

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom
on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7pm

Present: Margaret Wardlaw, Linda Lauder, Peter Mills, Jim Wood, Susan Wilkinson, Lynn Balfour

Councillors: Cllr. John Docherty, Cllr. Linda Holt

Apologies: Cllr. Bill Porteous, Martin Butters, Anne Butters, Gary McClure

Public Attending: Three members of the public were in attendance.

Opening of Meeting:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Update on the West Braes Project

Nicola Thomson provided the following updates on the progress of the swimming pool:

- The work is progressing well despite the wintry weather
- 90% of the walkways are finished
- A temporary ramp will be converted into the final ramp
- A specialist drilling company is about to start the work on the back wall
- The blacksmith has been to measure all railings for replacement
- Any damaged tiers and steps will be repaired
- Benches and lifebelts are to be installed
- Wooding cladding that has washed ashore is due to be collected by the contractors
- Memorial benches have been temporarily removed but will be reinstated by contractors with fresh concrete
- The contractors have redone the wall by the pool at their own cost

The **PCC** commented how impressed they have been with the work being done by the contractors.

It was noted that there are plans to carry out a soft opening and then officially marking the pool opening with a larger community event, but this will be dependent on the Covid situation.

It was noted that the next steps for the West Braes area will be to secure funds for work on the surrounding area including a sensory garden.

East Neuk Centre Vaccination Rollout

An issue was highlighted with the set up at the East Neuk Centre where Covid vaccinations are taking place. It was noted that there appeared to be a lack of

social distancing and seating was placed too close together. There appeared to be no cleaning of seats in between patients and there was inadequate ventilation throughout. **Cllr LH** has reported this to the Health Board and **Cllr JD** will also take this forward as immediate action is needed.

January 2021 Minutes

Proposed by J.Wood, seconded by L.Lauder

Councillors' Reports

Cllr LH provided the following updates:

- Discussions around reviving the Pittenweem skatepark have fizzled out despite attempts to engage with parents and the School. Without many people in Pittenweem supporting this, it will be difficult to obtain funding. Anstruther is pressing ahead with a plan for a skatepark to be located there.
- **FC** has allocated £2 million of funding for road repairs, however, this is to be split across several areas. North East Fife will receive some of this funding for resurfacing, but it is unlikely to make an impact, as the state of the roads all over Fife is disgracefully, and significant investment is needed to bring them up to standard.

Cllr JD provided the following updates:

- Traffic Management have been contacted about access issues at Water Wynd.
- Business Gateway funding has been approved for the **NTH**, with a further £2000 being allocated later in the month. **MW** noted this funding is welcome and will be put towards the cost of the toilet repairs.

Matters Arising

Noticeboard

A new lock has been ordered for the notice board and hinges are due to be reset. If these repairs fail to make a difference, a new frontage may be required, which will be costly.

Tolbooth Steeple

PM reported that scaffolding was erected on 1 February, with the main work

due to take place in April. Stone is still being cut for the steeple repair, and the clockface repairs will be done last. **PM** confirmed funding of £8,000 from the Fife Environment Trust and noted that Historic Environment Scotland may provide further funding of £11,000, which would mean funding from the Common Good Fund would not need to be touched.

MUPS

PM noted that a meeting is due to take place on Friday 12 February with the Anstruther Cycle Club to discuss a connection route between Anstruther and Plttenweem and noted there has been a lot of discussion with various stakeholders. It was noted that it is important that there is a coordinated approach between villages. Additional funding from Sustrans will assist with engaging with land factors on potential routes. **SW** noted she has contacted a number of companies that carry out consultation exercises and highlighted that if a consultation goes ahead, it might be prudent to use the opportunity to seek community views on other subjects relevant to the community. It was agreed to add community consultation to the agenda for the next **PCC** meeting

Out of Hours

No new information to report.

Recycling Centre/Fly Tipping

No new reports of fly tipping have been received. It was noted that due to adverse weather conditions, there has been no green bin uplift. An issue with lack of bookable slots at the Recycling Centre was raised. **Cllr JD** highlighted that it is deplorable that people from the East Neuk cannot access the Recycling Centre and noted the online system does not seem fit for purpose, suggesting a telephone line should be established for those without internet access.

Police Report

There is a campaign called Take 5 which is an operation that aims to make the community aware of what actions to take when it comes to fraudulent phone calls and internet banking or even when someone turns up at your door or

bogus workmen. They have asked if possible, please provide your communities with the following link.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/takefive> which takes you directly to the website for further information

Since the last **PCC** meeting, 22 calls had been made to the Police from Pittenweem residents, with 2 crimes recorded. **PM** noted that he has attempted to obtain traffic data from **FC** about Pittenweem to use for the **MUP** project but was informed that no recent data is available. **PM** will email **FC** about this again and copy all three Councillors into this correspondence. **Cllr JD** noted that Councillors have been trying to get 20mph speed limits throughout the East Neuk. It was noted that a survey about introducing a 20mph speed limit was carried out amongst Pittenweem residents last year, and the vast majority objected. It was agreed that this topic could be added as part of a wider community consultation.

Cove Wynd Lighting

PM noted he has reported the issues with the Cove Wynd lighting so that these are in the reporting system. **Cllr JD** asked to be copied into any correspondence around this. It was highlighted that these problems with lighting have been ongoing for at least 3 years. **Cllr LH** noted she had also previously reported these problems.

