



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

Website – www.aboutpittenweem.org.uk
Email - secretary.pittenweem.cc@outlook.com

**PCC MEETING ON THURSDAY 13th JULY 2023 IN THE NEW TOWN
HALL AT 7pm**

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

COUNCILLORS: Cllr. Sean Dillon,

APOLOGIES: Cllr Alycia Hayes, Cllr Fiona Corps

INVITED GUESTS: Robbie Blyth, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT)

PUBLIC ATTENDING: 8 members of the public

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8th June

Approval proposed by **NM** and seconded by **DL**. **NM** reported error in the minutes referring to the Cycle Group which should in fact read Joint Shared Path Group – which was corrected.

FCCT: **RB** attended the meeting to give an update and answer questions on the overnight parking of motorhomes at the West Braes carpark. Concerns were raised by members of the public about poor public consultations before the scheme was operated, that many more than 5 motorhomes have been observed overnight parking with some residents feeling intimidated to walk through the car park at night. Other issues included how FCCT were policing the car park, and how much income was raised and how this was being spent. It was also noted that youth disturbances due to late night gathering and inappropriate driving at the car park had significantly reduced since the scheme started.

RB replied that:

- Consultation had taken place with the community council in September 2022, and two online consultations, but no direct consultations with local residents at that time.
- The introduction of the Parking Charge Notification Scheme enabled FCCT to properly manage the car parks, as without this, vehicles causing a nuisance were only committing a trespass offence.

- The parking charges have been active from 1st June but RB did not have information on the total income from Pittenweem available for this meeting, but this income had enabled:
- The car park is managed by FCCT employees who visit at random times at least once between 6am and 10pm – with 3 operatives working 30 hours per week covering all 9 FCCT car parks.
- The car park had been resurfaced earlier this year and there is an income to support future maintenance.
- The litter bins are now emptied every day instead of thrice weekly.
- The public toilets are now open daily from 1st April to end of October, even though Fife Council only funds weekend opening in the off season.
- Improvements are planned to the public toilets later in the year.
- The user profile of the car parks has changed with the quiet overnight parking, and there is an improved tourist profile.
- For policing the car parks, the FCCT employees initially provide advice to vehicle owners to encourage them to use the car park within the regulations. Warning letters are issued if there are worse issues – and since mid-June there have been 393 warnings within Fife with only 22 at Pittenweem. FCCT now have a register of these vehicles and only 15 vehicles in Fife have been repeat offenders. FCCT has the option of issuing invoices (not fines) for serious offences, but none have been issued so far.

RB appreciated the residents attending and there will be a review of the West Braes Parking at the end of the year and the feedback is welcomed. **MW** thanked **RB** and the residents for attending, who then left the meeting.

ACTION: **RB** to keep PCC informed of the format of the FCCT review of parking in late autumn, and how residents can be involved.

COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS: **Cllr SD** report:

- Fife Council Chief Executive: Following the retirement of Steve Grimmond at the beginning of the month, Ken Gourlay has now taken up the post of Chief Executive of Fife Council & Returning Officer for Fife.
- Religious Representative’s Voting Rights on Education Matters: At the last full council meeting, the majority of elected members voted to strip religious representatives of their voting rights on educational matters. Representatives will still be able to attend meetings but all decisions will be made by those who are accountable to the electorate.

- **Church Closures:** Following the publication of Donald McEwan’s Churches Historic Working Group, it is now almost definite that Pittenweem Kirk will be closing within the next four years. As a result of this, I have convened a working group to investigate the feasibility of retaining the church building as a community asset. This group is made up of members of the congregation, the community council and the East Neuk Preservation Society and will assess the viability of retaining the building and will be holding public meetings in due course, where villagers will be able to suggest ideas for future uses. It is hoped that once this work is carried out, a trust will be formed to take forward the working group’s recommendations and purchase the building.
- **Illegal Dumping:** Since the last meeting of the Community Council, I have been contacted on various occasions about illegal dumping in the village. Residents are reminded that they can report by telephone (03451 550022), by email (SaferCommunities.Team@fife.gov.uk) or online (<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/environment2/street-care-and-cleaning/illegal-dumping>).
- **NE Fife Housing Summit:** MSP for North East Fife, Willie Rennie, hosted a housing summit in St Andrews on the 30th of June 2023. There were interesting discussions with academics, homelessness charities, house builders, STL operating associations & the Scottish Government Minister for Housing.
- **Fife Rural Development Fund:** A new rural community-led local development fund of £300,000 has launched. All projects must be completed, and funds spent by 28th February 2024. Due to the tight timescale, the deadline for Expressions of Interest is 15th August 2023. There may be a second round of funding in early October, and this will be confirmed by the end of August 2023. For Community Grants up to £25,000, a constituted group, registered small business, charity or trust must meet one of the following criteria; Moving towards more sustainable practice, better environmental solutions/working towards Net Zero, supporting young people and minority groups, address cost of living/rural poverty challenges, rural community capacity building. For Microgrants up to £2,000, a project must address; climate challenges, food security, child poverty. More information available at <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/council-and->

democracy/community-group-support-and-funding/fife-rural-development-fund

- The Fisher Lass road signs at the entrances to the East Neuk will be funded. MW confirmed that PCC members preferred the creation of an updated Fisher Lass image,

MATTERS ARISING:

JOINT SHARED USE PATH (MUPS): Work is due to start at Dreelside/Milton Road upgrade at Anstruther.

