



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: M. Wardlaw, **Vice Chair:** D. Lucas **Treasurer:** M. Wardlaw
Secretary: L. Lauder. **Co-Member:** Ruth Brown
Members: P. Mills, J. Wood, Duncan Lucas, .

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Minutes of Meeting held in the New Town Hall the

Thursday 9th June 2022 at 7pm

Present: Margaret Wardlaw, Duncan Lucas, Linda Lauder, Peter Mills, Jim Wood, David Stutchfield.

Councillors: Cllr. Alycia Hayes and Cllr. Fiona Corps.

Apologies: Gary McClure, David Gallacher, Ruth Brown and Cllr. Sean Dillon.

New Member: Evelyn Boyd.

Public Attending: 2 members in attendance

Invited Guests: John Handley with associates, Keith Burns, Stelian Stefanov, Ian Muir and Bob Handley.

OPENING OF MEETING MW welcomed everyone for coming and asked John Handley if he would explain why he and his colleagues were attending.

St MARGARET'S FARM DEVELOPMENT John explained to the PCC that he would like to give an update on St Margaret's Farm, talks regarding plans to develop the land started 15 years ago but the plans fell through. Waverley Tweed Manging Director Keith Burns became interested in the property about a year ago. They would build 70 houses to allocate but the planning permission at the moment that will be forwarded to FC in about a month will be to build

36 houses, 6 of these are to be affordable houses. A drawing of the plans of the housing development were passed around by Ian Muir (Architect) for the members to view he said the houses will be of good quality and to a high standard. The access road will be going through 50 James Street which is half way between the road access to Milton Road and the road entrance to New Grange Park. John explained St Margaret's Farm still has a lot of rundown and dilapidated buildings and they are keeping **FC** informed. John then asked if there were any questions, it was asked would there be any electric charging points? The reply was there would be 1 charging point installed. The Multi Use Path was brought to their attention and in reply it was explained that the area was complicated and **FC** owned that area of the site but they were keen to connect to the MUP. **PM** enquired regarding the sewage as Scottish Water had reported that there was no capacity for more new houses yet it was explained that Scottish Water can get extra funding and it was consulted that they have a duty to comply. John reported they would study the drainage supply. **MW** enquired regarding the Common Good area if it could be used for a kids play area. The development might be able to give a contribution to upgrade the play area in the park beside New Grange Park as it is not far from St Margaret's Housing area. It was also reported any stone from the buildings that can be reused will be used within the project and sustainability regarding Green Energy will be in conjunction with **FC**. John agreed to contact Margaret to hold a separate meeting to show the plans to the public. It was at this point John and his associates were happy to leave the meeting. **MW** thanked them for attending and for the drawings and information they provided.

Proposal of the Minutes: Proposed by: **DL** Seconded by: **JW**

Resignation: David Gallacher has resigned due to his health issues.

OFFICE BEARERS The Council have 2 vacancies for Office Bearers Duncan Lucas has agreed to fill the position of vice chair person, he was proposed by **JW** and seconded by **LL**. The second position is for Treasurer, since no one came forward it was suggested to wait until the next meeting when we hopefully have more members. At present **MW** will continue in this position.

SESSION STREET RE: resident accident, **Cllr. AH** visited the recipient who signed the New Town Hall accident book. **MW** has emailed **FC** to confirm the

boundary of the **NTH**, unfortunately there has been no reply to date. It was reported **FC** has patched 6 pot holes in the street since March this year. **Cllr AH** will keep the **PCC** updated on progress.

PITTENWEEM ARTS FESTIVAL There is to be no meeting with the Police or FC before the Art Festival takes place in August as calendar dates cannot be aligned with both parties.

TOLBOOTH STEEPLE John Smiths of Derby are to repair the clock's electrical problems.

CHURCH CLOSURES PM reported contact has now been made with Neil Campbell, Mission Director for the Fife Presbytery, and Margaret Rose, Minister of the Pittenweem Parish Church. They both state that the Mission Plan for wholesale closures of churches in the East Neuk of Fife (10 out of 12) is just for internal discussion at present and should not have been made public. However, it was freely available on their website. The timetable for closures may also be delayed and a Historic Churches Working Group established to explore the historic heritage of many of these churches.

