

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom
on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7pm

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

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

Apologies: Martin Butters, Anne Butters, Gary McClure

Public Attending: No members of the public were in attendance.

Opening of Meeting:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

November 2020 Minutes

Proposed by P. Mills, seconded by J.Wood

Councillors' Reports

Cllr LH provided the following updates:

- The Councillors met with the Police and it was noted that due to Covid restrictions, Police can only carry out essential business at this time.
- It was noted there is a big rise in financial fraud scam calls and the Police want to highlight this within local communities. **Cllr LH** will send information for adding to the noticeboard.
- Any Covid breaches can be reported to the Police using an online form on the Police Scotland website.

Cllr JD provided the following updates:

- Grit bins have not been filled due to supply issues with grit coming into **FC**. The supply issues are Covid related.
- All Councillors are continuing to highlight issues with access to the Pittenweem Recycling Centre and are pushing for a dedicated telephone booking system.

Cllr BP provided the following updates:

- **Cllr BP** highlighted the current problem with financial fraud and urged people in the community to speak out if they think there is suspicious activity.
- Thanks were noted to all individuals who are helping people in the community during the pandemic.
- There is a forthcoming discussion item with the East Neuk Forum relating to whether East Neuk and Landward should become a national park.

Jim Taylor's Retirement

MW noted Jim Taylor thanked the **PCC** for his retiral voucher.

University Terrace

An email had been received from a concerned resident about the prospect of the return of a problematic Fife Council tenant to a property in University Terrace. **Cllr LH** noted that tenancy can be removed from residents but only under certain conditions. Councillors will be vigilant over this matter.

Pittenweem Harbour

It was noted that a report is expected following the sinking of the Carisma fishing vessel. **Cllr BP** will follow up on this.

Noticeboard

MW is due to meet with a joiner to see what can be done to repair the broken lock on the noticeboard.

Tolbooth Steeple

PM reported account details have been supplied and that two requests for funding for the work on the clockface are going ahead. **PM** noted thanks to the Councillors for letters of support and thanks to Janice Laird for her help in this matter.

MUPS

SW and **PM** participated in a walkaround in Pittenweem to look at potential cycle path routes. A project manager has been appointed to coordinate activities and suggestions amongst various local groups in relation to the creation of a cycle path. It was noted an alternative proposal is being considered by the Anstruther Cycle Group which will impact on Pittenweem. There was a lengthy discussion about how best to proceed to ensure Pittenweem residents' interests are best represented in relation to the location of the cycle route. **Cllr JD** suggested carrying out a risk assessment on any proposed routes and will be in touch with **PM** about this. It was agreed that **SW** will look into costings for a consultation with local residents using the money from Sustrans that has been ring-fenced specifically for this purpose. There is another meeting with the group carrying out the feasibility study towards the end of February which **SW** and **PM** will attend. Concerns were raised about being forced into a less desirable route, and it was noted by the **PCC** that prompt action on this matter is desirable.

Out of Hours

No new information to report.

Recycling Centre/Fly Tipping

It was noted that the Pittenweem Recycling Centre was closed for a significant amount of time over the festive period. Complaints have been received about fly tipping in field entrances and at the recycling area beside the cemetery. All Councillors noted that **FC** is not receptive to these problems being raised. It was noted that raising this with the press might be a good way forward. During the meeting an additional example of fly tipping at the top of Abbeywall Road was raised which **Cllr BP** agreed to take forward. It was noted that there is a dedicated online form to report specific instances of fly tipping. **Cllr LH** noted she had requested information on fly tipping rates from **FC** which appear to indicate there has not been an increase despite the anecdotal evidence provided. **SW** highlighted again the issue of excluding certain groups or people who are unable to use an online booking system to access the Recycling Centre.

West Braes Pool Project

An update has been received from the West Braes Project about the progress of the work on the outdoor swimming pool during the past four weeks. **Cllr BP** highlighted that the project is going very well. The **PCC** noted they are pleased with the progress and noted thanks for the report received which was very helpful to have sight of.

Rewilding/Grassland Consultation

No further update to report.

Police Report

It was noted a copy of the Police report was circulated to all **PCC** members. Since the last **PCC** meeting, 16 calls had been made to the Police from Pittenweem residents. It was noted that there appears to be confusion about the location request for Police speed checks i.e. the request is for checks to be carried out within Pittenweem itself. **Cllr BP** confirmed that all landowners have agreed to provide access for speed checks, but that the Police do not currently have the resource due to Covid, and are only handling high level crime.

Speeding

it was noted that the **PCC** had received a letter from a local resident requesting for the speed limit to be reduced to 20mph throughout Pittenweem. It was noted that more information would be required e.g. speed surveys and consultation with residents before a formal proposal could be put forward. **Cllr BP** highlighted again the lack of Police resource due to Covid and the need to prioritise urgent Police work at this time. **SW** noted that an online survey was carried out last year and the outcome found that most people did not want a 20mph speed limit through Pittenweem. **PCC** members voted on the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit through Pittenweem with only one member voting in favour of this.

