



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: M. Wardlaw, **Vice Chair:** D. Lucas **Treasurer:** M. Wardlaw
Secretary: **Co-opted Members:** D Stutchfield, Nigel Mathers
Members: E. Boyd P. Mills, J. Wood, S. Moreland

Website – www.aboutpittenweem.org.uk

**PCC MEETING ON THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE NEW
TOWN HALL AT 7pm**

PRESENT: Margaret Wardlaw, Evelyn Boyd, Stewart Moreland, Duncan Lucas, David Stutchfield, Jim Wood, Peter Mills and Nigel Mathers.

COUNCILLORS: Cllr. Sean Dillon, Cllr Alycia Hayes

APOLOGIES: Cllr Fiona Corps

INVITED GUESTS:

PUBLIC ATTENDING: 4 members of public attended.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 17th August

Approval proposed by **JW** and seconded by **EB**.

Vote of thanks the community council thanked L Lauder who stood down as secretary in August for her tireless work and support.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS:

Cllr SD reported:

Playpark Redevelopment:

Designs for the playpark have been pushed back to early November due to capacity issues with the contractor. Since the last CC meeting, £200 has been kindly donated by Pittenweem Wine Club. The group are thinking of having somewhere for people to donate money, one thought being a tin in the Hub.

Pittenweem Church:

The working group had their second meeting on Tuesday, 12th of September. The outcome of this meeting is to engage a consultant to carry out a feasibility study and possibly to resurrect the Pittenweem Community Trust as a body to oversee the building should it remain in public ownership.

Station Court Street Naming:

Following the consultation with the elected members and due to the names suggested by the Community Council not being eligible, the two streets in the new development at Station Court will be **Kellie View & St Fillans Wynd**.

NEF Community Manager:

Unfortunately, the current Community Manager for NEF is unavailable due to illness. If you require anything from him, please contact Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities (paul.vaughan@fife.gov.uk).

RAAC in Public Buildings:

Following developments in England, residents are rightly concerned about the use of RAAC (Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) in public buildings. I have spoken with the council's head of property services who has confirmed that in so far as can be determined, there is no RAAC present in any Fife Council-owned buildings. With regards to NHS Fife buildings, "Following an initial desk-based survey of NHS buildings across Scotland, parts of some of our buildings were identified as potentially containing Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in their construction. More detailed surveys have recently been carried out to determine whether the material is present in any of the most likely buildings identified and we await the results. These surveys will also determine any requirements in terms of ongoing monitoring or whether any immediate or future remedial action is required. It should also be noted that RAAC has been found in Ninewells Hospital."

Pension Credit

The council is currently writing to all individuals who may be entitled to Pension Credit, encouraging them to apply. Every year, millions of pounds in benefits go unclaimed in Fife. Anyone over the age of 66 may be entitled and this benefit not only tops up pensions, it also entitles the recipient to a £300 cost of living payment in the autumn.

To apply, visit our.fife.scot/gethelp/pensioncredit or telephone 0800 952 0330.

Scotrail Fife & Tay Cities Timetable Consultation

Between the 11th of September and 23rd of October, Scotrail are carrying out a consultation on their planned timetable for 2025. This includes a consultation on the timetable for the new Leven & Cameron Bridge stations. Following the opening of the Levenmouth railway in late spring 2024, Scotrail will operate an interim timetable with either 1 train per hour to Edinburgh via Kirkcaldy or 2 trains per hour via Dunfermline.

Details of the consultation can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/Fife-rail>

Cllr AH reported:

All Fife councillors and education staff will be trained in Trauma Informed Practice, looking at the impact of life events on young people, supporting positive youth behaviour and coping mechanisms. Further information is

available at: www.fife.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0030/185466/Trauma-Training-E-Learning.pdf

There is a new Fife Tourism Strategy which will focus on Slow Tourism, encouraging tourists to remain longer in the community and focussing on a sense of place. This strategy was reported by Fife Today on 8th Sept <https://tinyurl.com/fifeturism2023>

POLICE REPORT – previously sent to all PCC members, 22 calls with 0 crimes reported for Pittenweem.

ST MARGARET’S FARM housing development – nothing new to report

STATION COURT housing development – street names confirmed in Cllr SD report. **No other update submitted.**

WEST BRAES CAR PARK motorhomes overnight parking – concerns were raised by public attending PCC over the poor enforcement of the parking regulations with more than 5 motorhomes parked overnight, and a desire to feed back to FCCT in their autumn consultation over the operation of the car park.

Many of the Community are still very much against this project.

ACTION: MW to report concerns to FCCT and invite R. Blyth to the October meeting.

LARACHMOHR mural – Cllr SD has emailed FC planning office regarding enforcement of the refusal of retrospective planning permission. **To date no reply has come back from FC.**

MUPS - work on the multi-use path from Anstruther to Pittenweem continues. **The monthly meeting will be held at New Town Hall, Pittenweem on Friday 22nd September at 2pm.**

SUP/ELIE – members of the public expressed concern over the proposed shared use path route through Ninian Fields. **MW as asked to read out a letter from households who had put together a petition regarding the problems in this area. It was signed by all the house holders.** Most Ninian Fields residents are concerned over road safety, delivery parking with and increase in cycling activity and suggested the path followed to field boundary around the estate. It was noted that the farmer will not give permission for the path to pass north of the houses in his fields at this point, and Fife Council had advised that the best route was through Ninian Fields.

