

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom
on Thursday 10th December 2020 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 S.Wilkinson, Seconded by P.Mills

MW clarified that the minutes referred to in the November meeting for approval (i.e. October minutes) were those circulated by **MW** to **PCC** members.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr BP provided the following updates:

- **Cllr BP** visited the West Braes pool and spoke with the contractor who indicated good progress is already being made. An access road has been created and further staff are due on site to continue with the work.
- Fibre superfast broadband is currently being laid in Sandycraig Road and Queen Elizabeth Road.
- There was a **FC** meeting which included a report on Common Good funds, including Pittenweem. **Cllr BP** will send this to **PCC** members for information.

Cllr LH provided the following updates:

- A meeting was held with the **FC** department that deals with road spending and it was noted that there is funding left in the budget for small projects e.g. pavements needing treated or resurfaced, and traffic management e.g. signage. **Cllr LH** advised that any requests for the Pittenweem area should be submitted before Christmas.
- The road from Pittenweem to Ovenstone is due for major resurfacing as part of a programme scheduled for 2021.
- The ongoing issue of significant potholes in the area was raised and **Cllr LH** advised that these need to be reported both to **FC** and Councillors, particularly where the potholes are dangerous and damaging to cars. **Cllr LH** will resend contact details of specific officers dealing with this to **PCC** members.
- **MW** noted that David Street and the cemetery carpark still have extremely bad potholes despite this being reported several times. **Cllr LH** agreed to write to **FC** about this.

Cllr JD provided the following update:

- The Scottish Government has committed money for young people to get involved in sport.

Pittenweem Harbour

The **PCC** had been informed of an incident with the Carisma fishing vessel outside the Pittenweem harbour walls on 15 November 2020. It was noted that the boat got into difficulty and subsequently sank. The Lifeboat was called and the Carisma crew were rescued. Debris washed up on the shore and the remains of the boat have been salvaged and are now sitting at the harbour. It was noted there is no apparent problem with fuel spillage as a specialist clear up took place at the time to prevent damage.

Noticeboard

MW has emailed a joiner to come and look at the problems with the noticeboard. To date there has been no response, but **MW** will follow up on this.

Tolbooth Steeple

PM reported he applied on behalf of the **PCC** to Historic Environment Scotland and the Fife Environmental Trust for funding of around £10,000 per application to repair the clockface. No decisions have been made to date. Thanks were noted to **PM** for taking this forward on behalf of the **PCC**. It was noted that the Old Town Hall renovations are almost complete. It was agreed that improvements with the Common Good properties are pleasing to see.

MUPS

SW and **PM** attended an introductory meeting of the steering group for shared paths on 1 December 2020. The meeting discussed plans and it was highlighted that the cost could be around £1.1million and construction could commence in 2023. **SW** and **PM** have planned a walkaround meeting on 15 December 2020 to look at the areas in Pittenweem where the path might pass through, including flagging dangerous spots. **SW** and **PM** agreed to also take time to look at pavements and note if any repairs are needed.

Out of Hours

It was noted that a thank you came through on 1 December 2020 from Penelope Fraser regarding the joint effort at St Andrews Hospital Out of Hours.

Recycling Centre

Cllr LH provided an update on communications with **FC** about the reduced opening hours and booking system currently in place for the Pittenweem Recycling Centre. **Cllr Vettraino**, who is the Convener of the Environment, Protective Services & Community Safety Committee for **FC**, indicated the Recycling Centre has been used more since the new online booking system was implemented. **PCC** members highlighted this does not match with the community's experiences. **Cllr BP** noted he has repeatedly written to **Cllr Vettraino** to highlight that the booking system is poor and not adequate for users. **Cllr JD** has also repeatedly raised that not all users have internet access, therefore the booking system is discriminatory. **Cllr LH** will take this forward again. The **PCC** discussed making an official complaint about the current system, particularly in relation to discrimination against those who are unable to use the online system. It is agreed that this is not just a problem for Pittenweem, but for the wider East Neuk, and that contacting other Community Councils in the area for support may add weight to a letter of complaint.

PM noted that **FC** had not been providing households with food waste bags, however these are now available for collection from the Pittenweem Community Library.

West Braes

Comments about the state of the pathway at the St Monans side of the pool had been noted. A fence has now been erected, so it seems that action is being taken to address this. It was noted that there has been a lot of work on the coastal path towards St Monans due to sea erosion. **Cllr JD** noted that a recent Greenpeace study indicated more significant sea erosion is expected in Fife coastal areas.

Cllr BP noted that electric charging points at the West Braes will happen, but no date has been confirmed yet.

