



The Royal Burgh of Pittenweem and District Community Council

Chair: D Stutchfield, Vice Chair: B Whittome, Secretary: K Horsburgh, Treasurer: D Stutchfield

Website: www.aboutpittenweem.org.uk

Minutes of meeting held on 13th October in Pittenweem New Town Hall

Opening of Meeting :

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7.00PM and welcomed all present.

Present:

Community Council: D Stutchfield, K Horsburgh, W Hughes, B Whittome, J Taylor, M Wardlaw and J K Querido

Fife Council: Cllr D Macgregor

Guests: PC Hill and PC Candow who were deputising for Sgt Jim Anderson

Members of the public: Five

Apologies: Cllr E Riches, Cllr J Docherty and an invited guest from 'Include Me', Fiona Sword

DS asked KH to contact Fiona Sword and invite her to attend a future meeting.

Approval of previous Minutes:

Proposed: D Stutchfield **Seconded:** W Hughes

Police Scotland

PC Hill and PC Candow attended and advised were deputising for Sgt Jim Anderson who had asked them to come along and give the usual updates and also take any feedback on any pertinent issues. The following is a summary of activity in 'the Pittenweem area' over the last two months:

- 60 calls to 101
- 9 crimes reported which was the same number as were reported at the same time last year
- 2 of which were Break Ins (suggested to us that they weren't serious and were in a rural area)
- 2 Thefts
- 1 Road Traffic Crime
- 1 Breach of Bail
- 1 Report of Vandalism

PC Hill advised that to date there was a 50% detection rate and that stands for increase. He reassured us that there was nothing impeaching on the community and that the thefts were more theft by finding and shoplifting.

The two PC's were thanked for attending by DS and left to attend Anstruther Community Council Meeting.

Matters Arising and Outstanding Actions:

- Cllr DM said there was no update to give on forward planning for housing in Pittenweem and suggested that KH emailed 'Central Planning' to keep be and keep updated.
- Defibrillator emails were received and circulated during the month on awareness training and new signage. J-KQ contacted the two property owners (Pharmacy and Loungeabout) regarding signage and we are to suggest the A3 sign version would be preferred. Following J-KQ's suggestion, we all agreed that we postpone awareness training until sometime in the New Year and look to coincide such training with another event in a bid to get more people involved. KH to respond to the emails advising all of this. To date the equipment has been taken out twice and the seal broken once.
- On the issue of fencing off the play area at the back of the Primary School, KH advised (also be earlier email) that an alternative quote of £4775.00 was obtained from J Rennie of Home and Garden Maintenance and the full Community Council agreed to proceed with this tender. Following which, KH submitted a grant application to Fife Council for 100% funding from their Locality Budget. It was approved. KH to attend a site meeting on 14/10 to progress with J Rennie, Alan Bissett from Fife Council and invited any other Councillors who wanted to come along – J-KQ said he would look to be there. Do
- Various discussions have been held to engage proactively with Pittenweem in Bloom over the last year, to give them support and help coordinate activities with little progress being made. DS suggested and it was agreed he approach the Pittenweem in Bloom people to work closer together and as such, claim the funding available (circa £600.00) for 2015 but will speak with them before doing so. JKQ asked if Pittenweem in Bloom had achieved Charity Status as they received £856 from the Pittenweem Garden Initiative last year on the basis they were applying for it – nobody was sure if they had. Congratulations do go to Pittenweem in Bloom for receiving a Silver Award for 2014.
- Informal concerns made about the Pop Up Shop at West Shore have been made. KH has spoken with Fife Council on the matter and is awaiting responses from them as they are aware of the situation. As a Community Council we decided to take no further involvement unless a formal approach from a member of the local community is made to us.
- KH advised that the arranged cleaning of the War Memorial took place on 12/8 by J Y Thomson, Monumental Sculptors of Leven. MW confirmed that the cost of this at £333.00 has been settled. Robin Bremner who was in attendance advised he is progressing with pointing the plinths, wire brushing/painting the iron railings and replacing the surrounding decorative chips.

Councillors' report:

Cllr D M advised:

- Fife Council has been voted awarded as 'the best Council in the UK'.
- A funding package of £21.5m has been agreed to build a 'new Waid Academy'. Whilst plans remain fluid, we are advised that the development will be looking to retain the existing Victorian frontage and tower, with the new structure stretching over the existing grounds towards the Primary School. The development is looking to be positioned as 'a community development' and locate the local Library and Police Offices all on the same campus.
- Post the November Community Council Elections there will be a black hole to fill and local Community Councils throughout Fife will be asked to be more 'self-sufficient' going forward.
- There will be a road delineation at 7 Abbey Wall Rd.
- The objections to placing no waiting restrictions at the entrance to 'University' have been overruled on the grounds of road safety and the lining will now be going ahead.
- Following a request by KH, Cllr DM has written to Nicholas Williamson for an update on the state of Pittenweem Breakwater following the recent inspection and we expect an imminent response.
- That Lyle Smith, Fife Council's Enforcement Officer had advised him that The Coastline Community Church were looking to submit a Planning Application to retain their 'flu' and increase its height. MW advised however that the work to increase the height had already been done. We await a planning application, which will now need to be retrospective to comment on.

