



The Royal Burgh of  
Pittenweem and District  
Community Council

**Chair:** M.Wardlaw **Vice:** A. Butters **Treasurer:** A. Butters.  
**Minute Secretary:** L Lauder **Contact Secretary:** Jim Taylor.  
**Members:** M Butters, K Edward, P. Mills, B. Ortmann, P. Ward, S. Wilkinson.

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**Minutes of Community Council Meeting held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
in Pittenweem New Town Hall starting 7pm**

**Present:** Margaret Wardlaw, Jim Taylor, Peter Mills, Anne Butters, Martin Butters, Susan, Wilkinson, Linda Lauder.

**Councillors:** John Docherty, Bill Porteous.

**Invited Guest:** David Stutchfield

**Public Member:** Kenneth Brereton

**Opening of Meeting:** Margaret Wardlaw welcomed everyone and noted:

**Apologies from:** Cllr Linda Holt, Karen Edwards & Paul Ward.

**Approval of the previous minutes:** Proposed J.T Seconded M.W.

**Matter's Arising:**

**M.W** reported that Linda has resigned as minute secretary, so we would need a volunteer to take over. Since no volunteer was forthcoming, **L.L** agreed to take notes for this meeting & **J.T** would write up the minutes.

**M.W** then informed us there had been complaints about a sentence in last month's minutes published in the Notice Board. A new page was printed for the board and the sentence removed before being published elsewhere.

**M.W** then invited Kenneth Brereton to explain his reason for attending the meeting.

Ken said he was here to ask us to inform Fife Council about the state of the road from the 20mph limit sign at Ninian's Field up to the Ovenstone T Junction.

He reported a large pothole in the area of the Grangemuir Park entrance that always stands full of water and a lot of soil narrowing the road elsewhere. This narrowing effect almost caused a council lorry and him to be involved in what could have been a serious accident.

**J.T** asked if this soil was from flattened verges spread out by tractors and heavy vehicles. Ken replied "No - this soil is not from vehicle wheels or from the breakdown of the verges that is seen elsewhere on the road, it is wind blown earth piled up on long stretches on the east side of the road with more than a foot width encroaching on some bends".

**Cllr B.P** said he also used the road and commented that he tended, like others, to swing out to dodge the puddle not being sure of its depth. He had already raised the matter of the puddle with **FC** and will chase up the blown sand problem and report at the next meeting.

**Cllr J.D** suggested putting photos of the road condition on Fife Direct since that might help get action.

**M.W** Thanked Ken for bringing this to our attention. He then left.

It was then asked why the council lorries used the back route rather than the main road. It was said it came about because of complaints of congestion and damage to pavements caused by them at the bottom of Charles Street.

**S.W** said that since we were discussing road conditions in that area she wanted to inform the Councillors that there is a problem with hogweed that starts at the dump, continues up past the corner of Madeira Cottage & on up to Grangemuir. **Cllr J.D** said he would report it to **FC**.

**Cycle Path Route:** David Stutchfield was then asked to give his talk having been invited along to enlighten us on the proposed cycle path.

David started by informing us that PiCT was to disband immediately. The ongoing professional compliance costs of a Company Limited by Guarantee mean that there are better business models to take any future project forward. PiCT may reform again in the future using one of those models should the need arise.

He continued: It is hoped to establish a 50-mile cycle path to run from Kirkcaldy to Dundee just like the Coastal Path does. A Crail to St Andrews group has been formed & are in talks regarding a cycle path between the two areas, the route is planned to run along the old railway line but needs agreement from Landowners.

A cycle path from Kilrenny to Anstruther, and one through Bankie Park to Waid are already in use. Where there are no street lamps there are (or will be) solar powered studs to light the way along the 2.5M wide paths.

An Anstruther group had already looked at routes past the Pittenweem boundary to the 30mph markers coming through sea box land but the farmer does not want a path across the land he rents. The Milton core path was also looked at but there is complication of ownership at the Pittenweem end so the group have decided on a route running alongside the main road.

**A.B** said the path would need to be away from the main road for safety reasons and going round the north side of the fields would be a better idea. **J.T** said that if we were to look at previous minutes we would see that the old railway track area was suggested when we were first approached, especially since it had to continue on to St Monans. It was thought that the disused track land would still belong to the Rail Network.

**M.W** asked if St Monans had an active group since it would be sensible to have joint discussions. **Cllr B.P** replied that there may be keen cyclists but he did not know of a group.

**M.W** then asked if a route going west from Pittenweem had been looked at. David said there was the High Level core path from the West Braes leading towards our west boundary at Coal Farm.

**P.M** asked who had the final say on where the routes went. David said it will be up to the residents to decide on where a path should be routed in and around their village, but an independent consultant vets all suggested routes for suitability.

It was decided this needs to be looked at in more depth, and that it might be worthwhile getting the people of Pittenweem involved now. David is to email any **new** information on the cycle path to us, and meanwhile we should get in touch with Gerald Coupar who helped Anstruther.