Rewilding/Grassland Consultation

LL and **PM** attended a virtual meeting with the Fife Communities Climate Action Network where the process of rewilding was explained. **PM** noted there seemed to be an understanding that rewilding is both complex and initially involves more expense due to the processes involved and it was agreed that this year's failure to cut grass due to Covid, was not a rewilding attempt. The public consultation is ongoing until the end of December, however it's not clear that the public have sufficient information to respond appropriately. **PM** will forward the link to the recording of the meeting to **PCC** members and Councillors. **Cllr LH** expressed a view that **FC** have not done enough for green areas and have used Covid as an excuse, and that this could be highlighted to the press, particularly given the East Neuk has proportionally less green space than anywhere else in Fife. It was agreed that if the **PCC** decide to put out a press statement, a vote would need to be taken at a meeting and text would need to be agreed by all members beforehand.

Police Report

In the last month 19 calls were made to the police.

It was noted that there had been a holiday house break in in Pittenweem, but no further update was available.

Speeding

It was noted that speeding into Pittenweem has been a problem for the last 20 years, but that **FC** now appear to be taking this seriously. **FC** have details of all landowners in the surrounding area, and permission has been granted for vehicles to be placed in fields for surveying speed. **Cllr JD** noted that Councillors have been pressing for all of the East Neuk to have speed limits reviewed at 20mph. **Cllr BP** noted that **FC** carried out a traffic survey between Anstruther and Pittenweem recently so do have accurate data. It was agreed the shared **MUP** might provide an opportunity to review speed limits and crossings. **SW** noted that the give way sign at the junction from the Waterless Bridge has been knocked over for some time and has not been reinstated yet.

Cove Wynd Lighting

There is a problem with lighting at Cove Wynd, and also a problem with lighting at the top of Water Wynd along with a damaged bollard. **LL** has reported this, and **Cllr JD** asked to be informed if it is not fixed soon so that he can chase this up.

Cemetery Gates

No further update. **Cllr JD** to chase this up with the Community Payback Team.

Abbeywall Embankment

Cllr LH chased this up with **FC** and will do so again.

Planning

JW has not yet been accepted by **FC** as the planning representative for **PCC**, however, was able to note there were two planning notifications in the past month.

Treasurer's Report

No new update to report.

Secretary's Report

LL provided the following updates:

- All **PCC** members have been sent a copy of emails received and sent.
- An email was received from researchers at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) who were gathering experiences about Covid and the effect it has had on the community during lockdown. All views were passed on, and thanks were received noting the information received was incredibly helpful and that the SRUC would pass on any updates in due course.
- There will be a temporary road closure in Charles Street from the Seaweed Shop down to the Scout Hall on Thursday 17th December between 9.30am and 3.30pm to allow Scottish Water to carry out work safely. A notice has been placed in the noticeboard.
- A resident in Viewforth Place had been in touch regarding fly tipping on the private land beside his property. This was passed on to **MW** who was able to email with the relevant information.
- East Neuk Now is a new app and website which allows Community Councils and businesses to sign up to access live information. All **PCC** members agreed that the **PCC** should sign up for this. **LL** will take this forward.
- A poster was put in the noticeboard about the Grasslands Management Consultation. This included a map of where rewilding is proposed to take place. This was also shared to the Pittenweem Facebook page and received a number of comments.

Chair's Report

MW provided the following updates:

- The **NTH** has had bookings already for next year based on the Arts Festival going ahead.
- Material is being sought for the East Neuk Now website. **Cllr JD** will get clarification about the purpose of the website and what might be needed from the **PCC**.

A.O.C.B.

The following points were noted:

- A request has been received for participants for personal research into a radiology transformation programme. It was noted that there appears to be an increasing number of these types of requests. It was agreed that **LL** will circulate these requests to **PCC** members, and it is personal choice whether to respond.

- A virtual exhibition for the Berwick Bank Offshore Windfarm is being advertised. **Cllr BP** will liaise with Willie Rennie and Wendy Chamberlain for an update on this given previous work carried out.
- The Pittenweem Christmas lights were switched on at 5pm on 9th December 2020. Approximately 30 people attended, and special thanks were noted to Jim Taylor, Jim Wood, George Thomson and Harry Thomson who worked hard throughout the day to get this set up. It was noted a donation of £100 was handed in for the Christmas tree lights fund by a local resident. **MW** noted it is hoped the Christmas lights will be left up until the end of February.
- **LL** passed on a breakdown of contents of the **ENCEPT** bag being stored at the **NTH** to **MW** in case of any queries.
- **MW** joined a meeting hosted by **FC** about village halls which covered all areas of health and safety within the community. It proved very useful and all groups in the area would benefit from attending a future meeting.

MW closed the meeting at 8:40pm by thanking everyone for attending and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 2021 at 7:00pm.

Abbreviations:

PCC – Pittenweem Community Council. MW - Margaret Wardlaw, JT - Jim Taylor, 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