



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: Margaret Wardlaw, Vice Chair: Peter Mills, Treasurer: Nigel Mathers, Secretary:
vacant
Members: Tony Russell, Margaret Wardlaw, Duncan Lucas, Peter Mills, Nigel Mathers,
Stewart Moreland.

Website – www.aboutpittenweem.org.uk

**MINUTES OF PITTENWEEM COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY
MAY 9TH 2024 IN THE NEW TOWN HALL at 7pm**

PRESENT: Margaret Wardlaw, Duncan Lucas, Peter Mills, Stewart Moreland, Tony Russell,
Councillor Alycia Hayes

APOLOGIES: Nigel Mathers, Council Fiona Corps, Suzanne Doyle Morris

PUBLIC ATTENDING: Four members of the public.

INVITED GUESTS: NA

Minute Secretary: Rebecca McLean

PROPOSAL OF MINUTES: Proposed **DL**, seconded **TR**.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

Cllr.AH: Wants to draw attention to the revised policy about how common good is managed - it is worrying that it looks easier to dispose of common good property, a policy that could be misused. She will send out the policy to the **PCC** members.

It was suggested we might copy Crail Community Council's approach and use community asset transfer to move land and buildings into village control if one wished to continue to have control over them. This is probably what's happening with the church via **Cllr.SD**. The Scottish land fund undertakes to supply 95% of the costs to obtain these assets. The new rules allow for council maintenance of common good assets.

Tied into this is the local place plan. The charm of the village and its layout is at risk because of **FC** reluctance to refuse planning applications in the Conservation Areas because of the risk of planning fines. Recently, in the East Neuk two listed c17 buildings had inappropriate planning consent to be refurbished but a local place plan could offer protection against this. A recent council report on the future of planning sets out the difficulties of council planning at present.

PM: Thanks to **Cllr.AH**. While **FC** are happy to be rid of assets, the maintenance costs of some common good properties is too high to consider asset transfer. Crail is mainly buying land to stop local development.

Cllr.AH attended a **FC** meeting to discuss Common Good funds in April - there were no specific funds discussed at that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

PLAYPARK NEXT TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

LM is on the Playpark committee that approached **PCC** for common good funding. **LM** was very angry that the **PCC** did not seem to support the bid for funding. **LM** asked for this to be recorded: **If the kids of this town are not important to the council, then can you tell me who is important to the council. For the people of Pittenweem, I can't think of a better cause than the children.**

The **PCC** wholeheartedly agreed to support the project but did not know if it could afford £44,000 to support the grant requested. The **PCC** is restricted to allocating a maximum of £5000 to any application.

MW- we don't actually know at present how much is in the common good fund because of **FC** problems in managing the fund. Hence, we offered £4,000 from the common good fund and £12,000 from the John Handley re housing project.

LM - stated the Playpark group applied for the Handley money. **PM** had already secured this funding from a section 75 application to **FC** for use on the proposed Multiuser Path.

Cllr.AH: In regards to the section 75 money, it was not clear if **FC** has diverted this from the Multiuser Path to the Playpark or if the sum is £24,000. **PM** confirmed it was £12,000.

SM: We have no idea how much funding exists and have to take account of demands in the whole area. We could not spend more than half our annual funds on an issue that should be funded by **FC**.

LM: in 2019 the **PCC** said they fully supported any additional expenditure as the state of the Playparks were so bad. This appears to be a U turn. The grant application has been passed at a committee meeting by majority and it was made clear there is £83,000 revenue in the common good fund available, not encroaching on the capital.

Cllr.AH: I agree that the sum may not be accurate but the premise **PCC** been working on is that it's less not more. Due to past coding errors leading to funding loss this balance should be seen as a minimum bar rather than a maximum.

MW: we cannot spend without knowing we have the funds to do so.

TR: I was delighted with the vote. The chairs comment on the £4,000 offer is misleading and should not hint that the money is not available. We should be listening to **LM's** concerns.

PCC members received a 9-point report from **PM** on Sat April 23rd outlining the risk that capital would have to be used to fund this application in full which would lead to a permanent loss to future funding capability. That was sent to councillors on the Area Committee on Sun 24th. **TR** thought this was a veiled attempt to derail the project.

