

**Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom
on Thursday 8th April 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 and invited members of the public in attendance to raise any issues for discussion.

Ruth Brown provided information about a campaign she is involved with called 'Power for People' which is a not for profit organisation campaigning for the UK to transition to clean energy. A new law is being proposed to parliament to make it easier for local energy groups to set themselves up as energy companies to make it easier to sell renewable energy to local people. The benefits were outlined including clean energy, money remaining in local communities for local services, a more secure energy supply and a faster transition to help the UK meet its climate change targets. It was noted that this bill has cross party support however **FC** is not one of the local authorities that currently supports this. Ruth agreed to send more information to the Councillors to see if this can be taken forward.

Nafeesa Abdul-Karim, a teacher from St Leonard's school in St Andrews, noted interest in finding out about any local community projects where senior school students could participate in volunteering opportunities. It was noted that the West Braes Project could be an avenue for participation. **Cllr LH** agreed to send some information on volunteering opportunities in Fife, including floral groups within local communities.

Proposal of March 2021 Minutes

Proposed by S.Wilkinson, seconded by P.Mills.

Councillors' Reports

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

Cllr JD noted he attended the East Neuk Forum and information is being collected about traffic signs that are damaged or broken so they can be reported to **FC** for action.

Matters Arising

MUPS

SW and **PM** attended a meeting with Allan MacLean from **FC**. There have been several lengthy meetings, but little progress seems to have been made. There is a lot of frustration about the lack of engagement with Pittenweem. **SUSTRANS** appear to want to progress quickly, however it was noted that an independent consultation was promised and must be carried out. Both Pittenweem and Anstruther would like a feasibility study and public

consultation. It had been suggested that community consultation may not go ahead until lockdown is lifted. It was noted that it has been a battle to put forward Pittenweem's viewpoints. Councillors **LH** and **JD** highlighted that agreement is needed that both the feasibility study and community consultation must be done by an independent body and agreed to be involved in future meetings to expedite the consultation process. The Councillors will ask Allan MacLean for an update on progress.

Tolbooth Steeple

PM reported that the scaffolding has been erected for the restoration of the steeple, tower and clock faces. **PM** confirmed that this work will be done at no cost to the Common Good Fund as funding is coming from Fife Council, Historic Environment Scotland and the Fife Environment Trust. It was noted a longer-term problem is what should be done with the building as it does not readily lend itself to use that would generate an income. **Cllr LH** agreed to write to **FC** to find out about their policy on maintaining Common Good properties and suggested participating in the Open Doors initiative would be a good way to publicise the restoration work. Thanks were noted to **PM** for all the good work he has done in taking this forward.

Road Safety on A971

The **PCC** were informed of a road traffic incident on the main road through Pittenweem where a child was knocked off their bike. **Cllr LH** noted she has already taken this forward with the Traffic Management department at **FC** and that the Police have been notified. It was noted that the Police have not mentioned this incident in their report to the **PCC**. **Cllr JD** will ask the Police to include information on accidents in their reports going forward. **Cllr LH** noted that it is unlikely the Police will be able to attend future Community Council meetings due to lack of resource, and that liaising with Traffic Management at **FC** could be more effective in getting action taken. It was noted that there could be various issues at play aside from speed, including lack of patience from drivers, and narrow roads. It was agreed that questions around improving road safety should be included in a Pittenweem community survey, and that it would be useful to write to the Police and Traffic Management at **FC** to find out what realistic options might be for improving road safety. It was noted that a group of residents in Colinsburgh may have good contacts following a similar piece of work done there to improve road safety.

Community Consultation

It was agreed that it would be useful to set up a working group to ascertain what needs to be included in a community consultation so that an accurate costing for carrying this out can be obtained. It was agreed that the previous survey from 2012 could be used as a starting point. **SW** will take this forward.

Recycling Centre

Cllr LH noted she is continuing to contact **FC** about the lack of access to the Pittenweem

Recycling Centre. **SW** noted she has written to the head of **FC** but has had no response. **SW** has also contacted Age Concern about the discriminatory element of online only bookings.

Police Report

It was noted a copy of the Police report was circulated to all **PCC** members. Since the last **PCC** meeting, 21 calls had been made to the Police from Pittenweem residents, with 1 crime recorded. The Police noted that they are not able to carry out requested speed checks due to a lack of officers.

Cove Wynd Lighting

PM reported a replacement lamp in keeping with the Edwardian style of lamps in Pittenweem was ordered on 11 March to replace the broken light at Cove Wynd and will be in place in about 8-10 weeks from order.

Cemetery Gates

PM reported that **FC**'s Bereavement Service Manager has been in touch and is looking into the problems with the cemetery gates.

Damaged Pavements

MW confirmed there was still no response from **FC** following the list of damaged pavements that was submitted for fixing.

East Fife Mail District News

LL confirmed that a summary of the March **PCC** minutes was published in the 31 March edition of the East Fife Mail.

Janice Laird's Retiral

It was noted that the person taking over from Janice Laird at **FC** following her retiral is Donald Grant.