The Pittenweem Parish Church and Church Hall are both on the closure list. The Church of Scotland has always had too many church buildings since the reunification with the Free Church in 1900. The title deeds for the Church Hall are also lost which may delay its disposal.

The PCC expressed concern that the closure of such prestigious historic buildings (many A listed) would be a loss to the community and many community groups who use church facilities would be affected. Our support was offered to assist during this difficult period and we assured the church that we wished them the best possible outcome for all concerned. It was felt that it was too early to have any more detailed discussions at present.

MUPS There were 2 members of the public interested in this issue. **MW** explained she has heard nothing from the Anstruther Cycle Group since the MOU was signed and a press release was to be published in the local paper, Cllr. Linda Holt was to arrange this before the FC elections, there has been no

action on this. PM reported on the Joint Shared Path Group (JSPG) meeting on May 27th which was a long and difficult session. Sustrans did not attend and is not offering a regular contact at present because of high staff turnover.

The core path is accepted as the preferred route for the MUP but FC is unable to provide a maintenance agreement 15 years after construction as it lacks a policy allowing adoption of cycle paths. This will delay or prevent application to Sustrans for funding. The Anstruther Cycle Group have a tenuous legacy agreement that the proposed MUP alongside the A917 could be maintained by FC and therefore are pressing to make some progress by starting application to fund this section first. Any new MUP developments from Anstruther to Elie, Kilrenny to Crail and Crail to St Andrews will need to ensure maintenance arrangements are in place before Sustrans and FC will allow applications for funding.

This is clearly a ridiculous situation for many reasons:

- a. The Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and FC all wish to increase active travel as a priority. In its Local Transport Strategy for Fife (LTSF) 2006-2026, FC proposed to increase cycling journeys to work from <1% to 10% within 5 years. It has failed miserably with cycling journeys having dropped. There has been limited building of MUPs since this policy was established.
- b. FC is strongly encouraging volunteer groups to plan for new paths, arrange agreement with local landowners for use of their property, apply to Sustrans for core funding, ensure public consultation and raise matching funding to allow construction of MUPs.
- c. Once this has been agreed, FC then declare that this is not good enough as the community will then need to show how it will fund long-term maintenance of the MUP from 15 years after construction. Other local authorities in Scotland adopt these MUPs and cover costs in full. The LTSF emphasizes how important regular maintenance is for all paths, cycle ways and roads.
- d. A new 10 year LTSF policy for 2023-2033 is being prepared at present which would give FC an opportunity to agree to adopt such paths.

How could a volunteer community organization arrange maintenance of MUP in 15 years' time?

Options to consider are:

- a. Ask the Community Payback Team to undertake the work. They could sweep leaves and cut verges but unlikely to be able to fill potholes and repair tarmac.
- b. Secure help from a Sustrans volunteer ranger – but there does not seem to be any in Fife.
- c. Ask FC to fund the Fife Coastal and Countryside Trust to take on this role in a similar manner to the arrangement to look after the Fife Coastal Path. FC have plentiful funding to spend on MUPs at present. Such funding could be saved and used for this purpose in the future.
- d. The Pittenweem Community Council could give an undertaking to try and raise funds in 15 years' time to enable maintenance to be carried out.

Meanwhile the members of the ACG are pressurizing the JSPG to get on and build the Anstruther bypass branch to the Spindrifft and a path along the A917 ending up at Mayview rather than do nothing. However, there are several problems with this suggestion.

- a. The MUP section passing Barnetts and Metaflake does not have agreement to allow Sustrans application yet, despite the owner's statement that he thought he had agreed this over a year ago.
- b. Residents along Milton Crescent in Anstruther are very unhappy about construction of the Anstruther bypass around the back of their houses (Cllr. Fiona Corps).
- c. No agreement has yet been made as to whether the MUP branch should travel on the north or south side of the A917 (two cases have been made).
- d. There has been no public consultation on the routing of this branch.
- e. FC is unable to provide advice on safe road crossings of the A917 within the 40mph section or within Pittenweem. TP&E (Cycling Scotland) are to be asked as external consultants to advise but this might take some time.
- f. The community would probably be upset if its clear choice to develop the core path route were ignored and the A917 branch was built first.

