

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom
on Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7pm

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

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

Apologies: Cllr. Linda Holt, 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 and noted it had still not been possible to revert to in person meetings in the NTH due to Tier 3 Covid restrictions in place in Fife.

Minutes

There was a discussion about the merits of recording the PCC minutes. It was suggested that it was not needed at present. A proposal for dealing with minutes directly after the meeting so they can be made available in draft format in the noticeboard ahead of the next meeting was discussed. The suggestion of circulating draft minutes to members to allow minor changes to be made within a two-week timescale of the meeting having taken place was put forward. This would mean draft minutes could be placed in the noticeboard without delay, and the draft minutes could be ratified at the next PCC meeting, with a final version subsequently placed in the noticeboard. PCC members voted unanimously in favour of this and agreed to proceed with this process.

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Proposed by P.Mills, Seconded by L.Lauder.

Noticeboard

A problem with accessing the High Street noticeboard was highlighted. It was noted that the condition of the noticeboard has deteriorated making it difficult to open and it can be dangerous in windy conditions. As this is a potential health and safety issue, it was agreed that MW will make some enquiries about possible repairs.

JW confirmed he is happy to place future notices in the noticeboard.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr BP provided the following updates:

- Armistice was marked by respectful services at various locations across the East Neuk.
- For discussion at the next PCC meeting: The possibility of providing disabled access on the the coastal path between Pittenweem and St Monans.

Cllr JD provided the following updates:

- Cllr JD hasn't been able to hold surgeries in the Pittenweem Library due to Covid restrictions.
- There is about to be a new rewilding consultation run by FC.
- The Scottish Government has announced free bus travel for all under 18-year olds.

- All Councillors are pressing for the introduction of 20mph zones in some East Neuk villages.
- **Cllr JD** continues to campaign for the full reopening of the Pittenweem Recycling Centre.
- **Cllr JD** laid a wreath in Pittenweem for Remembrance Sunday and there was a good number of people in attendance.

The **PCC** thanked **PM** for laying the wreaths on behalf of the **PCC** for Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed it was a well organised event all round.

University Avenue/Terrace

No update to report

Police/Road Reports

- It was noted that during the last month in the Pittenweem area there were 16 calls to Police Scotland which included the reporting of 2 crimes.
- A complaint received about speeding at Viewforth Place was discussed. **Cllr JD** will raise this with the Police. There was a suggestion to move the flashing speed sign further out of the village. **MW** will follow up with **Cllr LH**. It was noted that more people getting involved in community speed checks can be a deterrent for speeding. **PCC** asked Councillors to seek information from **FC** about possible measures to reduce speeding and report at the next PCC meeting.

Tolbooth Steeple

- It was noted that work will not start on the Tolbooth Steeple until Spring 2021 due to a delay in the cutting of stone as a consequence of a backlog of work following furlough of stonemasons.
- **PM** noted he had drafted an application for Historic Environment Scotland for 50% funding of the cost of the clock face repair. It was noted that the remaining 50% could be funded by **FC**. It was also noted that the Co-op has also released a funding opportunity that might cover this sort of application for funding.
- It was highlighted that the cost of repairing the body of the steeple is the next issue to consider, however information on costings is still required. It was noted that it is an ideal time to apply for funding before work begins, as retrospective funding cannot be applied for.
- It was noted that all Councillors are happy to provide written support for the Tolbooth project and grant applications.

OOH Update

No update to report as there been no new communication from the Health Board. It was agreed the item can come off the agenda and be added back on when there is a further update.

MUPS

It was noted a video meeting is scheduled for 1 December 2020 for all parties involved in the section of path from Anstruther to Elie. It was also noted that Sustrans are currently supporting 70% of the cost of the construction of the path, therefore only 30% of the cost needs to be generated. It was agreed that this project needs to gain momentum to retain commitment of funding.

Recycling Centre

The restrictions in place at the Pittenweem Recycling Centre were discussed. Issues with commercial waste disposal were highlighted, along with the online only booking system which excludes those who do not have access to internet. **PCC** agreed that action needs to be taken to open up access to the Recycling Centre to the whole community, and asked Councillors to take this forward.

David Street Potholes/Car Park/Cemetery Gates

It was highlighted that potholes have been fixed in Charles Street, but not in David Street, and that the car park still has significant potholes that continue to worsen when **FC** lorries enter and exit. **Cllr BP** will urgently chase this with **FC**.