Give Way Sign

MW confirmed that the give way sign at the junction near the waterless bridge has been put back up. **SW** noted that she has already had to follow up with **FC** as the sign is too short and has started to list. A team from **FC** are due to come to look at the sign again. It was also noted that a new **FC** reporting system has been launched and is difficult to use and has made the process of reporting faults very complicated. Questions were raised about equal access for those making reports given telephone numbers for reporting faults are no longer readily available. Councillors asked **SW** to submit a complaint to Steve Grimmond at **FC** and to copy the Councillors into this communication. **Cllr JD** also agreed to raise this with the Equality and Rights Commission

Historic Environment Scotland Fund

PM noted that Historic Environment Scotland is funding 60% of the Tolbooth Steeple clock face repairs.

Noticeboard

MW confirmed the joiner will go ahead with replacing the lock and rebalancing the noticeboard to improve opening and closing of it. **MW** also noted that the Men's Shed group are still not working due to Covid, so there is no further update on the work due to take place on the benches.

Charles Street

It was noted that following the resurfacing work in Charles Street, there have since been two water leaks which has meant sections of the resurfaced road have had to be dug up. A complaint has also been received from a householder as a water toby was broken during this emergency work. **Cllr LH** will send **MW** contact details for **FC's** Transportation team so that a complaint can be submitted.

Harbour Creel Pots

It was noted that a skip has been placed at the harbour for clearing up fishermen's waste, but the skip is now overflowing and needs to be removed. **Cllr JD** will chase this up with **FC**.

Twinning

MW noted that she has not been able to obtain any useful information to inform the twinning process. **MW** will contact the representatives of the town in France to determine if there is still interest in taking this forward.

New Members

There was a discussion about members of the community becoming **PCC** members. It was noted that in order to have voting rights on the committee, members must live within the designated parish area, however there is the possibility of co-opting non-voting members. It was noted that these rules are set by the Scottish Government. **Cllr JD** suggesting contacting the **FC** Community Council Liaison department to get further clarification on the policy around this.

Tennis Club

It was noted that the Pittenweem Tennis Club is continuing to crowd fund for new facilities and the target amount has almost been reached.

Planning

JW noted there were seven planning applications since the last **PCC** meeting including:

- Shed at Milton Road. Planning application permitted.
- 54 A High Street. Art studio to dwelling house. Planning application pending.
- 12 Charles Street. Listed building consent permitted for roof lights, internal alterations and exterior painting.
- 10 Toft Court. Replacement roof and attic conversion. Building warrant pending.
- 10-12 High Street. Internal alterations & additional shower room. Building warrant approved.
- 19 Charles Street. Single storey rear extension. Building work started.

- 20 James Street. Demolition of sunroom and chimney stack. Building warrant pending.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that:

- The main account balance is £416.92
- The fundraising account is £3835.29
- **MW** confirmed that £2000 ringfenced for the community consultation sits within the fundraising account.

Secretary's Report

LL provided the following updates:

- The board of the Pittenweem Arts Festival has decided to cancel this year's festival due to the ongoing Covid situation. Depending on the state of play later in the summer, a curated series of exhibitions may be held in the festival gallery which would provide an artistic presence on the High Street in a controlled space. Information can be found on the Pittenweem Arts Festival website.
- The **PCC** attended the East Neuk Community Council Group. At the meeting, discussions included: an issue raised by First Responders in relation to obtaining appropriate insurance from **FC** to cover callouts to assist with falls. There was a presentation about a proposal for a new Broadband scheme which was been rolled out in Cupar and is proposed to be rolled out in the East Neuk of Fife. There was also a presentation on National Parks.
- As previously mentioned, a short summary of the last **PCC** meeting was included in the East Fife mail and **LL** will circulate a draft of April's minutes to **PCC** members for inclusion in a future edition.
- **LL** thanked **SW** for her work on getting the give way sign put back up at the waterless bridge junction and also thanked **PM** for securing funding for the Tolbooth Steeple repairs.

Chair's Report

- **MW** reported that she has been informed that potholes are developing in Abbeywall Road and that the potholes in the cemetery car park have not yet been fixed. It was also noted that the recycling bins in the carpark are overflowing.
- **MW** noted that Nicola Thomson was unable to attend to provide an update on the West Braes Project. **Cllr LH** noted that grant money has been awarded to the **WBP** to assist with paying rent and insurance, and that further funding is being sought to help the **WBP** with the costs associated with looking after the swimming pool.

A.O.C.B.

The following points were noted:

- There was a discussion about adding the **PCC** minutes to an appropriate website for members of the public to access. **PCC** members agreed that it would be useful to host these on the About Pittenweem website that is maintained by Georgina Stutchfield.
- Following the East Neuk Forum meeting **Cllr LH** took the opportunity to ask the **PCC** if they would support an application for **FC** to fund a Levelling-Up project to supply superfast broadband via Wi-Fi to North East Fife. It was noted that rural areas have particularly poor broadband connectivity and this scheme would address this. For the proposal to pass, community support is needed. There were reservations about supporting this without more information. Given public money would be used for this scheme, there were questions around the possibility of reducing the signal from those already using fibre, and health implications from implementing this scheme in the area. The idea of widening access to broadband was supported, but it was agreed that further information is needed. **Cllr LH** will forward details of the person leading the initiative so that information can be sought.
- The idea of North East Fife and Landward becoming a national park was also discussed at the East Neuk Forum meeting. It was agreed that this should be discussed in more detail at the next **PCC** meeting so that the pros and cons can be outlined.

MW closed the meeting at 9.08pm by thanking everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7:00pm.

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