



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: M. Wardlaw, **Vice Chair:** D. Lucas **Treasurer:** M. Wardlaw
Secretary: Linda Lauder **Co-opted Members:** David Stutchfield, Nigel Mathers
Members: E. Boyd P. Mills, J. Wood, S. Moreland

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**PCC MEETING ON THURSDAY 11th MAY 2023 IN THE NEW TOWN
HALL AT 7pm**

PRESENT: Margaret Wardlaw, Duncan Lucas, Linda Lauder, Peter Mills, Jim Wood, Stewart Moreland, Evelyn Boyd and Nigel Mathers

COUNCILLORS: Sean Dillon, Alycia Hayes.

APOLOGIES: David Stutchfield, Fiona Corps.

INVITED GUESTS: Gillian Duncan

PUBLIC ATTENDING: 1 member of the public

COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS: **Cllr SD** the Council has earmarked £50,000 for the new playpark, so that’s a good start to the fundraising. Road closures coming up: the B9171 will be closed between 22nd May and 14th July. It is phased: Colinsburgh strait to Newton of Balcormo for 2 weeks, then from there to Ovenstone for 3 weeks, then Ovenstone to Spalefield. Signage from last meeting all reported, and waiting for new signs to come, Lady Wynd, Viewforth Pl, and brown signs at the ends of the village. The Primary School clusters, in the new model, Pittenweem is joining Crail with a joint Head Teacher, which is what it used to be, the Waid and Anstruther are keeping their Head Teachers, and St.Monans is joining Elie & Colinsburgh.

DL asked on behalf of the Hub, whether the whole road would be closed when the High Street was being resurfaced this year. **ACTION:** **Cllr SD to ask about this.** **LL** asked if Sean could send her an e-mail with road closures.

ACTION: **Cllr SD will chase this up.** **JW** pointed out there was no sign at the West End of routine row telling you it is one way along Marygate.

ACTION: **Cllr SD will follow this up.**

Cllr AH: The CC received my report on the meeting with Pamela Redpath. I had a visit to the Bankhead Collections this last week. In 2017 FC decided to have a gathering in of all the historic and cultural possessions of all the villages. It now has over 110,000 artefacts belonging mostly to Common Good.

Amongst them **Cllr AH** saw the old Pittenweem Provost chains, paintings and documents such as an Emergency Plan for during the War in case of an invasion. There is a huge amount of what is the heritage of our villages. These artefacts are being kept very well in a massive warehouse – and the guys there

are really passionate about the collection – but – **Cllr AH** asks, what is the point? They say it needs to be preserved for posterity, for the future. But what about the people here and now? We have no routine access to the things that our villages cherish. We will soon be able to book and go to Glenrothes. It was agreed after discussion by the **CC** that **Cllr AH** should follow this up, look at the re-purposing of some of our buildings, and have some of these artefacts exhibited in the villages they came from. **SM** asked if there was a catalogue and **Cllr AH** said there was an enormous one, catalogued against items, and it would take a lot of cross referencing to find an item related to Pittenweem. It will be possible to access a full database eventually, and it may be possible to arrange for local exhibits. **ACTION: Cllr AH will send out an e-mail to CC with photos of the Bankhead Collections and start the ball rolling in terms of improving the database and looking at possible local buildings for showing the artefacts in the future.**

ENCEPT: **GD** explained that this is an organisation whose role is to prepare, respond and recover from, community emergencies in the E. Neuk. It is there to assist not replace the Police, SAS and SFRS etc. They work under the umbrella of **FC** resilience dept. They work to support and are in partnership with Community Councils and groups. They are not active all the time, but respond during emergencies (e.g. storms in Winter '21 to '22). They would prefer to act through Community Councils, but individuals can phone them.

ENCEPT, since its formation in 2019 has: set up a freephone contact: 08009996543, built an asset register where local businesses etc have said they will help and are now insured, together with farmers. Provided halls with equipment such as emergency kit bags, First Aid Kits for every village, **ENCEPT** team bags. The First Aid Kits can also be used at village events as long as **ENCEPT** are contacted post event to tell you what needs replaced. Obtained access information to halls etc and local contacts. They have received flood resources such as pumps, snakes, generators, lighting, sandbags etc. Have responded to COVID.