It was noted that the cemetery gate hinges have been sorted but that the gates still need of painting. **Cllr BP** will take this forward.

Abbeywall Embankment

It was highlighted that **FC** had been asked by a member of the public to trim a pathway beside the embankment and make repairs to the wall. **FC** carried out these maintenance requests. It was agreed that this indicates responsibly likely lies with **FC** for the Abbeywall embankment. All Councillors will take this forward with **FC** and ask them to confirm they will take on the responsibility for the upkeep of the entire embankment going forward.

Spaces for People

Cllr BP noted this project was no longer being taken forward and could be removed from the agenda.

Rewilding Complaints

It was noted that a public consultation is being planned to take views on a proposed Rewilding project. It was agreed that posters about this should go into the noticeboard along with an electronic version for Facebook to spread awareness of the consultation process to the wider community. It was agreed that the **PCC** could express a view that the rewilding project must be expertly managed and that there needs to be a clear plan going forward so the community is informed.

Planning

JT provided the following report:

- There were 8 planning notification in the past month.
- Work Started (1) Permitted/Approved (5) New (2)
- It was confirmed that 42 Charles Street should only be used as a domestic building.

Jim Taylor confirmed that this meeting would be his last as his resignation notice period was up. It was confirmed that Jim Wood will take over the role of receiving planning information on behalf of the **PCC** going forward.

Thanks were recorded to Jim Taylor for his many years of service to the **PCC**.

Appointment of Secretary

LL agreed to formally take on the role of Secretary for the **PCC**. **J. Wood** proposed this, and **S. Wilkinson** seconded.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that no bank statement had been received to date. **MW** will check with the bank to see if the annual grant payment has been received.

Secretary's Report

- All **PCC** members have been sent a copy of emails received and sent.
- Funding has been secured from Transport Scotland for the Electric Vehicle Unit in Pittenweem at the West Braes, but due to a backlog with planning approval, the timescale is uncertain.
- An email was sent from the Circular Economy and Planning System regarding free online training for Community Councils and elected members. The purpose is to help members understand how the planning system works.
- The West Braes Project hopes that work will start in the next couple of weeks and should be completed early 2021.

West Braes

It was noted that a complaint received about the pathway two months ago by a resident is being taken forward.

Short Term Lets

It was noted that there is pending legislation about short-term lets. Issues with people travelling into Pittenweem from other areas when travel restrictions are in place was discussed. It was noted that **FC** has a Covid Enforcement Team and that any problems can be reported through that channel.

Parking Trial Allocations

No update to report

Children's Panel Recruitment

PM highlighted the important work of the Children's Panel and the opportunities available for volunteering.

ENCEPT Storage

It was noted that it was been agreed that **ENCEPT** can store equipment in the **NTH**. **MW** reported that **A. Peddie** and **D. Smith** had already been and delivered emergency equipment.

Remembrance Sunday

Following the Councillors previous comments, it was agreed that Remembrance Sunday was well organised this year and it would be good to see joint efforts again going forward. The **PCC** will feed this back to relevant organisers.

Market Place Benches

It was noted that there are benches in need of repair. The East Neuk Men's Shed have indicated they could be interested in this project, however, are not active now due to Covid restrictions. It was also noted that premises would be needed for storing and working on the benches. **MW** said it

may be possible they could have the use of **NTH** garage to do what is required. The East Neuk Men's Shed are looking for premises as a main base for their work.

A.O.C.B.

The following points were noted:

- Information was circulated to **PCC** members regarding local Covid cases etc.
- **MW** noted there is health and safety training taking place with a focus on village halls.
- The Local Development Programme is on hold until Spring next year due to Covid.
- The Fife Coast and Countryside Trust is looking towards keeping public toilets open throughout winter. This is particularly due to people holidaying in Pittenweem out with the peak season. **Cllr BP** will take this forward with FCCT.
- Rural Tourism is an Initiative in place to try and get some basic things done in relation to amenities in the East Neuk.
- The **FC** Outdoor Tourism Fund is assisting with the building of toilets at Kingsbarns and upgrades at Ruby Bay.
- The East Neuk First Responders can assist with organising food parcels and delivering food and can also start the emergency plan back up in relation to Covid if needed .
- A reminder about the urgency of the pothole repairs in David Street.

MW Closed the meeting at 8:55pm by thanking everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7:00pm hopefully to be held in the New Town Hall, Session Street, but will be subject to Covid restrictions.

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