David ended by reporting that PiCT had received a sum of £2000 to carry out survey work in Pittenweem but it has been agreed, now that they have decided to disband and the project might not go forward, that the money could be split between the Library and the West Brae Project.

It was asked where the funding for the scheme came from. David explained it as money granted by the Fife Rural Partnership fund from Fife Council (funded by the Scottish Government, said Cllr B.P) with match funding from Sustrans once the project is underway.

**Cllr B.P** proposed a Vote of thanks to David and Pict. **M.W** seconded that saying they had given a lot of help to the community over the years.

After David left **J.T** said he got the impression that some new members felt that we should be actively involved in the project. That being the case, surely the £2000 granted to PiCT could come to the PCC, he would contact David about that. It was noted that this should be at the top of the agenda for next months meeting.

**Bank Signatories:** Changes are concluded **A.B & L.L** are added and an application submitted to have the contact address changed to A.B.

**A Nation's Tribute:** **P.M** was thanked for laying the wreath at the local church & for attending the Abbey service & reception at Dunfermline. He remarked that it was a lovely service and parade, but he chose to not attend the later reception because of the predicted weather.

**Police Report:** **J.T** was emailed a report: there had been 2 break-ins at the Recycle Centre, a bank card had been cloned, there was the misuse of the fish shed power supply in Waggon Road, and nothing could be done about the car parked in the square since it was legal, taxed & insured. We had to beware of bogus workmen at the door & people calling selling magazine advertising space.

**St Andrews out of hours Service:** It was agreed at our last meeting that **S.W** would draft "our" letter to Michael Kellert. A copy was presented for approval. A discussion followed on what should be in the final version to be forwarded to M.K, the news papers, Fife Social Care Partnership & others before the Sunday dead-line.

**P.M** reported that he and Susan had now attended 3 meeting of the OOHS and it was said at one that the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) have acknowledged that NE Fife patients will be left exposed because of the lengthy travel time to and from Kirkcaldy if the up to midnight St Andrews Primary Care Emergency Service (PCES) is closed. There is a further problem in that the removal of that PCES will also mean that the "Minor injuries Unit" and the "Night Supported Inpatient Care" at St Andrews & the Adamson Hospital in Cupar will be affected through the loss of local senior medical staff.

A survey has been taken which shows NE Fife residents support the retention of the up to midnight service and the reinstating of the midnight to 8:00 one. Dr. Anderson will put the public's concerns across when the group next meet with the IJB, but it will be the NHS Fife board members that will make any final decision.

**Cllr J.D** said he would just mention the fact that NE Fife has the highest % level of people living to be 90 years old plus. It was thought this should have indicated that even more local "care" would have been considered necessary.

**J.T** asked what would happen to Fife patients if Ninewells Hospital was to be "swamped" as reported in the press. **Cllr J.D** said that it was arranged initially that NHS24 Fife patients could also be sent to King's Cross Hospital in Dundee, but he has learned that this is no longer the case.

**S.W** said that patients already on route would "divert" to Kirkcaldy if Ninewells was too busy, and added that it should be noted that there can be knock on effect from Fife patients being taken to Dundee; the ambulances used can end up being sent on calls to Arbroath, Forfar or even further north meaning an even longer wait for those patients that might decide to call on the already stretched ambulance service rather than call NHS24 and face a long car journey or a long wait for a visit by a GP.

**S.W** said she had tried to highlight the following danger at our last meeting and so would like to see it minuted this time to alert the public: The loss of the St Andrews PCES might lead to patients, or their relatives, actively **choosing** to call the 999 ambulance service thinking that the possible earlier treatment by a Paramedic was the better option. We should be aware that, in certain situations, some patients will be put at risk by this choice since a paramedic cannot administer the life saving drugs that a doctor can and this could lead to the loss of what is referred to as the "Golden Hour" of early trauma treatment. This could mean that a relatively minor situation could end up in a real emergency with the patient being sent to Edinburgh.

**Cllr B.P** said we should be careful not to be mixing up how minor injuries or ailments are treated in a NHS24 situation with what happens in a real 999 emergency.

**P.A.F Wash up Meeting:** We have all received the Minutes of the PAF meeting and will have noted that they reflect more or less what was reported at our November meeting.

**Abbey wall Road Wall:** **Cllr L.H** will hopefully have a report to give at the next meeting.

**Play Parks:** **Cllr. L.H** has asked Alan Bisset to attend our meeting in January.

**Gate Closing Device at Play Park:** Suggestion has been made by a mother of children playing at the park that a self closing catch is needed on the gate leading to James Street for the safety & protection of children exiting there towards the main road. **J.T** is to contact Damien Woods.

**Road Signs:** Colin Stirling is to be asked to attend a later meeting

**Unadopted Road repairs:** **Cllr B.P** has already informed FC about the potholes and poor state of David Street & Session Street. He will chase this up.

**Doctor Day's visit:** **J.T** was instructed to ask Dr Day to cancel tonight's visit and to come instead in January or February. There has been no reply to the letter to date.

**Grit Bins:** There is still a broken bin at Brown's Close. **M.B** has volunteered to check if the other bins have been filled.

