



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: Margaret Wardlaw, Vice Chair: Peter Mills, Treasurer: Nigel Mathers, Secretary:
Suzanne Doyle Morris

Members: Tony Russell, Margaret Wardlaw, Duncan Lucas, David Stutchfield, Peter
Mills, Suzanne Doyle Morris, Nigel Mathers, Stewart Moreland, Grazyna Jakubowska

Website – www.aboutpittenweem.org.uk

**PCC MEETING ON THURSDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE NEW TOWN
HALL AT 7pm**

PRESENT: Tony Russell, Margaret Wardlaw, Duncan Lucas, David Stutchfield,
Peter Mills, Suzanne Doyle Morris and Grazyna Jakubowska.

COUNCILLORS: Cllr Fiona Corps

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Sean Dillon, Cllr Alycia Hayes, Stewart Moreland, Nigel
Mathers.

INVITED GUESTS: R&J Handley

PUBLIC ATTENDING: None

ST MARGARET'S FARM housing development

R&J Handley gave an update on the housing development by Waverley Tweed to the north of James Street, for which planning permission was granted on 8th November 2023. This will be a mix of 2,3 and 4 bed two storey homes. He explained rationale for housing stock selection, challenges with site, affordable housing ratio and time-tabling. The next steps will be detailed surveys to determine the full condition of the brownfield part of the site.

ACTION: J Handley will regularly keep **PCC** up to date with plans as they progress.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19th October

Approval proposed by **PM** and seconded by **DL**.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

Cllr SD reported on 4 matters; all adopted.

1. STORM DAMAGE AT ABBEY WALL ROAD: Five homes were put at risk by a break in the Sea Wall because of storms at the lower end of Abbey Wall Road. **FC** are instructing contractors to carry out immediate repairs - some of which has been difficult given reduced access from the sea and the involvement of different home insurance agents. Cllr. Dillon has asked for a review of the council's policy on coastal erosion and request that work is undertaken to map the ownership of land along our coastline to prevent further delays, given these types of problems will likely only occur more frequently with climate change.

2. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2024/25: In December the council are to begin consulting elected members regarding the planned programme of resurfacing works for the financial 2024/25. In recent weeks, we have seen the programme for the current year result in the resurfacing of the High Street and Abbey Wall Road. Any roads or pavements that residents feel should be included in next year's programme, get in touch with **Cllr SD** at Cllr.Sean.Dillon@fife.gov.uk.

3. PLAYPARK STRATEGY: Local elected members met with officers from the Parks & Open Spaces team to discuss the future playpark strategy in Pittenweem and other villages within the East Neuk. It was agreed that the parks at the West Braes and New Grange should remain as the main play spaces in the village.

It was also agreed that the basket swing & seesaw at Glebe Park will be replaced by natural play equipment and picnic benches once it has reached the end of its lifespan. There was a suggestion at replacing this sooner, which would allow more money to be allocated to the New Grange redevelopment, however, it was agreed that this would require further consultation with residents and the community council. Therefore, please let Cllr.Sean.Dillon@fife.gov.uk know your thoughts on this matter.

4. BROWN BINS: FC has begun emptying brown bins only once every four weeks over the winter. This will come into effect on the 13th November meaning that yesterday (8th November) was the last collection of brown bins until the 6th December.

Cllr FC reported:

1. STORM DAMAGE AT THE GYLES: **Cllr FC** added more detail about the **FC** response to the storm damage due to the complexity of liaising with insurance companies. **FC** need an action plan to respond more quickly in future as more issues are likely due to climate change.

2. WAID SCHOOL MEALS: Free school meals need to be better advertised and promoted to all families in the villages and **Cllr FC** wants to encourage the take up of free school meals to children of families who are financially struggling.

The **PCC** discussed ensuring people have easier access to information via the noticeboard, surgery and library to email addresses, websites and phone numbers for **FC**; services for street furniture repairs such as lampposts, streetlights, signage was discussed.

ACTION: MW & GJ to create better information sheets for this type of community. (this came up again later in the meeting as well when there was an update on the replacement of one old pole and an old sign being maintained?)

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY - The implications and responsibilities of collective responsibility; that is the once decisions are agreed within **PCC**, they should be supported by all Council Members publicly, was considered, discussed and agreed.

ACTION: It was passed by a majority vote and agreed to be followed by council members.

PLANNING REPORT: A PCC planning contact is needed for FC to pass on the weekly planning list and identify any applications of issue to the community. PM will continue to temporarily fill this role until a replacement can be found.