Cove Wynd Lighting

Cllr JD noted Cove Wynd lighting repair is still in progress and will chase this up again.

Potholes, David Street

PCC members raised concerns that nothing has been done to date to rectify the potholes in David Street despite these being initially reported to **FC** months ago. **SW** also noted that a knocked over give way sign had also been reported, but not action had been taken by **FC**. The Councillors suggested encouraging more individual reports of these problems and also submitting images to **FC** to prompt action. **PCC** members suggested that the responsibility should not be on residents to continually report these issues. **Cllr BP** agreed to take this forward again, but also highlighted that **FC** will be prioritising work due to Covid.

Pavements

SW and **PM** identified several areas of pavement that could be considered for upgrading. **MW** will collate this information and submit on behalf of the **PCC**.

Cemetery Gates

No further update to report.

Abbeywall Embankment

It was confirmed that information received from **FC** noted that **FC** had been unable to determine ownership of the Abbeywall Embankment, but accept to do the minimum work to maintain the embankment, therefore it can be confirmed that the upkeep falls under **FC** responsibility. It was also noted that a section of Abbeywall Road will have a traffic calming measure introduced to prevent parking on the pavement.

Planning

JW noted there were three planning applications since the last **PCC** meeting.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that:

- The main account is sitting at £456.92
- The fundraising account is sitting at £4011.22
- A cheque payable to Jim Taylor for new Christmas lights (£125.93) has been processed.

Secretary's Report

LL provided the following updates:

- The data protection certificate was received on 12 December 2020.
- **LL** has signed the **PCC** up to 'East Neuk Now' and is awaiting confirmation of this.
- An email has been received from a resident highlighting concerns about icy pavements and roads and the lack of available grit and grit bins in the Milton Place area.

Chair's Report

MW provided the following updates:

- **JW** now has access to all relevant planning information.
- **MW** and **LL** are sorting out correspondence so that information is not sent in duplicate to **PCC** members.
- Coast Health have requested the use of the **NTH** for the Covid vaccination rollout in early February, although will be dependent on the availability of the vaccine.
- The **PCC** paid tribute to Sandy Smith who passed away and will be sadly missed within the community. Condolences were noted to his family from the **PCC** and the Councillors.

Session Street Gas Leak

There is concern about gas leakage in Session Street combined with the impact of potholes on the road directly next to the gas meter box. This was raised as a potentially serious health and safety issue if not addressed. **Clr BP** agreed to take this forward with the **FC** Roads department as soon as possible due to the risk involved, however it was noted that **FC** do not have responsibility for that section of road.

Economy Planning System

It was noted there is a meeting in February that **LL** will attend.

ENCEPT

SW noted that **ENCEPT** is still assisting with emergencies and that anyone with a problem, whether it be Covid related or not can ask for assistance. **ENCEPT** members are unable to enter homes but can assist with shopping and other support. **JW** will place a notice in the noticeboard as a reminder to the community about available help. **SW** also highlighted that the Coop is supporting **ENCEPT**, and that funds are raised through purchases made by Coop members.

A.O.C.B.

The following points were noted:

- A lot of complaints have been received about the lack of grit bins and existing grit bins not being filled. **Cllr JD** reiterated there is a problem with the supply of grit to **FC** due to Covid. The **PCC** urged **FC** to take some responsibility given there is a health and safety concern for people falling and injuring themselves on untreated surfaces. It was suggested that the **PCC** identifies specific streets that are problematic and pass these to **Cllr BP** who will take this forward with **FC**. **Cllr BP** will also follow up on empty grit bins.
- A pedestrian had fallen on rough untreated surface in the West Shore and sustained an injury. **FC** have confirmed this area is not their responsibility to maintain. **Cllr BP** will follow up to see if the **FCCT** would be willing to maintain the area.
- Problems with parked cars blocking access at the bottom of Water Wynd was highlighted. Householders are unable to get their cars to their houses due to access being blocked. It was noted that if parked cars are causing an obstruction, the Police can be called although it was also noted that this will not be deemed a priority due to Covid. **Cllr JD** will contact traffic wardens to take this forward.
- **MW** reported that it has been decided to keep the Christmas lights up until the end of February. There have been lots of repairs required to the lights since they have been put up and thanks were noted to Jim Wood and Jim Taylor for all the work they have done on this. It was agreed that once the lights are taken down, they will be checked and renewed if necessary.
- **MW** raised a query about an application for **NTH** funding that was submitted to the Business Gateway in Glenrothes. The application was to obtain much needed funding to cover costs of maintaining the **NTH** during lockdown, however the outcome suggested that the application was declined due to the discretion for management to decide if such community venues remain open, which seemed at odds with government guidance. **Cllr JD** will follow up on this.
- **SW** noted that Foundation Scotland has opened a resilience fund and will circulate the link and put a notice in the noticeboard.
- **SW** noted that the East Neuk First Responders are operating but there is a shortage of first responders at the moment.
- There is a Coop Neighbour Award where people can nominate neighbours who have carried out good deeds.

MW closed the meeting at 9.15pm by thanking everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: Thursday 11th February 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.
 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

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