



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: M. Wardlaw, **Vice Chair:** P. Mills **Treasurer:** N. Mathers
Secretary: vacant.
Members: M. Wardlaw, P. Mills, N. Mathers, D. Lucas, S. Moreland, T. Russell

Website - www.aboutpittenweem.org.uk

PCC MEETING ON THURSDAY JUNE 13th 2024 IN THE NEW TOWN HALL AT 7pm

PRESENT: Margaret Wardlaw, Duncan Lucas, Peter Mills, Councillor Alycia Hayes

APOLOGIES: Tony Russell, Nigel Mathers, Stewart Moreland, Councillor Sean Dillon,
Councillor Fiona Corps

PUBLIC ATTENDING: n/a

INVITED GUESTS: n/a

Minute Secretary: Rebecca McLean

PROPOSAL OF MINUTES: Proposed PM, seconded DL

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

Cllr.AH The naming of St Margaret's Farm street: Pittenweem was famous for clockmakers: George Lumsden- emigrated to Australia and became an MP. John Smith was also a famous clock maker. A woman called Lucy Christine Douglas Irvine who specialised in painting local women outside their homes - these are a few suggestions. It has been put out to all for suggestions. A notice will also be placed in the notice board.

Cafe Inc will be on for the summer for free lunches. At Easter £7,000 was spent for the whole of NE Fife - they claim there is no local need for increased provision. Here they get a packed lunch but in other areas they get a full three course meal. It is set up to fail as it's not accessible.

Cllr.AH has set up a Colinsburgh Lunch club for the summer holiday with council funding. If anyone within the community can run something like this, please let us know.

Action: **Cllr.AH** can get council funding. **Cllr.AH** to give **LM** a call to see if this can be set up with her connection to Pittenweem Primary School.

In relation to the police report - concerns have been raised about convicted criminals living/housed locally. Spoke to housing and police about this, **MAPP** boards make decisions about the placement of offenders in the community. There is a high level of surveillance of these offenders within placement areas.

There are two housing lists: the housing list and the homeless list. 49% of houses given to someone in this ward are from the homeless list. Homeless people are prioritised over those on the housing list.

MW: the new housing at Campion Homes, Station Court - will they be used for people who have broken the law?

Cllr.AH: a percentage of social housing will be used for those in need - Scatter flats are mostly used for emergency accommodation often for offenders. In all likelihood they will be used for social housing.

MATTERS ARISING:

KING'S PICTURE

Picture is now up. **MW** to sort out a gesture of thanks for John Davidson's time putting the up.

RESIGNATIONS

GJ and **SMD** have both handed in their resignations.

NEW RECRUITS

We need to get some new recruits to **PCC:** putting notices on the board. Possibly having an open day in the hall to encourage people to hear about what we are doing - everyone on the committee would need to be involved in this.

LARACHMOHR

Letter from **FC** regarding the listed building appeal - the appeal has been dismissed as the mural is not suitable for the heritage of the shore line. There are no other lines of appeal so it will have to be removed.

1 School Wynd, currently a holiday house, has also had its appeal dismissed.

PLAYPARK NEXT TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

LM was supposed to attend tonight's meeting but is not here.

WEST BRAES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TR has been working on this, **MW** asked for an update for tonight but was told no updates at present available.

APSUPG

PM attended a meeting on 31st May. Nothing moving very fast. Stage 4 is complete, now waiting for Transport Scotland to release funds, these are allocated once a year so could be in Feb 2025. Purchase of land progressing slowly. Agreement for path maintenance with Community Payback Team for the Pittenweem sections has been agreed.

Sustrans representative suggested benches might be needed which could increase the amount of land we need to purchase; she will go through and sign off the stage 4 and may make changes.

Kilrenny to Crail Path, due to unknown funding no progress has been made.

Cllr.AH the Dreelside Park official opening - was an event that highlighted the importance of these paths.

ENCAP SUP

Funding in place to review safety of road crossings and contraflow suggestion. After the safety appraisal a public consultation will be required.

