



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Chair: M. Wardlaw **Vice Chair:** A. Butters **Treasurer:** A. Butters
Contact Secretary: L. Lauder
Members: M. Butters, G. McClure, P. Mills, J. Taylor, S. Wilkinson and J. Wood

E-Mail to: secretary.pittenweem,cc@outlook.com

Website: www.fifedirect.org.uk/royalburghofpittenweem

Minutes of Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 13th August at 7pm

NOTE: These Minutes are published in proof form and will be adopted at the first full meeting held after the lockdown order is lifted.

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

Councillors: Cllr. John Docherty, Cllr. Linda Holt, Cllr. Bill Porteus.

Apologies: Martin Butters, Anne Butters, Gary McClure.

Public Attending: Two members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes Approved: Proposed by J. Wood, Seconded by P.Mills.

Opening of Meeting:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted it had not been possible to revert to in person meetings in the **NTH**. It was noted that there is uncertainty around timescales for in person meetings resuming across the entire country, and that safety is paramount. **PM** asked for clarification about posting meeting minutes on the notice board, and there was a brief discussion amongst members about the requirement to have these ratified before being made available to the public. It was agreed that this would be added to the next agenda for a fuller discussion.

Matters Arising

University Terrace/Avenue

It was noted that the anti-social behaviour issue in University Terrace had been resolved for the time being.

It was also noted that the problem with decomposing household waste in a private garden had been rectified following a three-month period of submitting complaints to **FC**.

Police

A Police report was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting. **MW**

highlighted that during the month of July there were 1170 calls in the North East Fife area. 23 calls related directly to Pittenweem, with a total of 3 crimes recorded.

Public Toilets - Reopening

Information about the reopening of public toilets in the East Neuk was circulated to PCC members prior to the meeting. It was noted that the West Braes toilets are open but for a restricted number of hours. **Cllr BP** and **Cllr LH** continue to raise this as being problematic, particularly with the number of visitors in Pittenweem during summer months. The **FCCT** have responsibility for the West Braes toilets, however the main issue appears to be lack of funding. **Cllr LH** noted she intends to raise this issue at a working group considering infrastructure within the East Neuk.

St Andrews OOHS

Information about the St Andrews **OOHS** was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting. **PM** reported that there had been no meeting of the **OOHS** group and that regular letters are being sent to the Secretary of State for Health, advising on the need for track and trace. **PM** also reported that FOI data received on the number of patients being treated at St Andrews **OOHS** demonstrates demand for the service is increasing, providing evidence of a need to keep the hospital open. It was also noted that no information about opening hours is available online.

Tolbooth Steeple

Information about the Tolbooth Steeple was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting. **MW** noted there is a meeting to discuss progress with the Tolbooth Steeple repairs on Monday 17 August. **Cllrs LH, BP** and **JD** will attend and will highlight the need for a structural survey and a timetable for this going forward. **MW** asked **PCC** members to send any questions or points to raise in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that it might be opportune to ask if there is available funding for Covid infrastructure projects within **FC** to assist with funding the West Braes toilets.

Multi Use Path

Information about the Multi-Use Paths was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting, including maps with proposed routes. **PM** confirmed that £25,000 of funding had been made available for a feasibility study to consider potential routes from Anstruther to Elie. There is a meeting on Wednesday 19 August to open negotiations and discuss a way forward. Possible routes were discussed,

although it was noted that the feasibility study will be tasked with producing potential routes for consideration. It was agreed that **PM** will present the 'upper route' at the meeting as a starting point. **PCC** members were all agreeable to this.

