



**Chair: M. Wardlaw, Vice Chair: A. Butters, Treasurer: A. Butters.**

**Contact Secretary: J. Taylor.**

**Committee: S. Wilkinson, L. Lauder, M. Butters, P. Mills, G. McClure. J. Wood.**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7pm  
in Pittenweem New Town Hall**

**Present:**

**Community Council:** Margaret Wardlaw, Anne Butters, Susan Wilkinson, Linda Lauder, Martin Butters, Peter Mills, Jim Wood, Gary McClure, and Jim Taylor.

**Fife Councillors:** Cllr Linda Holt, Cllr John Docherty and Cllr Bill Porteous.

**Apologies:** Police

**Members of the Public:** Janice Christianson and John Davidson.

**Guests:** None

**Opening of Meeting**

The Chair, MW welcomed everyone to the meeting, and then asked our members of the public if they had any business that needed brought to our attention. John replied that he had come along to the meeting out of general interest, and Janice said she would like to report a wall collapse at the rear of Larachmohr near her sister's house. Janice was also interested to know if there had been any update on the West Braes Project to be told nothing new had been reported.

**Adoption of October's minutes:** Proposed: A. Butters Seconded: G. McClure

**Cllrs Report:**

**Cllr LH** spoke about FC events that have been taking place within the East Neuk of Fife, and on Charrettes a place making tool for public meetings or workshop devoted to coming up with a plan or design for their area. The idea is to get everyone involved & to think about various ideas to improve your town. Only Anstruther and Pittenweem have so far not done anything. FC is willing to help start the process and funding would be available. It was suggested to bring in a consultant to do the leg work since there are so few people willing to partake in setting up and taking part in projects for the village. SW thought it would be difficult to get normal people involved and it meant that businesses and people

with their own agenda got involved. Cllr LH said it did help get funding but it would certainly mean more work & extra meetings for PCC which is already stretched, at present, with different ongoing projects. Cllr BP thought it might be of some interest to PCC to attend Crail CC or Elie CC, as they both are involved with Charettes, to see how it works. PM reminded the committee that it is very hard to get residents to partake in events like this. Would it not be more beneficial to send a questionnaire out to the community since it has been sometime this was last done? MW said the elderly don't get out to attend events & the young people don't seem interested.

**Cllr BP** said we have just received information on population trends in NE Fife saying population was expected to go down 3% and working people to go down by 13% in the next five years. Working people as such who pay taxes.

**Cllr JD** reported a spokesperson for “**Include Me**”, a mental health charity in which he is involved, will be attending the East Neuk Forum on the 20<sup>th</sup> November. The “**Living Well**” group, also to do with mental health, are to organise drop in café style meetings around the area.

#### **Matters Arising:**

**St Andrews OOHS:** The new and reduced OOHS service at the St Andrews Community Hospital started on November 4<sup>th</sup> and is now called the **Urgent Care Service**, which omits both Primary Care and Emergency Service from the title. The concern is that the Health Care Partnership wants to gradually replace medical by nursing staff and to reduce hours making it a service for minor injuries. However, at present it is probably to open on weekday evenings from 6-10pm and weekends from 9am to 10pm. Outside of these hours the care will be provided in Kirkcaldy and NHS 24 will be able to send an ambulance or NHS taxi to provide transport. There will also be a mobile car that can visit patients at home in an emergency. Following a discussion on ambulance waiting times, JT asked if NHS24 controlled the dispersal of ambulances or could only request that one be sent. Cllr JD said the latter. Cllr BP said he like to hear about the experiences of anybody who has attended OOHS.

**School Crossing:** Cllr JD said this is still ongoing.

**Clock Tower:** A meeting was to be arranged for Nov/Dec to discuss what support Fife Historic Trust might give to the proposed tower group depending on the building reports produced. Reports are still pending & a public meeting is now more likely to be held early in the New Year. AB & MB had spoken with **Scottish Heritage (SH)** at the **Fife Voluntary Action** open day last month. **SH** might be able to help with the clock tower provided it could be used to raise funds in some way and that “education” was involved.

A suggestion was made to put up boards displaying historic information about the building and of the witch trials held there.

We need more information regarding the state of the inside of the building and what help (if any) might be forthcoming from FC.

It would be helpful if PCC members could get access to the building to get an idea of the size of the rooms on each floor. It was said you could view the bottom floor when the Church bells are being rung. SW reminded everyone that the building was unsafe & only people with hard hats were allowed in. She added there was a chance she might still have photographs of the inside taken on a tour of the tower about 8 years ago.