Currently Sustrans has ample funding for MUP construction but austerity may be approaching fast with a recent significant reduction in the Scottish Government block grant. If the A917 route was built first Sustrans might have to pull back later and state that only one route between Anstruther and Pittenweem was going to be possible. This would leave us in an impossible

situation with a path that would be unable to connect to the proposed plan for the route to pass behind Pittenweem.

The PCC was therefore asked to vote on three questions:

1. Does the PCC wish to see the core path MUP take priority over building of the A917 branch?

The vote was unanimous in favour.

2. Does the PCC wish to ask our East Neuk councillors to campaign to persuade FC that they should adopt MUPs as part of the LTSF 2023 review? Councillors were supportive and the vote was unanimous in favour.

3. If this fails would the PCC agree to consider taking responsibility to attempt to fund maintenance in 15 years after construction of the MUP?

The vote was unanimous in favour.

Someone mentioned that there are to be speed bumps at Pittenweem Primary.

Nigel Mathers who is part of the Pittenweem cycle group gave thanks to Jim and Peter for all the work they have done regarding the **MUP**.

MW has suggested a meeting with Kilrenny, Anstruther and Cellardyke Community Council and Anstruther Cycle Group. A date would need to be arranged.

DS suggested ENCAP to help with the Core Path.

A member of the public left at the end of this discussion.

SUP/ELIE nothing was reported.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION **DS** reported that there have been 132 responses to the survey leaflets and asked the members via email for it to be extended until the 13th June. **JW** replied that there were still 5 or 6 replies still being returned daily to the hub. It was agreed to the extension. **LL** asked when the replies come in after the date will those involved with the consultation go over the information. The reply was yes at our next meeting on the 28th June. **DS** report that funding is available from Investing in the Communities but it closes 28th June. The members agreed that this should be applied for, unfortunately this funding will not be available till 2023. Evelyn will help David look at other funding as well as this one. The leaflets that were sent to households will produce a larger in depth survey regarding the communities

concerns will be developed over the summer which can then lead to a Local Fife Place Plan if the group would like to take this further with the available funding

QUEEN'S JUBILEE TREE PLANTING it has been reported that some of the trees have died. A name has been chosen for that area, 3 school children had picked the same name, and each child will receive a gift at the school Prize Giving on the 29th June. Although Ruth was not present it was expressed a gratitude of thanks for all the work Ruth has put into this project.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE BEACON everything went well at the West Braes although a little windy, Isobel Bowman was delighted that she had been asked to light it. The West Braes Project had fed the crowd well with burgers. Jamie the Jester was a hit with the kids and the piper was well received.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE PICNIC in the PARK LL reported that it went well, although it was reported some people didn't know where the park was. Unfortunately the park is known by more than one name and most of the community know where the park is situated, it was an oversight to put out signage for the event. The children enjoyed the games that were there and a lot of candy floss was eaten.

The **Scout Hall** had been provisionally booked in case it was to rain so the kids could still enjoy the games that were hired. The PCC would not have had the chance to use the Scout Hall if it wasn't for the generosity and up lifting spirit of the community who kindly help raise funds for this well-deserved project. Well done to those who contributed.

COMMON GOOD this subject is ongoing with questions still needing answers.

POLICE REPORT The police are involved with the 150th Open Championship at the moment in supporting the R&A to hold a safe and successful event, if there was anything pressing raised at local Community Council Meetings which would reassure or assist then please get in touch and PS Matt Spencer can try and get an answer for you. There were 14 calls to the police, consisting of various types including; assist member of public, disturbance, road traffic matters, assault, missing person, concern for person. 0 crimes.

ELECTRIC POINTS IN HIGH STREET There are no new updates

WEST BRAES MURAL The **WBP** had hoped the mural would have been painted in time for lighting of the beacon.