Fife Council have confirmed that they have insufficient staff to liaise with land agents for the complete route, and Sustrans are now paying for external consultants to do this on FC's behalf.

Sustrans have also agreed to look at designating the path a "Managed Cycle Network" as it would be part of a feeder link into the new Levenmouth Rail station. If successful, this would mean Sustrans will fund the route and continued maintenance. **Cllr SD** and **AH** agreed to support this proposal.

SCOTTISH WATER – update on sewer work in Pittenweem. Preliminary excavations have been made at the harbour with temporary restoration of the cobbles, as significant work will start in the autumn which will have a major disruption to East Shore.

EAST NEUK OF FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRIORY BOARDS – secretary has emailed PCC response to ENPS and no further replies.

PITTENWEEM ARTS FESTIVAL – washup meeting held on Friday 8th September. It is estimated that **approx.** 15,000 people attended the festival this year. The new trustees **are working** well, and the income covered the ~ £70,000 costs such as staffing costs, hall rental, toilet and equipment hire. Next year more evening activities are planned.

SKATEPARK MEETING – a meeting was held on Wednesday 30th August and PCC was represented by DL and SM. The appraisal process is being redone, and the conclusions will be presented to the Cllrs. Three options are being considered; West Braes Pittenweem, Bankie Park and rear of Waid Academy in Anstruther, and these sites were appraised based on several criteria. No decision on location has yet been made.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / FIFE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME/LOCAL PLACE PLAN

DS reported that Planning Aid Scotland have been providing support webinars for Fife Communities preparing Local Place Plans, and any other PCC member is welcome to join them. The PCC welcomed his idea of preparing draft ideas for an LPP for a future meeting. The next Community Council which meets in October is encouraged to set up a steering group and public consultations to finalise ideas for a Pittenweem Local Place Plan,

Action DS to set out draft ideas for a LPP

COMMON GOOD - Cllr AH noted that as part of the new tourism strategy, any Common Good items (such as town chains of office, long case clocks,

historic documentation) **can** now be returned to communities if they request them.

She reported that other Fife communities are now questioning irregularities in FC's handling of Common Good Funds. FC have issued a consultation for a new Common Good statement, with a view to disposal of old building assets, preferably through community asset transfer. She requested a meeting to draft the formal letter of complaint about the current FC handling of Common Good Assets.

Action MW and PM to meet Cllr AH to draft the formal letter of complaint.

CHURCH CLOSURES As per Cllr SD report. It was noted that the proceeds of the sale of any assets (such as the church hall) will go either to the new East Neuk parish or to the general trustees. Cllr SD is coordinating with the church bodies and local congregation.

PLAY PARK As per Cllr SD report.

CYCLE RACKS: No further action

TREE PLANTING SIGN: Weem Wuid sign is now ready, Footprint East Neuk has commissioned another sign **which MW has asked to see a picture.**
Action: MW to communicate with Footprint East Neuk to determine locations of signs

ROAD/STREET SIGNS: It was noted that there is resurfacing of University Avenue, Sandycraig Road and Queen Elizabeth Road between 2nd and 6th October. It was explained that the No Entry signs are being held up owing to the electric light fitted within these signs, meaning different parts of Fife Council are responsible for the signs.

PLANNING REPORT: 2 new planning applications and single storey extension at the Anchorage is passed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: there is no report since there no longer is a Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current account balance of £1559.88. Currently only one valid signatory and we need two on the bank account so any payments will wait until the new treasurer/signatory is elected at the next PCC meeting. Wreaths have been ordered for Remembrance Sunday.

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS The PCC annual accounts were presented and passed, showing total grant and interest income of £27,434.92 with expenditure

of £25,630.69 (This includes the Tolbooth Steeple repairs, community survey, jubilee celebrations and other costs).

CHAIR'S REPORT: As below:

TOLBOOTH STEEPLE – representative of FC was invited to attend a meeting with PCC but owing to health problems he had to decline.

PARK BENCHES , park bench with table, 10 week delivery on these items.

LIBRARY - PM noted that the Pittenweem Library has been successful in raising £72,000 needed for the toilet improvements and alterations, including £10,000 from the National Lottery.

LICENSING OF SHORT TERM LETS - PM requested that Pittenweem and the East Neuk be designated as a Control Zone for short term lets. **Cllr AH** noted that FC wish to know how many licenses are issued first to see the scale of the problem. Currently 692 licence applications received from East Neuk including 40 from Pittenweem.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS –The current PCC finishes on 27th September, and a new one must meet within a month. There are 8 members appointed to the new PCC. It was agreed the next meeting be held on 19th October owing to previous appointments by some of the new committee.

PM proposed a vote of thanks to **MW** for her leadership and work over the previous 5 years, including operating throughout covid and through many difficult times. This was wholeheartedly endorsed by all the members.

A.O.B. None

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7pm

ABBREVIATIONS:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council, MW – Margaret Wardlaw, LL – Linda Lauder, DL – Duncan Lucas, RB – Ruth Brown, PM – Peter Mills, SM – Stewart Moreland, JW – Jim Wood, EB – Evelyn Boyd, DS – David Stutchfield.

Cllr. FC – Council Fiona Corps, Cllr.SD – Councillor Sean Dillon,

Cllr. AH – Councillor Alycia Hayes.

FCCT – Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

FC – Fife Council