**Play Parks:** Alan Bisset has handed over to Iain Wilson. There has been no update to add to last month's statement on the ordering of equipment. MW reminded us that Kevin O'Kane, who is also involved in play parks, will be holding a meeting in the New Town Hall 27<sup>th</sup> November 6 – 9pm. All members were asked to attend. We are not yet sure if the meeting is open to the public, but other Community Councils will be attending.

**Abbey Wall Road wall:** Cllr LH has been having a lot of trouble getting answers to the problem. She has been dealing with Derek Crowe & Frances Ratcliffe and emails have been sent back and forth. The rain that has fallen over these last few weeks can't have helped with the amount of water building up behind the wall which ends up coming out of the cracks, flowing down the steps and across the pavement and road. With it coming into winter there is the problem of it becoming icy. Letters were to be sent to the owners of the houses on the top to point out their responsibility in the maintenance of the wall.

FC is aware of the problem and the wall will be included in their future programme of **General Structures Inspections**.

Two sections of the lower wall fell down in 2004 and strain gauge indicators were fitted to cracks mentioned earlier. No movement was found then. It was mentioned that there are a lot of underground springs and diverted streams throughout Pittenweem.

**MUP:** PM, SW & David Stutchfield attended a meeting with John Mitchell & Scott Christie who have taken over from Ian Smith at Fife Council. The possible routing of the MUP was discussed but John Mitchell seemed only to be interested in why we are not in agreement with the Anstruther Cycle Group plan to bring the MUP to the junction with Milton Road. The plan to undertake a feasibility study of routes was again discussed and an arrangement made to meet with Greg Grant, the Fife representative of Sustrans.

S.W said the PCC must write a letter of objection to John Mitchell and his boss Ken Gourlay, We must ensure it is acknowledged otherwise the Anstruther group will just carry on doing what there are doing. **PM & SW will draft a letter.**

**Gritting of Roads:** We await a reply regarding the lorry turning point at the bottom of Abbey Wall road. **To be taken off the agenda.**

**James St. Shop:** The shop is still trading. Do they have a Hygiene Certificate?  
**Cllr LH to chase this up.**

**Jam Making:** We received an email reporting that the person given planning permission to use part of their property to make jam as a hobby, was selling

produce from the property as well as selling it in local shops. A discussion followed. It was said that the selling of items produced as a hobby is a grey area, but usually thought OK provided items are not being *collected* from the premises. JT pointed out that FC Planning had not actually given the go ahead to produce jam, they stated that permission was not required for the part time use as described by the applicant and had ruled only that the use of the building was lawful. A hygiene certificate may be required since it is a foodstuff product.

**Cllr LH will look into this.**

**Old Town Hall & Library:** Work to start in the Spring, can be taken off the agenda.

**Cemetery Gates:** Ongoing, in the schedule but waiting funding.

**South Loan Yellow Lines:** No reply yet to email asking that the lines be extended past that shown on plan, but time will needed to be notify householders. PM said our request regarding where we wanted the yellow lines was rather vague. JT agreed pointing out that we could only suggest but we had suggested extending north to the lamppost just past No. 8 in our last mail.

**Vacant Land:** Cllr JD said FC is considering land for a Retirement Home.

**Police Report:** no report received in time for meeting.

**Planning:** There were thirteen notifications in the month, four were new and seven were permitted. The application for Water Wynd has been withdrawn. There were no complaints regarding the property on Abbey Wall road putting in plastic windows.

**Treasurer's Report:** £500.70 in current account.

**Secretary's Report:** JT went through correspondence received in month pointing out items to be noted and those that we need to respond to.

**Short Term Lets:** The Interim report has been published. It is a broad based report and does not give specific figures for areas. To be taken off the agenda.

**Larachmohor:** We received acknowledgement of our objection and have just been notified that the application for the Outdoor Beer Garden has been withdrawn.

**Common Good:** The report was sent to everyone. We are asked to answer questions regarding land & property we listed to help decide whether they may have been common good and sold off. It was asked how we could get that information. JT said the answers are actually in the information already sent to us. LL agreed pointing out that maps and plans were included. J.T to put something together in response.

**PAF Wash up Meeting:** We have received draft minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. MW made a comment that she did not appear to have seen the minutes mentioned and was handed a copy by a councillor. A discussion followed.

MW said she and JT attended the meeting and noted that there were fewer FC representatives than usual. It was said this was because PAF is no longer funded by FC.

PCC had been asked to list the problems that occurred during the festival and any comments on them and send the list to Simon Learoyd for vetting prior to the meeting. Not all of the comments and suggestions listed were allowed, and not all of those that were got support from the PAF and FC members present, but there was agreement on some. The suggestion that more should be done for the younger people of the town during the festival period got no support from the PAF Chair.