Planning Issues:

JT advised:

- There have been nine updates to planning applications since our August Meeting. Of those, two had since been passed with minor conditions applied and two, Adamson's Bakery and Kirkclatch Cottage applications had raised concerns and had to be discussed further.
- It was decided to deal with Adamson's Bakery first as a neighbour was present. The neighbour was informed that the application was declined but still wanted to comment on how her property was being affected on both sides. It was agreed no action could be carried out on the Bakery side. It was suggested the neighbour try approaching the other neighbour about the trees through mediation as suggested in the High Hedge Act on the other side of her property.
- At this point, David Stutchfield pointed out to all present that the Community Council, as a statutory consultee was sent all planning applications both for information and comment.
- The planning application at Kirkclatch Cottage, 26 Milton Place was discussed and although it had been indicated that there had been objections by neighbours regarding the fact that some of the applied work was already done, no formal letters had been received by ourselves or Planning Dept by the closing date. Since Transport and Services divisions had no objections, the application was passed.
- There have been no objections for the 25 meter wind turbine installation at the recycling centre.
- The extension at 15 Sandycraig Rd has been passed.
- The demolition of a fish shed at Marygate/Wagon Rd has been passed with conditions.
- Fife Council will apply a 30 day limit for comment on Householder Planning Applications from 1/9. All other applications will be 40 days. We now have to discuss planning issues between meetings.

Treasurer's report:

DS advised:

- Main account balance - £5,711.45
- The annual accounts are ready for audit but DS has been let down and he is looking for an alternative auditor to examine and sign off our accounts for 2013/2014.

East Neuk and Landward Community Council Liaison Group:

DS gave feedback on the latest meeting which was held in Pittenweem New Town Hall on 4/9 as follows:

- StMonans won a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show for their 'wellie boot' flower display.
- Broadband has a high speed in Pittenweem but this has still to be rolled out in rural areas.
- A duplication of communication on East Neuk Planning for the 15 villages in the East Neuk was discussed. (Greater detail below) where Fife Council are looking to get a consistent format for all so all can slot in consistently.

East Neuk Community Action Planning

JT, BW and DS attended a meeting on action planning in the East Neuk on 2/10 and BW advised as follows.

- Local Action Planning is being pushed and supported by Fife Council and is aimed and getting all local groups involved to have input and give forward planning suggestions on how they want their own area to look in the future.
- For Pittenweem this will include and not be exclusive to PICT, Eco Housing, Coastline Community Church, Community Council, Pittenweem Gala etc.
- Fife Council is looking to adopt a bottom up approach to consider local ideas on planning within the greater Fife Plan.
- On feedback of such Plans, Fife Council will be able to and be prepared to enter into consultation to tweak their own Plan to accommodate specific issues.
- Fife Council are looking to get initial needs for the East Neuk out by Christmas 2014 and thereafter will look to allocate human resources and funding of circa £180 (partly supported by the Leader initiative) to push forward a Vision for the East Neuk.

Secretary's report:

KH advised:

- The blocked gulleys were eventually cleaned by Fife Council during week commencing 25th August.
- Stuart Goodfellow has still to respond, despite chaser emails about traffic flow priority at top of Abbey Wall Rd. KH to chase Stuart Goodfellow again to get this outstanding situation resolved.
- There is a meeting to be held on Emergency Planning and Business Continuity on 28 October in The Corn Exchange, Cupar.
- Kirsten Morsley of Fife Council's Planning Dept has not responded to chaser emails suggesting the preferred siting of the power supply bollard at the top of Water Wynd. KH to keep chasing.
- Chased Ruth Crighton re Community Payback work which is part completed and the remainder of the creosoting at the skate park and the repaired fencing leading to West Braes have also been treated. Cllr DM advised that Ruth has now left and KH will endeavour to make contact with her replacement to finish what was agreed to be undertaken.
- Advised by Mike McCardle of Estates Division in Fife Council that action has been taken to prohibit further access being given to the Pittenweem Clock Tower by Leonard Low. This issue was also noted at the Arts Festival Liaison Group Meeting and they were equally concerned to hear that the public were being given access to the top of the tower and being exposed to the risks this carried.
- KH has been advised by Liz Murphy of Fife Council that she has no budget left to carry our landscaping repairs to the New Cemetery due to an overspend elsewhere. As this has been an outstanding request since November 2013 KH will escalate to Fife Council's Chief Executive for resolution.
- Is liaising with WH regarding any support required for the West Shore Residents Group regarding the outflow pipe at West Shore. On that subject, WH advised that Scottish Water have made £41m available to investigate some 800 water related issues rather than allocate some of this to repair known issues.
- Advised that the vandalised wooden fencing leading to West Braes that he reported has been repaired by Iain Barbour's area in Fife Council. KH is getting Alan Bissett to inspect and report back on the damage to the stab and wire fence at the Pan Braes section of the Coastal Path on 14/10.