Grit Bins

MW noted there are 14 grit bins in Pittenweem, and that placement of the bins can be considered, however **FC** confirmed no additional grit bins will be provided. Grit has been added to some grit bins and members were asked to report any grit bins requiring replenishment to **MW**. It was noted that the Fife Gritting Plan makes it clear that grit bins will not be placed on paths with nearby grit routes. It was agreed it would be useful to have a grit bin placed between University Avenue and Terrace.

Potholes, David Street

It was noted that despite raising the significant problem with potholes in David Street and in the car park at the cemetery for several months, no action has been taken to date by **FC**. **MW** highlighted that this is particularly problematic for access to the cemetery for funerals. **PCC** made the suggestion of

incorporating the fixing of potholes with the resurfacing work that is about to start in Charles Street. It was noted that the quantity of complaints reported pushes work up the priority list, and local residents are encouraged to continue to make reports about issues such as potholes.

Cemetery Gates

No further update to report. **Cllr JD** will chase again.

Sinking of Carisma

MW noted an email was received stating that there is an ongoing investigation into the sinking of the Carisma fishing vessel, and the outcome will dictate if information can be released into the public domain

Damaged Pavements

MW confirmed she has reported to **FC** several pavements requiring attention and has some further to add to the list. **Cllr LH** suggested sending this on to S. Goodfellow at **FC** and to copy the Councillors into correspondence.

Abbeywall Road

MW noted that **FC** will have responsibility for keeping the Abbeywall embankment area neat and tidy, and that there is now email confirmation of this.

East Neuk Website

MW noted that there has been a request for material for inclusion on the East Neuk Website and that any submissions should be sent to Dave Smith as administrator.

National Planning Framework

LL and **MW** both attended meetings which brought together people from Community Councils all over Scotland. A suggestion was put forward that Community Councils could nominate a paid warden for their area who would be responsible for reporting problems to the local Council and following up on these. It was agreed that this would be a good idea, but funding may be an issue. **MW** will contact **FC** with the suggestion.

Hourglass

The **PCC** received an offer of having an hourglass presentation delivered about keeping the elderly in the community safe from scammers. It was agreed that

it would be better to have the information placed in the noticeboard so that it can reach more people will take this forward.

Charles Street

It was noted that there has been a hold up with the roadworks starting in Charles Street due to the wintry weather. Initially, traffic lights will be installed along with moving parked cars away from the area. It was agreed that it will be difficult for cars to park at the cemetery due to the number and size of potholes that have not been fixed by FC. PCC asked the Councillors to take this forward.

Planning

JW noted there were six planning applications since the last PCC meeting, including:

- Change of use for 54 High Street from an art studio to a dwelling house
- Listed building consent
- Single story extension in Charles Street
- Garage conversion in the High Street

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that:

- The main account balance has not changed since the last meeting
- The fundraising account is sitting at £3885.29

Secretary's Report

LL provided the following updates:

- Following attendance at the National Planning Framework workshop, there will be several more workshops, then a draft report will go before Parliament in the autumn.
- Information published in 'The Caterer' outlined that the Government will be bringing in regulations for short term lets including Air BnBs.

Councillors confirmed that Wendy McGregor is the Fife Council Community Council liaison person and can assist with having minutes added to the FC website.

Chair's Report

MW provided the following updates:

- There is not yet a timescale for the repair and painting of benches in the high street, but the use of a garage has been offered to those carrying out the repairs.
- The proposal for electric charging points for Pittenweem is currently with the Planning team for a decision.

Twinning

A request was received for twinning Pittenweem with a village in France. It was noted that both St Andrews and Anstruther are already twinned and may be able to provide information about what is involved in setting this up. It was agreed this is worth considering.

PM noted he had previously done a review of Council activity in 2019 and wondered if this could be undertaken for 2020 in order to have a summary of what was achieved over the past year. It was noted that the Pittenweem community website is being well kept and could be a good place to include an annual review of all achievements.

Donation to the Waid Academy

The **PCC** agreed to donate £50 to the Waid Academy Parent Council to support their activities. **PCC** members voted and were unanimously in favour of funding this from the **PCC** fundraising account. **MW** will action this.

A.O.C.B.

The following points were noted:

- There was a suggestion to contact the East Fife Mail to run an article promoting the positive initiatives taking place in Pittenweem. It was also noted there is a facility within the East Fife Mail to publish Community Council minutes, which could also be another way of showcasing what is going on in Pittenweem.
- **JW** noted that he has taken receipt of an official drawing of the Pittenweem harbour extension dated 1989. **JW** will store this and can be contacted if anyone needs to access the drawing.

MW closed the meeting at 9.10pm by thanking everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

Abbreviations:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council. MW - Margaret Wardlaw, AB - Anne Butters, MB - Martin Butters, PM - Peter Mills, SW - Susan Wilkinson, GM - Gary McClure and JW - Jim Wood.

Clr LH - Councillor Linda Holt, Clr - JD Councillor John Docherty and Clr BP - Councillor Bill Porteous. FC – Fife Council.

OOHS - Out of Hours Service, MUP - Multi Use Path, PAF - Pittenweem Arts Festival, NTH - New Town Hall. WBP – West Braes Project.

CGF – Common Good Fund, FCCT – Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

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