It was accepted that there are parking problems in Priory Court and in the School car park with exhibitors & visitors parking there instead of in the designated areas. This will be looked at for next year, but there will be no “prosecutions” and the areas cannot be ruled “private” as requested. The problem was added to this year since parking at the playing field was stopped due to the very heavy rain.

MW said the wet weather contingency plan for festival visitors to park at the Waid Academy in Anstruther, with free transport laid on to bring them from there to Pittenweem and back, caused confusion. She asked for the plan, bus timetables, and a map of area showing bus pick up and drop off points be added to the next brochure produced. PAF will try to fit this in.

A PAF member commented on the adverse online reports of the damage done to the grass at the play park. JT said he had looked and found only slight rutting which was easily rectified. The early closure had prevented too much damage but created problems for the owners of Pittenweem’s vehicles from the designated “no parking” streets who cannot park in their normal area for nine days. This should be given thought.

The area used by the marquee in the harbour seemed to have expanded yet again; this will also be looked at.

PAF do remind exhibitors of the “No drinking of alcohol on the streets policy”. The tractor and trailer complained about was parked in the harbour compound area.

**Chairs Report:** MW reported that a tree surgeon has been organised to carry out work on the trees in the Square. The trees will get a tidy up then the lights will be added.

She mentioned that the **Fund Raisers Event** attended by AB, MB and herself was very useful. AB and MB picked up information about Fife Council Funding where PCC might get funding for events that get the community working together.

There is also a **Two for One scheme** where, for every £1 raised, FC gives £2 which she has used as funding for the New Town Hall. 3 months fundraising got £780, the maximum payout, from FC. This grant can only be applied for once per year and “donations” cannot be included as funds raised.

As mentioned earlier, AB and MB found out that Scottish Heritage might help with the Tolbooth provided that it had an educational purpose.

## A.O.B:

MB reported he had received a complaint that the farmer has ploughed right up to the fence above the golf course blocking a route to the Coastal Path. It was asked if this path was a right-of-way. If it was a metre of unploughed land should be left.

JT reminded everyone about the East Neuk Forum meeting in Anstruther at 18:30 on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

PM commented that the Remembrance Sunday wreath laying, normally only attended by the Community Council and Fife Council representatives, appeared uncoordinated because other organisations had attended not knowing that the Church would be holding their ceremony after the church service. Cllr JD took charge, and William McNaughton later apologised for the lack of organisation. Next year the Church may hold a combined ceremony at 11:00.

SW reminded everyone that we would need to start thinking about organising something for V.E. Day. This will be done in January.

SW then reported she had been asked why the NTH gates were not left open to allow access and parking by visitors to the Coastal Church.

This has already been discussed and explanations given, PCC has no control over the area, the hall and grounds are private and leased to the NTH Trustees by FC.

JT asked the Councillors if it was up to them or the CC to raise a request to have yellow lines on streets such as Lady Wynd. The CC can do it!

MW reported a person from a yellow FC vehicle marking potholes in the road during really heavy rain. The marks were being washed away!

The meeting came to a close at 9pm.

The next meeting will be 5th December at 7pm as the hall is being used as a Polling Station on the 12<sup>th</sup>, our normal meeting day.

## Abbreviations:

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.

PCC Pittenweem community Council, FC Fife Council, OOHS Out Of Hours Service, MUP Multi Use Path, PAF Pittenweem Arts Festival, NTH New Town Hall.

## Addendum

From: Christopher Stecka, Police Constable, P Division Community Police  
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 3:55 PM

### **November Report for Pittenweem Community Council**

In the month of November, police received 1251 calls in North East Fife.

12 calls related to the Pittenweem area.

Of these calls no crimes had been recorded.

Other calls were in relation to assist members of the public, noise complaints, concern for persons, sudden death, road traffic incidents and the remainder miscellaneous.

#### LOCAL INITIATIVES

Speed sites have been carried out on the A917 from Anstruther to Pittenweem resulting in numerous drivers being warned in respect of their speed and a report submitted also.

There are plans in place to attend the area of the Primary School during the temporary 20mph limit also.

If there are any concerns in respect of speeding at particular times please let us know.

#### COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH COMING SOON

PC's Stecka and Holmes would like to know if members of the community are interested in becoming a part of Community Speedwatch, 3x members of the public required minimum

Come the turn of the year I am aiming to provide all the CC's with a snapshot of the Speeding Enforcement we have carried out this year and how we plan to continue and potentially improve on the results.

Regards

Christopher Stecka

Police Constable, P Division Community Police Scotland/Poileas Alba

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