SUP/ELIE - New maps have been added to the ENCAP website and they now have a form that people can fill in to sign up for ENCAP's newsletter regarding the cycle path. It was discussed by the PCC to send out the information we already know with the door drop that is to take place with the consultation report.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS: To try and get residents to come forward, advertising needs to be done. The NTH is being used during the PAF, the next PCC meeting is to take place on the 17th July, LL reported the Publication of Notice of Election is 14 August and Candidate nominations open on the 15 August.

ACTION: LL to send draft of the advert to all PCC members

SCOTTISH WATER consultation on proposed upgrade plans. – The information event at the NTH was held on 27th June, , this is a major project for West Shore and harbour area, but unfortunately it seems the residents don't realise how big.

EAST NEUK OF FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRIORY BOARDS –
A discussion took place as one of the Preservation Society locations caused concerns.

ACTION: LL to inform them of the suggestions made.

PITTENWEEM ARTS FESTIVAL – concerns were raised by the residents in attendance regarding the West Braes car park now that FCCT have taken on the car park.

ACTION: MW to email Simon Learoyd.

STREET NAMING - Property Gazetteer Officer sent an email by LL regarding suggestions to name 2 new streets by the developer building at Station Court. An email was sent to all.

ACTION: The secretary has gathered all suggestions, and these will be forwarded to Fife Council.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / FIFE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME / LOCAL PLACE PLAN:

DS confirmed that a full report will be given at the consultation working group meeting on Monday 17th July.

COMMON GOOD: It was confirmed that **PM** should continue to get clarity from Fife Council over the Common Good Fund status.

PITTENWEEM ARTS FESTIVAL – no new update.

PLAY PARK: – awaiting a decision on the design.

CYCLE RACKS: – no new update.

CHURCH CLOSURES – in Cllr's report

TREE PLANTING SIGN: - **MW** to chase this up. It was reported that some of the standard trees are broken and there seems to be vandalism to other trees. Inform Ruth at Footprint East Neuk Cllr. **SD** is to contact Roger Honeyman at FC.

POLICE REPORT: There were 25 calls to the police. 5 crimes recorded. Officers also visited several schools in the area and spoke with children regarding a number of topics including a local speed watch project at Pittenweem Primary School.

ACTION: **MW** to invite a Police representative to CC August meeting.

PLANNING REPORT: **JW** reported only a few new applications.

Alan Waugh was present at the start of the PCC meeting to answer questions on the recent planning application for replacement of a garage at the back of the Anchorage, Milton Place, including a retrospective application for erection of a fence around the east and south of the property. Several issues were raised and answered.

Retrospective planning for the mural on the side wall of the Larachmhor Tavern has been refused, and the applicant has 3 months to appeal the decision.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **LL** reported:

- Temporary No Waiting/No Loading at Any Time: East Shore/Mid Shore, Pittenweem

WHERE? Pittenweem, East Shore/Mid Shore (North Side) –from property no. 1 East Shore to property no. 5 Mid Shore. Pittenweem, East Shore (South Side) – from jct.The Gyles to opposite property no. 18 East Shore.

WHEN? 24/07/23 at 09.00hrs to 28/07/23 at 23.59hrs, or until earlier completion of the works.

WHY? To allow Scottish Water works to be carried out in safety.

WHO? Contraflow Ltd. is responsible for these works and can be contacted as follows: Contact No: 01236 862 400

ALEX ROWLEY MSP –a letter of support is to be sent regarding the Fire Service Cuts.

TREASURER’S REPORT: MW reported that the Community Council’s accounts in July 2023 - Treasurers account 2nd June £1,848.82
Business Current 1st June £4,930.38

CHAIR’S REPORT: MW reported trees at the back of the New Town Hall Office are being damaged by children skinning the Silver Birch bark from the branches, resulting in the death of one tree.

Update from J Handley regarding the housing development at Handley’s garage. They are still waiting on the additional drainage information and hoping to have that soon. That should then allow the planning application to progress and the Planning Officer is suggesting a decision by the end of August. He is hoping to make the August meeting.

A.O.B.:

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 17th AUGUST 2023 AT 7pm

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.

RB – Robbie Blyth of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

FCCT – Fife Coast and Countryside Trust