COUNCILLORS DISCUSSION WITH LANDOWNER/LEVENMOUTH

Cllr.AH Galbraith are doing the ENCAP discussion with landowners on behalf of the council and we are advised not to be involved at this time.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION/LOCAL PLACE PLAN

MW forwarded email from David Stutchfield; he has not put a plan together. There may be some flexibility but possibly cannot be put together in time for this round.

Cllr.AH we need to get all the info. he has pulled together to see if we can put it together as there is some flexibility. Most communities have got their plans submitted. Some of the issues can be moved to the right department, due to the 'no wrong door policy' if some aspects are not suitable to be part of the plan. **DS** had got a significant amount of work done.

MW it took two months to get this response. There is a possibility we won't get a further response from him in time.

COMMON GOOD FUND

PM Four residents of Pittenweem attended a meeting on May 20th with Lindsay Thomson but have had no response yet to the minutes produced. We asked for an independent external audit. **Cllr.AH** this may be paused due to the general election as she is second in command to the returning officer.

PM and Max Taylor have consulted with other CC's, they all have similar concerns. A video conference of NEF CC on June 4th suggested that we should coordinate our responses. It was felt unlikely that we will convince **FC** to do anything different. Legislation is being explored which may be of use to get some control over the situation - St Andrews CC have a common good committee that will seek legal opinion.

PCC it was asked will council agree to take this forward/support from **DL** proposed, **MW** seconded.

Cllr.AH Role of influence of Councillors in **FC**. Borough councils were abolished due to a perception of corruption. so, **FC** was introduced. The counsellor system was supposed to allow representatives to be above reproach. The accumulation of policy is binding counsellors and weakening their ability to represent people as there needs to be a policy to back up their approach. Counsellors code of conduct 'cannot do or say anything that brings the council into disrepute' stops any whistleblowing or scrutiny of the council. Linda Holt shone a light on issues but was censured twice for this.

PM asked who polices this system?

Cllr.AH The electorate on polling day. We are expected to live by the code of conduct. A complaint can be made to the standards committee. In the council itself we can speak our

mind but the majority of councillors haven't done a substantial amount of research into the areas they are working on compared to council officers who specialise in these areas. There is transparency through **FOI** requests. There are internal suggestions that councillors could sit exams on these areas (planning, review committees etc.).

PCC feels that we haven't had support from our councillors in the past and we appreciate that **Cllr.AH** has been engaging with us.

Cllr A.H feels that attending these meetings is an ethical duty for her role.

POLICE

28 calls to police

No crimes recorded

Door handles being tried at night - can posters be put up to make people aware of this? **DL** to put a notice on the board.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Development land north of James Street looking for names for the new streets. John Handley didn't know it had moved to this stage. It's been sent on to the prospective residents and the local community to suggest names. Deadline is 25th of July for suggestions (cannot be the name of anyone alive). Info to be put in the notice board.

MW reported Scottish Water has been sorted out and **JH** has again paid a lump sum to **FC** that should be going to Common Good Fund. **MW** suggested that this money should be paid into the **PCC** bank account instead of the **CGF**. To date monies from **PCC** bank account have been used to subsidise meetings etc over the past six years. Most of the money in this account was accrued through fund raising for the Christmas lights fund. **MW** would like to see this fund topped up since the trees and lights continue to need maintenance annually. This would save applying to the **CGF** later in the year for funds to carry out the update.

PM. It seems that rights over common good property has been sold off to the developer without consulting **PCC**. **Cllr.AH** is this a selling of rights to build the drain not a title deed to the land.

WEEM WUID

No one has checked if the sign is up. Sandy hasn't been in touch.

LICENSING OF SHORT TERM LETS APPEALS

Cllr.AH has heard nothing recently.

PM Correspondence with Lindsay Thompson: holding hearings but not appeals as no decision has yet been made. However, neighbours are appealing against a licence being agreed. Once a **FC** decision is made the only appeal is then to a Sheriff Court. The hearing had no councillors present, just members of the housing department. Concerns regarding the processes not being open and transparent. There should be some other right of appeal.