ENCEPT responds to emergencies such as: weather related, we can provide chainsaws and people to use them, Missing persons, Community Emergency, Displaced people and National Emergency. It is able to activate faster than **FC**. To contact **ENCEPT**, there is the freephone 24/7 number: 08009996543 or Facebook and e-mail for general contact. Once contacted, we get back to you within 2 hours.

Future plans include information updates following **CC** elections, kit bag checks which will happen shortly at Pittenweem CC. Community training events e.g. Throwline training, Emergency preparations and Training Scenarios. For example, a recent one looking at how to deal with an evacuation of a cruise liner into the E. Neuk, and the next one will be how we respond to an emergency related to someone suffering from dementia going missing.

ENCEPT are also keen to get feedback. We can also assist in getting funding for local organisations related to emergency situations.

PROPOSAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13th April

Approved by **DL** and seconded by **JW**

NM asked that brief action points could be summarised at the end. **AC** has amended this to highlight action points in the minutes, but to summarise them at the end, to avoid too much repetition.

MATTERS ARISING:

CYCLE CONTRA FLOW: **LL** said that she and **MW** met with Crispin and Sonja re the Contraflow. They explained they would need to wait for the report from the traffic consultant before having another public meeting. However, **LL** and **MW** still feel we need a public consultation as there is not enough information and people are getting confused and upset. **MW** reported that she had received an e-mail from a member of the public stating her opposition to the proposed route along Mayview and Braehead, and along Abbeywall Road. She said: “a newsletter with updates would be welcome because of the lack of publicity and consultation at present.” Discussion followed which went between needing information now, and needing to get the information from the traffic consultant to inform a public meeting. **MW** put it to the vote as to whether to have a public consultation as soon as possible, before the traffic consultant’s report, and this was voted against by the committee.

A discussion followed about the need to get information out to the public now. **PM** said that this was what is to go out on the ENCAP website which is unfortunately having a problem at the moment. **Cllr AH:** proposed that it should be an information document that is perhaps saying ‘if you have concerns, send us an e-mail, or come and talk to us’. This would form a dialogue between the **CC** and the public we represent. **DL** said that he had spent 6 days as a private individual (not as a **CC** member) consulting the public regarding the contraflow that was being discussed along with the proposed cycle path changes. 85% of the public he spoke to ‘didn’t want a contraflow system at the Marygate or anywhere else in Pittenweem and he has collected their names and addresses as proof. **MW** added that a printed card with up-to-date information could bring together **DL**’s research and also include the information that a public consultation would follow the traffic consultant’s report. **Cllr SD** asked when a leaflet should go out? **MW** suggested as soon as possible and that Crispin Hayes and Sonya Potjewijd would help with this. Eventually all agreed and **Cllr AH** said she would help with the delivery of them. **LL** to ask **CH** to put together the wording for the cards with our approval before delivery takes place.

Following this, **NM** suggested that at a future meeting there should be a discussion about conflict of interest and collective responsibility of **CC**. In other words, clarifying when you are speaking on behalf of the **CC** and when on behalf of yourself as an individual. **ACTION: MW to consider.**

MUPS: No updates

SUP/ELIE: No updates

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

ELECTIONS:(Local & General) in future everyone who goes along to vote at a General Election must have an id card with them to prove they are who they say they are. This is not a requirement for a Local Election

LL said she had received a letter saying that after the **CC** elections in Sept '23, all members would need to receive induction training: Governance, Finance Community planning/engagement and planning process instruction. They also asked that we let them know if there is any other training we require. **ACTION: LL to send this e-mail out to all CC members.**

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010, PART 4 MARINE LICENSING – East Shore. **PM** had pre-circulated information on the Scottish Water plans for flooding control in Pittenweem. They will hold a community consultation shortly. No questions were raised. **LL** explained that there was to be a new outfall pipe on E. Shore. **PM** said that it would take 2 years, with major disruption around the shoreline area during October to March period. Spending about 8 million pounds on it.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION: DS and LL attended the Primary School assembly to watch the short film the pupils made in relation to the Sustainability Festival held in March. They also presented the winner of “Dream of Pittenweem” logo with a gift card and all entrants received a voucher for the Ice Cream shop.

