



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: M. Wardlaw **Vice Chair:** A. Butters **Treasurer:** A. Butters
Contact Secretary: L. Lauder
Members: M. Butters, G. McClure, P. Mills, J. Wood .

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Minutes of Meeting held in the New Town Hall
on Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7pm

Present: Margaret Wardlaw, Linda Lauder, Peter Mills, Jim Wood, Gary McClure, Lynn Balfour

Councillors: Cllr. John Docherty, Cllr. Linda Holt, Cllr. Bill Porteous

Apologies: Martin Butters, Anne Butters

Public Attending: One member of the public was in attendance.

Opening of Meeting:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first in person meeting following the easing of Covid restrictions and explained the rigorous safety measures that had been put in place in advance of holding the meeting in the **NTH**. **MW** noted numerous risk assessments had been carried out and advice had been sought from the Environmental Health Officer and the Community Police. **MW** also noted that the **NTH** had successfully been used as an election venue the previous week. All in attendance confirmed they were happy to continue the meeting in person.

MW informed attendees that Susan Wilkinson tendered her resignation from the **PCC** earlier in the day. It was agreed that Susan had been a valuable member of the **PCC** and had put a lot of work and effort into **PCC** initiatives and will be missed.

MW noted that the **PCC** is looking for new members going forward.

Proposal of April 2021 Minutes

The following correction to the April minutes was agreed:

- Page 2, amend road number to A917

It was also agreed that going forward, the agenda item Speeding/20s plenty would be changed to Road Safety on the A917.

The April minutes were proposed by L.Lauder and seconded by J.Wood.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr BP noted the following points:

- The Police have carried out speeding checks at the St Monans side of Pittenweem and spoke with drivers who were going too fast. It was suggested that the PCC request a formal report from the Police.
- There have been both positive and negative responses following various conversations about East Neuk and Landward becoming a National Park.
- The West Braes pool project is now complete, and the swimming pool is open to the public. A grand opening is planned for 7 August 2021.

Cllr LH noted there was nothing additional to report as all updates would be covered in agenda items.

Cllr JD noted he attended an East Neuk Now committee meeting where there were discussions about promoting a 'Visit East Neuk' Facebook page and mobile app. It was noted the **PCC** is the only community council registered on the East Neuk Now website, and that businesses are being encouraged to register too.

Matters Arising

Tolbooth Steeple

PM reported that work started during the past week on the masonry and clock faces. **Cllr LH** reported that she is still waiting on a meeting to discuss policy on maintaining common good properties. It was agreed that it important to have clarity on maintenance of common good properties given the number of these properties in the area. **Cllr LH** will chase this up.

MUPS

Susan Wilkinson has forwarded all correspondence and documentation to **MW** regarding the work she has been involved with in relation to the **MUP**. **PM** provided the latest update on the **MUP** cycling route project. It was noted that there had been a meeting with the Anstruther Cycle Group on 7th May. A community survey was supposed to be agreed by this point but was still not ready. The process is very slow and is the cause of a lot of frustration to all the community groups involved. It was noted that a community survey was conducted by ENCAP which provided useful information in terms of general support for a safe cycle route, however further consultation and detail on proposed routes is needed urgently. Our guest asked about the planned **MUP** route that passed behind the Milton Road houses. He was informed that this is the preferred Anstruther Cycle Group path and not supported by the **PCC**. The next meeting to discuss **MUPS** is on May 26th.

Road Safety on A917

It was noted that a road traffic incident discussed at the previous **PCC** meeting occurred at a different location than previously thought. It was noted that no follow up information had been received from the Police on this either. **Cllr LH** noted that for reporting purposes, if there has been an accident without injury, it is not included in data.

It was proposed that the **PCC** campaigns for better road markings at speed limits. Installing speed cameras was also discussed although it was noted that this is likely to be expensive. **Cllr LH** noted there is a new person in charge of **FC's** Roads Department who may be able to assist and agreed to write to Lesley Craig inviting her to do a walk around of Pittenweem to outline problems and get agreement on possible solutions.

Community Consultation

It was noted that Susan Wilkinson had previously posted a question on the Pittenweem community Facebook page inviting suggestions for topics to be included in a community consultation. It was noted that Susan had agreed to take this piece of work forward prior to her resignation. It was agreed that a community consultation is overdue given the last one took place in 2012. To take this forward it was agreed that a dedicated meeting with the **PCC** and

Councillors is required. **Cllr LH** noted there may be funding available via **FC's** Community Development Service for this project, and it would be useful to invite Sheena Watson from that department to the meeting. **PM** agreed to make contact.

Out of Hours

Nothing to update.

Recycling Centre

Cllr JD noted he has approached **FC** again about setting up a telephone line for recycling centre bookings and will keep **PCC** informed of progress. **LL** noted she emailed Steve Grimmond to enquire if recycling centres would reopen without the need to book with the easing of lockdown restrictions but has had no response. **Cllr LH** noted there is a motion from the Conservatives to reopen recycling centres as before, so there may be some further updates once this has taken place.

Police Report

It was noted a copy of the Police report was circulated to all **PCC** members. Since the last **PCC** meeting, 38 calls had been made to the Police from Pittenweem residents, with 4 crimes recorded. The Police noted that following speed checks in the area, 7 drivers received warnings.

Rewilding

No further update, although it was noted that rewilding is a **FC** wide initiative and the entire community will need to be consulted.