Anstruther-Pittenweem Shared Used Path Group (APSUPG) (Previously minuted as MUPS). Different sections of the potential path between Anstruther and Pittenweem and their land ownership were discussed. Savilles have been appointed to approach land agents and discuss land purchase with owners.

East Neuk Community Action Plan Shared Use Path (ENCAP SUP) (Previously minuted as SUP/ELIE): The new station at Levenmouth has been given substantial funds to develop bicycle routes for easy access around the area, but routes to the East of Leven have not yet been considered.

A ENCAP group meeting was held on 24th October looking at SUP land ownership around Pittenweem – Milton Road West is currently not adopted by Fife Council. Land from Milton Road West to New Grange Park will be leased via wayleave. The PCC voted to support a change of use of the route of this path from agricultural use to 5m transport corridor across this Common Good Land.

ACTION: Cllr FC will speak to Councillors to ask how some of the routes from Levenmouth could extend east to link to the East Neuk.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / FIFE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME/LOCAL PLACE PLAN

DS reported that each village has been encouraged to create a Local Place Plan on how they would like to see their village develop in the next decade. The due date for plans, which Cllr FC said need not be extensive, had been extended to end June 2024. An action group has been created and a webinar on plans across Fife will be held at noon on 15 November.

ACTION: DS is making a first draft with the action group and help from PAS and examples from other villages.

COMMON GOOD FUND – was discussed and explained by longer serving members of PCC.

ACTION: Cllr AH to send a formal letter of complaint to the CEO of FC with a request for more transparency in how funds have been managed.

POLICE REPORT –22 calls in last month with 1 crime reported for Pittenweem.

STATION COURT - no updates to discuss.

WEST BRAES PARKING - Mr. Blyth will be returning in January for an update.

LICENSING OF SHORT TERM LETS - Appeals from neighbouring residents are currently being heard by the FC Housing Decision Panel. An Appeal Panel consisting

of FC councillors should be established with this responsibility. 40-60 applications have been submitted in Pittenweem with a sense that more have not applied.

SCOTTISH WATER – Works will be starting on the East Shore and Harbour in January 2024, a delay necessitated by the recent storms. **PCC** have been told works will likely take 6 months.

EAST NEUK OF FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRIORY BOARDS - No updates

LARACHMOHR mural – No updates

SKATEPARK: DL reported on attending meetings suggesting other sites/villages will be considered as the site needs to be larger than initially chosen Pittenweem site can manage. See **Cllr. SD** report above.

CHURCH CLOSURES

Cllr SD is coordinating with the church bodies and local congregation. The Interim Moderator outline the options available in the November edition of the Church of Scotland magazine –

- Linkage of Pittenweem, St Ayles / Crail congregations. This would be difficult.
- Union – 3 congregations amalgamate, assets of Pittenweem pass to Anstruther.
- Dissolution of Pittenweem congregation – all assets go to Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

ACTION: Cllr SD is encouraged to organise a public meeting in next month.

PLAY PARK no update. Fife Environment Trust funding application submitted for 12K. See **Cllr SD** report above.

CYCLE RACKS: No updates

TREE PLANTING SIGN: Signs have been created, no planning permissions required. No updates

SECRETARY’S REPORT: No updates.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Current account balance of £1578.79

CHAIR’S REPORT: MW reiterated the importance of the agreed collective responsibility and its utility in **PCC** business. **MW** also asked for suggestions for how the minutes and agendas could be organised to limit the time taken.

Action: PCC members and **Cllr FC** were asked to send **MW** suggestions for formats.

TOLBOOTH STEEPLE: No updates

LIBRARY - PM noted that a contractor for the toilet upgrades has been appointed.

A.O.B.

DS tendered his resignation from the council but agreed to continue work on the Local Place Plan.

SDM gave apologies for the December and January PCC meetings, and **GJ** agreed to take minutes for these meetings.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2023 AT 7pm.

ABBREVIATIONS:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council,

MW – Margaret Wardlaw, **DL** – Duncan Lucas, **PM** – Peter Mills,

SM – Stewart Moreland, **DS** – David Stutchfield, **SDM** - Suzanne Doyle Morris, **TR** - Tony Russell, **NM** – Nigel Mathers, **GJ** - Grazyna Jakubowska

Cllr.FC – Council Fiona Corps, **Cllr.SD** – Councillor Sean Dillon,

Cllr.AH – Councillor Alycia Hayes.

FCCT – Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

FC – Fife Council

ENCAP – East Neuk Community Action Plan

We would encourage any Pittenweem resident interested in these issues to attend our meetings which are held the second Thursday of each month.