FIFE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME/LOCAL PLACE PLAN:

DS is not available since he is on holiday.

COMMON GOOD: **PM** thanked Cllr Hayes for arranging a meeting with Pamela Redpath, Service Manager of the Audit and Risk Management Services at **FC**. He was disappointed that he had not been invited to attend the meeting as several important questions were not asked. These three questions were:

- a. Why have **FC** staff been so evasive, unco-operative and failed to respond to a series of simple questions? The multiple errors only came to light

when **FOI** requests for the original accounts revealed there were problems when **FC** staff denied that this was possible.

- b. **B.** It is clear that no external audit of **CGF** accounts has taken place as the weighting system only highlighted transactions in excess of the amounts involved. The community does not trust **FC** to handle these accounts at present. Why is it not possible to arrange an external audit of the **PCC CGF** account as a model to see if errors have now been corrected accurately.
- c. **FC** employees have gone on to considerable lengths to hide these errors and refuse to co-operate when exposed. Is this embarrassment at the gross incompetence revealed or could there have been fraudulent abuse of **CGF's** over many years. Without transparency and a willingness to be open to investigation the risk of fraud remains possible.

It is hoped that Ms Redpath will check on the process of charging **CGF**, arrange for clearer accounting reports and ensure an adjusted weighting that will allow proper external audit of accounts in the future. However, it is not clear how we take this forward at present and a further meeting once she has explored the issues would be useful.

Cllr AH has sent out the report on meeting with Pamela Redpath. Only 2 of the 13 recommendations have been implemented, and **PR** said that 12 of the 13 would be done by June/July. **PR** also said that she would review the codes which have in the past produced errors. Elaine who does the accounts said that everything that had been erroneously withdrawn had been restored and will show up in the November accounts as a refund. As a way forward, if we communicate with the new auditor that the waiting for the Common Good audits must be reduced, and that if there is a transaction of more than £10,000 then that goes up for scrutiny. So there has been an admission of error, money has been put back and there is a plan for the future.

REPLACEMENT OF BENCHES PITTENWEEM CEMETERY: LL

received e-mail from Roger Honeyman at **FC** saying the Fisherman's memorial Assn. are to replace 2 benches at the cemetery. **MW** asked that when **LL** received e-mails such as these, could she please send them to all **CC** members.

ACTION: LL to send out e-mails as suggested.

PITTENWEEM ARTS FESTIVAL - Wash up meeting to be held 8th September 2023 in the New Town Hall at 2pm.

PLAY PARK: already discussed by **Cllr SD**

CYCLE RACKS: no update

CHURCH CLOSURES – No update until June

TREE PLANTING SIGN: no update

POLICE REPORT: 9 calls and 1 crime reported. A discussion followed as to the detail of the reports and how the public get to learn about any local crime. **ACTION:** LL was asked to invite a Police representative to a CC meeting. It was suggested that there needed to be a purpose for any such meeting, after a short discussion it was agreed to ask them anyway and see if they accepted the invitation.

LIGHTS AT WATER WYND: MW said that the broken one has been repaired.

ROAD/STREET SIGNS: MW said there was still nothing for James Street. **ACTION:** Cllr SD to chase up.

PLANNING REPORT: JW said little to report. PM asked LL about the planning training Councillors had been invited to on May 15th? Three quarters of an hour. 5.30 – 6.15, online then 6.30 – 7.15pm LL had not received any information regarding this. **ACTION:** PM to send information to everyone on Committee.

FC have at short notice arranged a training session on planning applications for CC members on May 15th. Unfortunately, their email failed to reach us and the CC has only just been made aware of this opportunity.