East Neuk Now Broadband

PM reported on a presentation at the East Neuk Community Council Forum where Simon Baldwin talked about the East Neuk Now broadband initiative that has already been rolled out in Cupar, with a view to bringing this to the East Neuk. The aim is to make good broadband accessible to the entire population. It was agreed that the idea is good but there are unanswered questions including safety concerns, effect on current network, ability to

service and maintain, visual impact of transmitters and cost and it will be important for **FC** to investigate these points fully.

Charles Street

MW contacted **FC** about the broken toby cover following recent roadworks. The email has been passed on to the Roads department, but nothing has been done yet.

Damaged Pavements

MW confirmed there was still no response from **FC** following the list of damaged pavements that was submitted for fixing. **Cllr LH** suggested escalating this to Lesley Craig.

Election

MW noted that the election process went smoothly, although there had been some vandalism around the hall the day before. Flower tubs had been pushed onto the ground and small fires had been lit nearby. Both incidents were reported to the Police. **MW** also noted she is in the process of obtaining quotes for CCTV cameras to be installed.

Give Way Sign

MW confirmed that the give way signage at the junction near the waterless bridge has been replaced. There was a brief discussion about a large advertising sign in the field next to the junction which could be obstructing drivers' views of the traffic coming from St Monans. It was agreed that it would be safer for this junction to operate with a stop sign. **Cllr BP** agreed to take this forward and to talk with the farmer about having the advertising sign moved out of the way to open up visibility.

Noticeboard

MW noted the joiner is having trouble sourcing a new lock to fit onto the noticeboard as the design has changed.

Benches

MW noted the benches need to be moved from the High Street to the garage next to the hall so that the Men's Shed can work on them. **LL** agreed to look into the loan of a trailer.

Twinning

MW noted there had been an incorrect email address previously used on correspondence which contributed to delays in taking this initiative forward. The next steps are to contact the Mayor of the town and set up a friendship and twinning agreement for both towns. It was noted that the main idea behind setting up this linkage would be to facilitate engagement with the Schools and to create projects involving the youth and elderly.

New Members

MW noted that the **PCC** urgently needs new members. Ruth Brown from Ovenstone who has previously attended meetings could be co-opted but without voting rights. **MW** will add this to the agenda for the next in person meeting when Ruth is in attendance.

Abbeywall Road

It was noted that work is ongoing on Abbeywall Road with repairing the wall etc. however the road surface is starting to break due to water coming up. It was noted it is likely to be a drainage issue. The **PCC** will copy Councillors into the communications to **FC** about getting the road fixed.

Cemetery Gates

It was noted that the cemetery gates have now been painted and tidied up. Thanks were noted to **PM** for taking this forward.

West Braes

Nicola Thomson sent a written update to confirm that the Pittenweem swimming pool had its final inspection and was approved for use on Friday 7 May 2021. A soft opening has taken place to allow people to make use of the pool, but a grand opening is planned for 7 August 2021, and it is hoped this can form part of a gala day. Thanks were noted to the **PCC** for supporting this project.

Planning

JW noted the following planning applications since the last PCC meeting:

- 26 High Street. Replacement boundary wall.
- Installation of floodlights and containers at Tennis Club (noted that floodlights will not be kept switched on all night).
- 12 Charles Street. Alterations for stair and attic conversion.
- 6 High Street. Single storey extension
- Community Library. Outside alterations (although noted work has already finished on this)
- 54 High Street. Change of use to dwelling house
- 15 High Street. External alterations and replacement windows

It was noted that it might be useful for **JW** to learn how to become a statutory consultee in relation to planning as this would allow PCC time to make responses. It was noted that members of the public can also put in individual objections. It was also noted that a total of 6 objections are required for planning applications to go to a committee review.

It was noted that the community at the top of Milton Road were not informed of a recent change of use of a building and therefore did not have the opportunity to submit objections. **Cllr JD** noted Keith Winter at **FC** would be the person to contact about this.

Secretary's Report

LL provided the following updates:

- All mail received was circulated to **PCC** members. Going forward, **LL** will circulate this a day in advance of the **PCC** meeting to give members enough time to review.
- A resident highlighted concerns about a rat problem in their garden. **LL** passed on the relevant contact information for reporting this to **FC**.
- An email was received from Burntisland Community Council regarding their Community Police which was forwarded on to **PCC** members.
- Now that the restrictions are easing **LL** sent an email dated 21/4/21 to Stuart Goodfellow for an update on the yellow lines in South Loan but still waiting on a reply.

- Work is being carried out to tidy up the wall at Abbeywall Road.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that no report has been received this month

Chair's report

MW noted that the **NTH** has its first boot sale booked for 29 May 2021 and that some tables are still available. This has been circulated to groups who are looking to fundraise.

A.O.C.B

The following points were noted:

- There have been various reports of vandalism recently including damage to the new rendering on the NTH and damage in the School playground. This has been reported to the Police with a request to carry out spot checks.
- There have been several reports of an increase in rats in the area. The Environmental Health department were contacted following a complaint about discarded waste from a fish shed. Housekeeping measures were implemented, and the situation is being monitored.
- It was agreed the North East Fife Area Committee papers can be sent to members of the PCC. LL will take this forward.
- A survey was sent out in February from the Fife Voluntary Action asking for stories about coping with the Covid lockdown.

Thanks were noted to Margaret for her efforts to get the hall ready for use, and particularly for facilitating the resumption of in person PCC meetings.

MW closed the meeting at 8.50pm by thanking everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th June 2021 at 7:00pm in the NTH.

Abbreviations:

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

Cllr LH - Councillor Linda Holt, Cllr - JD Councillor John Docherty and Cllr 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