PM: I'm disappointed that **LM** thinks that the **PCC** is not supportive of the Playpark project but we agreed to strongly support the project with 100% of what we had available. Any

comment about being unsupportive did not appear in the live stream of the Area Committee meeting.

LM: I haven't been shown that the **PCC** supported the park. Her last meeting with the **PCC** descended into an argument about finances.

TR: **PM's** claim to **LM** that we are supportive is embarrassing when that report was sent.

PM: The reports points are being taken out of context; we need to support the community common good funds. The report was sent to allow councillors to make an informed decision at the Area Committee and the Chair thanked me for our information. There was an opportunity for PCC members to reply to my email but I did not get any response. The timing was tight.

Cllr.AH: I don't understand how you keep saying these funds aren't available. The community has those funds, anything applied for above £5,000 goes to an area committee for approval, it is not a limit on what can be offered. The claims about not knowing are not true, **Cllr.SD** had a meeting and told this clearly to **PM**.

TR: in Point 5 of **PM's** report, he claims that **PCC** raised the money via the section 75 process, this is not clear to the committee.

PM: clarified he applied for the Section 75 funding of £12,000 on behalf of the **PCC** and the MUP group.

DL- asked what makes the fund fluctuate?

Cllr.AH: the common good fund is split into cash, investments and physical assets. The overall value is currently uncertain but in the past year the council has spent only small amounts on good causes from their cash funds and there has been money added by investments generating income. Cash is now about £80,000 in the **PCGF**.

DL: Will it accrue interest?

Cllr.AH: Yes, the investments are being re-tendered by **FC** in the hope of increasing that yield.

SM: wants to know who **LM** has been working with at **FC** on this project. He would like to meet with them to discuss the pricing, options and tendering process.

LM: they have been speaking to **Ian Wilson**. If any of the committee has questions about fundraising please ask if we have been transparent and have a play park bank account.

DL: I hope that this precedent does not lead to funding being reduced for a museum in the Tolbooth Steeple as lots of people want that to happen.

MW: suggested **PCC** move on to the discussion of other business on the agenda.

PARKING

John Firn, a member of the public has recently put a planning application in to get parking in his orchard as he has lost the parking in the High Street. There needs to be a review of parking within Pittenweem, the last review was completed in in 2006.

OPEN DAY WEST BRAES

The open day at the New Town Hall had around 50 people attend. **MW** thanked **DL** for attending the afternoon session when he chatted to people whilst waiting to speak with either Robbie Blyth or his assistant in more detail. There were questionnaires left over and **MW** handed these rounds the **PCC** members to complete. The remaining forms will be available for hall users to complete over the next week or so. Thanks to **TR, DL** and **GJ** for delivering leaflets. **RB** will be collating answers and will come back to discuss them with the **PCC**. **MW** will send an email of thanks to **RB** for his help and understanding why this open day was necessary.

LARACHMOHR

Nothing has been done regarding the removal of the witch picture painted outside of the building. This has been going on for 18 months. **Cllr.SD** has been dealing with this to date. **PM**: I think this needs to be removed from our agenda as the **PCC** can do nothing more.

APSUPG ENCAP MUP

PM -had a useful meeting with the community payback group who agreed to the upkeep of the MUP for first 15 years and have produced a memorandum of agreement for them to sign. They will come 4 times a year to trim and pick up litter etc. mostly in the summer months.

PM: contacted a resident regarding safety in relation to the MUP crossing the main road. **Cllr.AH** wrote a letter in support of the projects.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION/LOCAL PLACE PLAN

DS is responsible for this. **MW** has not had any response from him for some time.

PM has spoken to him recently. **DS** says he's working on it but now he's left Pittenweem it's less likely to be completed on time.

Cllr.AH- someone on **PCC** needs to take this over to ensure it's produced in time. It's an important document and every day she sees the importance of this being completed from her work with the council.

MW there's a possibility **DS** may join a session remotely.

Actions: MW to contact **DS**

POLICE

21 calls to police and 2 crimes reported.

MAP OF PITTENWEEM

We need a reliable Map for **PCC** use. The map found does go along to West Braes, Sandycraig Road, Queen Elizabeth Place and Toft Court. This is part of the 'Welcome to Pittenweem' leaflet produced by the Community Library.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Station Court: **Cllr.AH** - BT will be there tomorrow to put the cable in.