CEMETERIES There has been no new information on extending cemeteries.

CYCLE RACKS **LL** has asked **DS** to send her a copy of the simple map he printed out regarding the community consultation, so it can be sent to Andrew Tejada explaining where the racks can be placed.

LADY WYND No new update

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES Nothing to report

ROAD SIGNS **MW** handed **Cllr. AH** a copy of the road report that Cllr. Linda Holt used to send the **PCC**. **Cllr. AH** would look into this and try to continue to send the report.

CAMPION HOMES are proposing to develop affordable housing on land at Station Court. An open day was held in the New Town Hall on 25th May between 3pm and 7pm for the public to view their plans and proposals. This was well attended by the public.

PLANNING REPORT: **JW** reported all notification have been sent to members. There were 2 x Scottish Building Warrants. 7 x Planning Applications. Removal of sycamore tree within a conservation area. Change of use of part from car park to siting of 1 hot food takeaway trailer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Treasurer was informed that the form for applying for the Community Council 2022-23 Annual Grant had been sent and must be returned no later than 31st December, 2022.

- Gillian Duncan from First Responders would like to attend our next meeting to update on the work they are doing and to make the **PCC** aware of some very concerning issues around ambulance response in the East Neuk and their partnership work with them.

- NHS SHARE, the Scottish Health Research Register would like the committee to put information in their notice board explaining the need for health research that is essential so new treatments can be developed for conditions such as asthma, cancer, dementia, heart failure and mental health issues.
- The trees that were causing concern at the David Street car park have been removed by FC.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **MW** handed a copy of the end of year statement to all members. **LL** explained the £400 paid to the secretary was paid to Lynn Balfour who was our Minute Taker until she resigned due to other work commitments. There is £2470.29 in the Fundraising account. There is £1970.09 in the main account this included funding from **FC** for the Jubilee events. There is to be a meeting with the Jubilee Group on Tuesday 14th June to confirm all payments during the events and how the events were perceived.

CHAIR'S REPORT: **MW** reported on Pittenweem in Bloom and Helen Coggle was to hold a meeting with some of the ex-members regarding handing over their funds to the PCC Fund Raising Account. **PIB** is no longer active, their bank accounts need to be closed ,this was when the **PCC** was approached. **MW** discussed with Helen that the **PCC** could not take this project on but if they could get the money transferred to PCC fund raising account then anyone willing to take on the up keep of the planters would be able to use monies from that account. It has come to our attention that some of the community had already thought we held the funds and have bought plants. Unfortunately this is not the case. Path Head in St Monans have been asked to put the hanging baskets up for sale.

MW then asked **Cllr AH** if it would be possible for her to look into sending out the Road Works report that Linda Holt used to send us. Cllr. AH was then given a copy of what had been sent so would understand what the report looked like. **MW** also asked **Cllr A.H.** to look into replacing the handwritten sign for James Street which used to be on the wall next to the Blue Door Gallery.

A.O.B.

- It was suggested to have the tree lights on during the Arts Festival in August.
- The seat at Cove Wynd has been broken.

- The Butterfly tree has started to regrow out of the Primary School roof.
- It was reported that at the Recycle Centre the man power has been reduced from 3 to 2 men.

MW thanked everyone for attending, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next meeting will be the 14th July at 7pm.

Abbreviations:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council. **MW** - Margaret Wardlaw, **LL** – Linda Lauder, **RB** – Ruth Brown, **PM** - Peter Mills, **GM** - Gary McClure, **JW** - Jim Wood, **DL** – Duncan Lucas, **DS** – David Stutchfield and **EB** – Evelyn Boyd.
Cllr. SD - Cllr Sean Dillon, **Cllr. AH** - Cllr Alycia Hayes, **Cllr. FC** - Cllr Fiona Corps.
FC – Fife Council, **MUP** - Multi Use Path, **SUP** – Shared Use Path,
PAF - Pittenweem Arts Festival, **NTH** - New Town Hall. **WBP** – West Braes Project, **PIB** – Pittenweem in Bloom and **CGF** – Common Good Fund.