Cllr.AH short term lets comes into a board she sits on but the housing department has a policy of not going to the committee.

CHURCH CLOSURES

Cllr.SD dealing with this over a 5-year time limit. **SD** not replying to e-mails owing to health problems.

Arts festival AGM

MW got an email from **TR** about not being notified about the **AGM** when she knew nothing about it. Simon Learoyd should have notified the council so **TR** could attend. **TR** had agreed at the Festival meeting held at **NTH** that he would act as go between for the Festival and **PCC**. **PM** pointed out that Members of the Arts Festival were invited, anyone can join just fill in the form.

Speed Bumps

MW took this up with **FC**. Apparently, this had been discussed within **FC** but did not come out to the Community. It has now been looked at and the volume of objections means they will hold a review meeting on 28th Aug. **PCC** were not aware of this plan so couldn't gather people's expectations.

Cllr.AH gets notified when roads are being closed. She had one resident seeking traffic calming measures. Note that the perceptions of speed on that road are increased.

Laura Marr

LM has said she may join the **PCC** after the play parks are completed, **MW** feels this doesn't allow her to see the play parks construction through!!

Communications

Linda Lauder got messages from the planning department. Concerns about how information is being shared with the **PCC** as **MW** as chair should be getting everything sent until a new Secretary is elected. **MW** is not getting various pieces of information.

Cycle racks:

Supposed to go in after new year but have not been installed.

Park

Everything was shifted to the Recreation Park by Scottish Water by the end of MAY but uncertain for how long. Possibly restored by early July before the August Arts Festival, nothing has been decided. The section of land they have their material on is not common good so **PCC** doesn't need to be notified.

FC Floral Grants

These have been reinstated. **TR** is now involved with the school for the flower planters, the school headmistress is now in touch with Pathhead nursery.

MW The form for the grant looks quite complicated, it has been sent out to all **PCC**.

Cllr.AH: you can send an email to Nicola Jane White the local community support officer, if there are issues about the paperwork.

MW I'm not sure this is a project for children as some of the tubs are at the sides of the roads.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

We no longer have a secretary as SDM has resigned.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

NM is abroad at present and hard to contact, expenses have not been paid.

Business current £1635.72 (inc. annual grant 23-24)

MW queries this figure - **NM** changed everything to online banking when he took on this position. He did not approach the committee for approval and considering the time it took us to get signatures for a third signatory which was a must requirement it does not make sense. I have sent emails etc asking him to get in touch with me and there is only a wall of silence.

Fundraising account £4866 last month, this month £4249.

One exceptional item to pay West Braes flyers £42.60 to Hazel Bremner.

NTH hire has not been paid.

The accounts appear to be adrift quite a bit at present.

MW concerned about **NM**'s handling of this.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

It's becoming more difficult when members don't always report important information.

Please share things with others in the committee. **DL** has been asked not to share so much in the past by **TR**. Many don't appreciate what is being done by the Pittenweem community - we really need to put something on to tell people what we have done over the past few years. How many of the locals are actually reading the minutes of these meetings.

PM had suggested an annual PCC report in the past but this was discontinued. The failings of the Fife council officers are often blamed on us. We need to build up confidence and commitment with the public as part of our recruitment of new members.

John Firm may be interested in joining the **PCC**.

DL and **PM** both in support of this public relations push.

The election is a snap one and there are council logistical issues. **MW** got a letter asking for the use of the hall for the election but no official response to our agreement as yet.

A.O.C.B.

Common Good Fund Application

PM East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society wants to apply for common good funding for their interpretation boards. They are seeking £2,000. We have told them we have issues with Common Good Funds.

MW why can't they fundraise locally at boot sales etc? We gave them £1,448 last year to initiate this project.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JULY 2024 AT 7pm AT THE NEW TOWN HALL.

ABBREVIATIONS:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council,

MW – Margaret Wardlaw, DL – Duncan Lucas, PM – Peter Mills, LM – Laura Marr

SM – Stewart Moreland, DS – David Stutchfield, TR - Tony Russell, NM – Nigel Mathers.

Cllr.FC – Councillor 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