St Margarets Farm: John Handley reports there are three new builders interested in this project so hopefully it will still go ahead. Waverly Tweed is going ahead with demolishing outbuildings etc.

SCOTTISH WATER

MW queried the ground works going on in the park next to the cemetery wall. This work needs to be reversed by the end of the month. Is that correct?

DL reports **Cllr.SD** said it was staying.

PM: Simon Learoyd says it is going and the site will be used as parking for the festival.

Susie Muir member of the public asked - what about parking for customers of the Dory? It will be making them lose custom.

MW pointed out that parking was at a premium for everyone all summer. Fishermen also need to park at the harbour for their work.

WEEM WUID

Action: MW chasing up Sandy Syme to put signs up.

LICENSING OF SHORT TERM LETS APPEALS

Cllr.AH is attending a **NE Fife** councillor briefing on 10th May so will have more info after that. There will be a 6-week waver for the female golf competition at St Andrews.

CHURCH CLOSURES

Cllr.SD hasn't responded to emails about this and there is concern that he is out of touch at present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

MW - the secretary is away at present. We have received the King's portrait which SDM ordered. It was agreed that it will go above the door coming into the hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The balances on both of our accounts on the 8th May are as follows:

Business Current Account £1205.04

Fund Raising Account £4866.27

Since our last meeting there have been a number of outstanding cheque payments arising from expenditure in the last financial year to balance up. These are now complete.

There are also four routine invoices (In total £145.60) and one small petty cash payment from the past week to pay.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

If members send emails about **PCC** business everyone should be copied in. As a result, there are misunderstandings arising which has already been mentioned tonight.

Cllr.AH: given **SDM** is away the **PCC** email address could be set up to forward all **PCC** members. this would stop inconsistencies if everyone sends emails for council business to that address, it would be forwarded automatically.

Actions: **Cllr AH** to set up an email account.

Pittenween in Bloom

MW notes that planters are being filled and funds are available from the PIB Fundraising account.

TR: Arranged to go to the school on Tuesday to get the children involved with planting and suggests that planting is left for the school children at this point. **TR** is going round this weekend to map out where the planters are in preparation for his meeting on Tuesday. Seeking to establish a tradition that the school is involved in this long-term project.

DL: This is exactly what happened in the village about 20 years ago

MW: notes that there are some private planters (boats at the harbour etc). They can get supplies from Pathhead, there will be new management coming in September so agreements may change.

PM: Did we agree to take on Pittenweem in Bloom as a **PCC** project? Concern that the projects are creeping into our responsibility and we may not have the manpower.

MW: This project is for the community and is part of the community and the **PCC** have as yet not been asked to participate. It should not take over much of the 'meeting' time apart from an update when necessary.

Actions: **TR** to liaise with the school and Phyllis at Pathhead Nursey.

A.O.C.B.

Notice boards

MW put out a notice asking for someone to take on the cleaning of the notice boards in the High Street. **DL** was the only person to respond to this notice and he has made an excellent job. Thank You Duncan. He reported back that the middle notice board is warped and harder to access and should be handled with care.

Actions:

Cllr.AH to provide a poster with contact details to be displayed on the board.

MW to place last month's minutes on the board.

The Wee Field at West Braes

MW do we have any jurisdiction on this field I believe it is being used by campers with tents.

Cllr AH said there is a key holder.

Action: Cllr AH to liaise with Colin Davidson, there are charge hands who are responsible for this.

West Braes Playpark

TR met with Ian Wilson at West Braes park. A good meeting on Tuesday at Pittenweem Primary, He is happy to work on these projects.

Common Good Fund

PM: In relation to common good funds, Max Taylor of Crail CC and **PM** to set up a NE Fife group seeking individual rather than amalgamated accounts from **FC**.

Email from Lindsay Thomson, Head of **FC** Legal and Democratic Services, seeking a meeting to discuss the official complaint about common good funds. Peter asks if **MW** and **Cllr.AH** could attend. **DL** and **SM** also volunteered to attend the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

It was noted at the end that one of the visiting public left the room half way through the meeting and went on to trash the kitchen and ladies toilet leaving a mess in both.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 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, 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