This is the information on a short FC online training for Planning Applications. I have complained that no training has been offered so would encourage members of the CC to sign up. Ignore the May 5th deadline.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: LL reported that the next annual grant application for '23 – '24 will open on 1.5.23 and the deadline for submissions is 31.12.23. LL received confirmation from everyone that they were happy with Scottish Improvement Services consultation, and with the information on the Rural Island Communities into Action Fund. LL also asked where FC should place the new A1 size noticeboard (map of Pittenweem by Yolande Kennedy)? It will need planning permission. **ACTION:** LL to ask FC about size, coverage of costs and timescale (if they have one). Also tell them that the position for it could be next to where the cycle rack is going, or by the old telephone box, all in the harbour area.

TREASURER'S REPORT: MW said that the Community Council Treasurer's account, on 31st March had: £5,063.49. For the Fundraising Account on 1st February this had £4967.38

EB reported that she had attended a 'Creative Community Spaces' meeting at the Falkland Palace Stables. 30 attendees. Discussed Arts in the local Community and Social Isolation. She came away enthused to do more to bring the local community together and the participants shared loads of ideas. More meetings to be arranged in the future. **ACTION:** **EB to send report out to members in e-mail format.**

CHAIR'S REPORT: Nothing to add.

A.O.B.: JW suggested that we looked at funding from NNG, the wind turbine people. PM agreed that we needed to keep an eye out for when we can apply. EB asked about Larachmore planning permission and PM said there was no decision yet. **ACTION:** **Cllr SD TO CHASE IT UP.**

Cllr AH wanted to clarify that you will need photo ID for a General Election, you will not need one for a local election, a Council Election or a Scottish Parliament Election. With a photo and National Insurance Number, you can get a free ID.

SM asked if it was illegal to park on the road and pavement at the same time and was told 'no', but **Cllr AH** said a law preventing it was coming out later this year. However, if you are causing an obstruction (e.g. a wheelchair can't get past), then that is a reportable offence.

The W. Braes car parking was discussed and questions asked about why vehicles were not yet being charged for parking there.

SM asked about the resurfacing work on the High Street and **Cllr SD** said this would be happening this financial year. This year the roads receiving attention will be: University Avenue, Sandycraig Road and Queen Elizabeth Road, the High St including the Kirkgate, the whole of Abbeywall Road & some pavements. **ACTION** **Cllr SD to get a date for this.**

DL: Handed over his petition from 217 local signatories regarding the proposal to oppose a cycling contraflow along Marygate, Kirkgate and High St, that he had personally organised. This is to be handed in to **FC** and for **CC** to take note of it.

It was confirmed that cyclists are not allowed on the Coastal Path around here.

AFTER THE MEETING COMMENTS

This is the information on a short FC online training for Planning Applications.

I have complained that no training has been offered so would encourage members of the CC to sign up.

Ignore the May 5th deadline.

Linda - I am not sure why you are not receiving these emails as they seem to have your correct address.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 8th JUNE 2023 AT 7pm IN THE NEW TOWN HALL

ABBREVIATIONS:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council, MW – Margaret Wardlaw, LL – Linda Lauder, DL – Duncan Lucas, RB – Ruth Brown, PM – Peter Mills, SM – Stewart Moreland, JW – Jim Wood, EB – Evelyn Boyd, DS – David Stutchfield.

Cllr. FC – Council Fiona Corps, Cllr.SD – Councillor Sean Dillon, Cllr. AH – Councillor Alycia Hayes.

GD – Gillian Duncan of ENCEPT

FC – Fife Council, MUP – Multi Use Path, SUP – Shared Used Path, ENCAP – East Neuk Community Action Plan. NTH – New Town Hall, PPS – Pittenweem Primary School. PSF - Pittenweem Sustainability Festival PL - Pittenweem Library. LPP - Local Place Plan

VEN –Visit East Fife, FOI – Freedom of Information

APSUPG – Anstruther Pittenweem Shared User Path Group

HES – Historical Environment Scotland

ENCEPT: East Neuk Emergency Planning Team, SAS: Scottish Ambulance Service, SFRS: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

NNG ?????