wall Road wall:** Nothing to report.

**School Crossing:** Mentioned earlier.

**Tolbooth Tower:** the **FHBT** representatives would like to view the Clock Tower as it is commonly referred to, before they attend the arranged meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> January. To allow time for this the meeting will be rescheduled. Their decision to help will depend on whether the building can be self-funding and educational; Information on the witch trials is one possibility.

**PM** mentioned again that an *arm's-length external organisation (ALEO)* should be considered for the building before the setting up a Trust. **Cllr LH** suggested this was not the type of operation Fife Council usually considered for a joint venture. A feasibility survey might need to be done regarding the use of the inside of the tower. Rates, Insurance and maintenance costs would have to be considered in any self-funding scheme. **FHBT** would require the same information, but they might know how to acquire funding from other sources.

**SW** enquired if there was any group in Fife who has done this kind of project before that could be asked for help. Only smaller projects could be thought of.

It was then decided to provisionally arrange the meeting with **FHBT** for Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2pm at the Clock Tower and then onto the New Town Hall.

**Play Parks:** nothing to report.

**Police Report:** an email report was send by P.C Stecka since they would not be able to attend tonight. *See addendum for content.*

**CC Review Scheme:** **MW** said we are asked to comment on the present CC area boundaries. It was asked what the boundary related to and where it lay. **JT** said it marked out the voting ward and he noted that in the expanding scale map just sent, the boundary did not run where the small-scale map usually presented to us suggested, the most obvious being the boundary between Anstruther and Pittenweem to the east, and the boundary between Pittenweem and Arncroach to the north. A discussion followed.

**Cemetery Gates:** **Cllr JD** hopes to get a response next month re painting them.

**MUP:** **PM** reported that he and Susan are still in communication with Sustrans and Fife Council and that a meeting will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is still misunderstanding between the groups since they both have newcomers. Fife Council staffing problems have not helped. It seems no application for funding was ever made regarding the MUP between Anstruther & Pittenweem, and the Anstruther group have now agreed that Pittenweem can have some input to its routing.

**Yellow Lines:** There has been no response to the request for yellow lines down the east side of Lady Wynd. **JT** had written again regarding extending the proposed lines in South Loan to the lamppost beside Number 8, and included the new suggestion of having lines at the junction with Backgate.

We did receive a reply from a Fife Council staff member included in the address list saying: **“I am no longer involved in parking matters having moved jobs”**

**Common Good:** a working group is to look at the **CG register** following the responses to the survey from the various Burghs. We are still hoping someone will come to talk to us before decisions are made. **MW** referred to a mail from **Janice Laird** replying to the question on whether the public had the right to access all **CG** land. Janice answers by saying that Common Good land is not the same as English Common Law Land in that respect.

**Planning:** **JT** reported the property at 53 James Street will no longer to be used as a shop or a customer pick up point although it is understood the owner may still be intending to use it for the preparation of foodstuffs.

A disturbing decision had been made by Fife Council. It was announced that, with immediate effect, planning comments and objections will no longer appear on-line when sent in. A planning officer is to vet comments after the closing date and those thought suitable might be made public. **JT** has already written to say this is a backward step and that surely we should still be told, preferably on the date any comment is made, the name of the person making it, and whether they are supporting, neutral or objecting to the application.

There were 15 Planning notices in total since the last meeting of which 5 were permitted and 3 were new entries.

**Treasurer's Report:** AB not present to give report.

**Secretary's Report:** Amongst the mails circulated this month only a few require any action by us as a group. There was a reminder regarding **-Lets Talk About Transport-** that asked our views on our bus services. PM responded making the comment that the bus service from Edinburgh to St Andrews via the East Neuk takes too long and that 17:30 is too early for a weekday last bus to be leaving Edinburgh.

We have been sent a **Common Good Financial Account** breakdown with explanatory notes as requested – entries relating to annual rents appear wrong.

We got another reminder letter re the **-Community Council Scheme Review-** asking if we are happy with the present Fife Community Council Boundaries. Changes to these can surely only be agreed following discussions with neighbouring Community Councils!

In the mail **-Regulation on Short Lets-** there is a report that the Government is to introduce some sort of control by licensing next year. Press reports speculate that this means individual councils such as Fife Council might be able to have some local control.

Fife Council offer us training in community engagement through **-Training for Community** – see dates and venue.

A new mail is **-Pittenweem Electric Vehicle Charging Point-** in which we are invited to put forward ideas on where that might be sited. When discussed Cllr JD will pass on suggestions to Fife Council.

**Chair person's Report:**

MW said we should discuss the electric car charging station now. The suggested site in the High Street is not practical since it will take away a much-needed parking space.

In the discussion that followed, the harbour area, the cemetery car park and just into the left facing the play park in New Grange Park were suggested as suitable sites, but it was felt the West Braes car park was the most appropriate. A new supply needs to be laid to there anyway.

There are closing dates for replies to the **Community Council Boundary Scheme Review** and the **Common Good Review** to be considered.

A **Community Engagement** meeting is to be held in Glenrothes on 24<sup>th</sup> February 6pm – 9pm. should anyone want to attend.

It is reported that traffic wardens have been seen in and around the village more regularly.

**Pittenweem CC Committee Fund Raising:** MW commented that we succeeded in getting the lights working on time despite a new set being damaged within days by a vehicle colliding with the tree surrounds. JW said people had passed comment that they

had liked the lights being on in the mornings on the days the timers got knocked out. **JT** reported that there had been a number of comments about public money being wasted whilst the work was being carried out, and added that grant money requested to cover the costs of trimming the trees was refused because Finance thought Fife Council should have been maintaining them.

Just before Christmas we received a report saying: Our arborist carried out an inspection and has reported: ***All 5 trees are in a Healthy Condition, well shaped and balanced, and not obstructing the road or parking areas. They were all covered in Xmas Fairy lights at the time of inspection; my recommendation would be “ No Work Required.”***

**Cllr. LH** then enlightened members that when she asked why funding for the **tree lights** had also been refused, she got the reply that Christmas light funding only goes to larger towns, villages are not included!

### **A.O.B:**

**SW** reported she had been asked if there could be two more disabled parking spaces in the square. The result of a previous request for one space was referred to.

**JT** said it seems we can only set up data storage without the need to synchronise our personal devices if we have our own **group** web page and address. **Cllr. LH** said Fife Council offer a free web page set up. **MW** mentioned a contact used to set up the New Town hall web page. **SW** said we could go through “Go Daddy”.

**PM** asked what was happening about an ATM being installed in Pittenweem. **AB** was looking into it.

**SW** reminded everyone a new defibrillator will be installed at the harbour early next week and that we are invited to attend demonstrations to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**MW** Closed the meeting at 8:45pm.by thanking everyone for coming, and adding that there were still ticket available for the Burns Lunch being held at 12:00 for 12:30pm, 24<sup>th</sup> January in the New Town Hall.

**Next Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 6:45pm for a 7:00pm start.**

### **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, NTH - New Town Hall, WBP – West Braes Project, CGF – Common Good Fund.

*Addendum.*

**Police Report:**

*Note: usually displayed in notice board from around the date received.*

**POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT**

**WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?**

**Pittenweem**

**Between January and February, police received 962 calls in North East Fife.**

**7 calls related to the Pittenweem area.**

**Of these calls 1 crime of theft by finding has been recorded.**

**Other calls were in relation to assist members of the public, road traffic and anti-social behaviour.**