Common Good Fund:

KH advised

- He has submitted a grant application against the fund for £4410.00 to purchase like for like replacement for Pittenweem's three deteriorating notice boards. The bow shaped header above the middle board is a separate unit and will be retained. Laura McKean has asked for our latest Audited Accounts and when they are submitted, she will put our application forward to the appropriate committee. Our Local Councillors are aware of this and have confirmed they will support this application.

Pittenweem Community Fund Raising

MW advised:

- Current funds stand at £2898.01
- During the month, the Fund raising Committee paid J Y Thomson, monumental sculptors £330.00 for professional cleaning of the War Memorial.
- There have been four fund raising events since our last Community Council meeting and they raised the following:
 - Indoors Farmers Market – 16/8 - £229.90
 - Car Boot Sale – 13/9 - £195.75
 - Craft Fair – 27/9 - £231.00
 - Car Boot Sale – 11/10 - £159.00

Despite BW congratulating MW and Christine McCallum for their endeavours, there remains disappointment at the lack of local support and turn out at the fund raising events.

Events continue to be advertised in East Fife Mail, The StAndrews Citizen, Radio Tay, Kingdom FM, What To Do In Scotland and 80 Fliers posted on local notice boards and in shop windows.

MW advised she is to stand down from undertaking these fundraising activities and is looking to get somebody or some people to continue what's been started. PICT has been approached and feedback is awaited. Meantime, the bank account remains with the Co-Op Bank and will look to leave it there until the end of the year.

Pittenweem Arts Festival Liaison Group

BW updated from the latest meeting as follows:

- Festival was seen as a success this year
- Philip Mould will personally look to contact and visit all people who raised complaints.
- Feedback was taken on 'traffic marshalling' and felt that they were being reasonable and sympathetic to specific issues that arose. It is noted that they placed their 'best people' at Abbey Wall Road and were well briefed beforehand.
- A request to allow overnight car parking in Charles Street next year was turned down and noted that they were pleased how it worked this year.
- £2300 was paid to the AA for signage and that a tender will be given to Fife Council next year as well as the AA..
- £8900 was raised from donations from cars/vehicles parking behind the New Town Hall.
- Dust bins were not large enough in some instances or were being emptied often enough. There may be an opportunity to introduce new bins which compact rubbish next year.
- Due to an error there was an oversupply of no parking bollards which will not occur next year.
- Issues re exact siting and rubbish collection for 'Barnet's Tent' and 'The Pancake Van' and Philip Mould will look to resolve that in future.
- Police adopted a low profile approach during the festival.
- Philip Mould is looking to attend an upcoming Community Council Meeting to appraise us as appropriate and keep us informed on planning for 2015.

During the meeting, a member of the public raised an issue that the Arts Festival are not embracing the Equality 2010 Act by failing to allow access to all when using the Old Town Hall as their 'main venue for invited access and there is no disability access provided. BW and JKQ to raise with the Arts Festival Committee.

AOCB:

- J-KQ brought up his concern about the deteriorating state of the stone wall at the west end of West Shore (Little Roadie). KH will report to both Nicholas Williamson and Mike Thorpe for actioning.
- WH reported that a deterioration to the foundations of the wall at the slipway at the east end of West Shore. WH has taken the action to write on our behalf to get this situation permanently resolved.
- JT followed up on emails circulating regarding the access gate from the fenced off grass area at the back of the Primary School leading onto Coastline Community Church ground and then Session Street being left open. In light of no formal complaint, there will be no action by us until somebody complains.
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- Speaking on behalf and a member of the PROBUS Club, JKQ advised that as their usual venue for their weekly meetings, The Crows Nest, was closing until March, they were to use the Coastline Community Church meantime. JKQ asked KH to approach the New Town Hall Committee to consider opening an access from the blaze car park at the rear of the town hall to allow a walkway directly through the ground to the Coastline Church. A majority supported this request for KH to write.
- KH to complete notice for inaugural meeting of the 'new council' post the November elections which will be on 8th December and send copy to Bill Welsh and hand copy to BW.

Close of meeting:

In the absence of any other competent business, the meeting was closed at 9.30 PM.

The date of the next meeting was set for 10th November 2014.

K Horsburgh, Secretary