**Scottish Resilient Community:** **S.W** has been in correspondence with Elizabeth Riches and has been given a questionnaire asking what the **PCC** plans were. It asks questions on where people would go to shelter. Who to contact for keys. What farmers to contact if tractors were needed. Are there 4x4 owners who might volunteer their vehicles?

**M.W** said she had intended to broach this subject in the New Year not tonight, but discussion continued with it being suggested that The New Town Hall could be used as a shelter since it has electricity & gas. The Church Hall in James Street could also be considered but it has no gas and the heating there is by coin paid meter.

**S.W** said she would just fill the questionnaire in & send it back. She has to copy us in on what she sends.

#### **Councillor's Report:**

**Cllr B.P** said his points had already been covered.

**Cllr J.D** reported that most of his points had also been discussed, but he would like to add that he had been contacted by people wondering why the recycle centre closed at lunch times when there are 2 employees working there. Why couldn't they take separate lunch times and stay open? Most likely a Health & Safety Rule. Final Point - **FC** now has a facebook page!

**Treasurer's Report:** **A.B** said the 30th. Nov bank statement showed £1837.67 and only the hall rent for November had been paid since then. **J.T** asked what form of reporting did we want to use in the future, the bank statement total date previously used, or the current total on the date of the meeting as in the ledger prepared by **A.B**. It was agreed that the up-to-date ledger was preferred.

**Secretary report:** It has been quite a busy period regarding e-mails and any that had to be forwarded for consideration by us as a group had been. Mails on the OOHS meetings were sent only to **M.W** as Chair since **S.W** & **P.M** received their own.

**Planning:** **J.T** reported there were 12 applications in the period between meetings, 6 were new & 4 were approved. He had already mentioned the application for building on the space opposite "Bob's Garage" at the east end of James Street. There is to be a Fresh Fish Shop in the Fish Market. There has been no neighbour comments made to date.

**Training:** Information on the Council training program had been previously circulated to all members. Although it was felt some courses might have been beneficial, they were being offered in the afternoon or early evening when working members do not have the time to attend.

**Church Tower Repairs:** **M.W** said that there had been more comments about the scaffolding on the Tower. It was felt we should minute the fact that we have already requested **FC** for updates on what action is to be taken, when the work might restart, and whose money is being wasted meantime, but have received no direct replies. We have received answers via Cllr Holt.

**J.T** asked the Councillors if they could help put it across to **FC** as the Tower landlord, that it was the wish of the local people that the present tenant's leases giving access to the Tower, suspended at the moment during the repairs, are in fact cancelled and not automatically restarted when the building is made safe.

**S.W** asked if we as a CC should be trying to raise funds for the repair of the Tower or chase Historic Scotland maybe. **J.T** reminded those present that the Church Tower was "owned" by the Common Good fund and managed by Fife Council, not Historic Scotland, but either way why should we chase funds. Cllr BP said that it would not hurt to keep it in the public domain.

**A.O.B:**

**A.B** reported a complaint received on bad parking in the High Street & the amount of cars that illegally park in the disabled space. **Cllr J.D** asked **A.B** to send him the details of the complaints.

**A.B** then asked if the minutes in the High Street notice board could be lowered so more people can read them, and could the member's name list & phone numbers be enlarged for those with impaired vision? We were reminded that we do need to list phone numbers but the Chair had agreed to have her number posted.

**P.M** enquired who held the keys to the notice board and got the reply that it should only be the named members of the **PCC**.

**A.B** said she had received a complaint that St Adrian's Place & Waggon Road bins are not being emptied due to the obstruction of a parked car; Councillors said the policy was that if a vehicle were illegally parked the council driver would report it to the Police and have it moved. **J.T** said he thought that had been dealt with previously, but there had been refuse vehicle breakdowns in the past few weeks meaning areas had been missed.

**M.W** said she had been asked to bring to notice the plight of the tenant of No.5 Waggon Road unable to go out to her garden because a barrier had been erected to prevent access to a collapsed area. A comment was made that the whole area suffered from slippage, with gaps appearing at various structures.

**M.W** then asked if any other member had any business to bring up. She thanked everyone for coming & invited everyone to stay for a small buffet she had laid on since it was the last meeting before Christmas.

**Next meeting is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 7pm at the New Town Hall**

Abbreviations: **M.W** – Margaret Wardlaw; **A . B** – Anne Butters; **M . B** – Martin Butters; **L.L** – Linda Lauder; **J . T** – Jim Taylor; **K.E** – Karen Edwards; **P . M** – Peter Mills; **S.W** – Susan Wilkinson; **P . W** – Paul Ward.

**Cllr. L.H** – Councillor Linda Holt; **Cllr J.D** – John Docherty; **Cllr B.P** – Councillor Bill Porteous.

**FC**- Fife Council; **PCC** - Pittenweem Community Council; **PiCT** – Pittenweem Community Trust

**OOHS** – Out of hours service; **IJB** - Integrated Joint Board; **PCES** - Primary Care Emergency Service