Recycling Centre

Information about the Recycling Centre was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Courier newspaper ran an article about the Recycling Centre. **Cllr JD** noted that there has been a 36% uptake in booking slots since the Recycling Centre reopened. The issue of fly-tipping at the cemetery was also highlighted again and it was noted that lack of access to the Recycling Centre could be the reason behind this. The question of why there are so many restrictions still in place was raised. **Cllr LH** suggested writing to the convenor of the Environment Committee to highlight concerns. It was agreed that the current system is not accessible to everyone in the community, and any decisions about the future of the Recycling Centre should not be based on current usage. **MW** will circulate the email address to meeting attendees to enable written concerns and complaints to be submitted.

Campervan Pilot

Information about the Campervan Pilot was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting. **Cllr BP** noted there was no further update other than there is still an intention to implement the pilot scheme as soon as it is feasible, but it is likely to be April 2021. It was noted that there is no law in place to prevent campervans from parking in the street next to domestic dwellings.

Fly Tipping

Fly tipping on a piece of land between Viewforth Place and West Braes was discussed. It was noted that rubbish and grass cuttings are discarded on the piece of land frequently. Fly tipping at the cemetery was also discussed. It was recommended that any future instances should be photographed and sent to the Police to deal with. **SW** reported that the police won't do anything unless the tipping is witnessed and there is evidence of who did it.

Abbeywall Embankment

Information about maintaining the Abbeywall Embankment was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting. A quote received outlined the process of spraying and killing weeds and strimming the grass at an annual cost of £400. An alternative option of placing black matting would reduce maintenance costs, however, could induce soil erosion. It was agreed that as **FC** are still in the process of ascertaining where responsibility lies for maintenance, no immediate action

should be taken. **Cllr JD** suggested checking with the Scottish Natural Heritage around ownership.

Spaces for People

It was noted that nothing was being taken forward under the Spaces for People project. **Cllr BP** noted making use of funding to cut verges on roads and vegetation on paths to enable distancing on paths would be sensible, and has raised this with **FC**, but has not received a response. **AB** reported that coastal paths on both sides of Pittenweem are overgrown, and there is not enough room for people to pass safely. It was also noted that people do not have room to distance on the pavement from Pittenweem to Balcaskie. **Cllr JD** confirmed that if paths and pavements are inaccessible for prams and wheelchairs, forcing users to go on the road, reporting this may force **FC** to take action. **SW** specifically asked **Cllr BP** to request the funding for Spaces for All to be used for a new, wide **MUP** from Pittenweem to Ovenstone if possible but at least to Maderia. Not just the verges being cut. We asked for this last month as well.

MW reported a complaint had been received about digging on the coastal path for fossils. **Cllr LH** agreed to look into this with the **FCCT**.

Community Scheme for All

Information about the Community Scheme for All was circulated to **PCC** members prior to the meeting. It was noted a reply is required by 19 August 2020. **LL** agreed to send a response on behalf of **PCC** confirming boundaries will be left as they are, and no amendments or suggestions are being made by **PCC**.

Electric Charging Points

It was noted that the West Braes and the High Street had previously been flagged as potential sites for installation of electric charging points. It was noted that there are no further updates at this stage although there was agreement that if there is an opportunity to have input, it would be good for the **PCC** to submit views. **SW** – **PCC** agreed last month and this month that we support public charging points at West Braes and possibly the Cemetery but not in the High St as there is not enough parking as it is in the High Street.

ATM

There was a discussion about there being no cash withdrawal facilities available for visitors to Pittenweem, particularly given some local shops only accept cash. It was suggested that individual businesses should consider adding a card machine to facilitate purchases rather than pursue the installation of an ATM which has already been unsuccessful. **SW** said it would be helpful to state the reason for the

ATM being turned down. The rule that an ATM can't be installed where there is a working Post Office that dispenses cash over the counter.

Planning

JT provided an update on planning matters and confirmed there were 9 notifications in the past month, none of which carried any great significance. This information was circulated to **PCC** members.

Treasurer's report

MW confirmed **AB** circulated information about the accounts to **PCC** members. It was highlighted that **PCC** members don't have sight of the fund raising accounts **MW** agreed to bring this information to the next meeting.

Secretary's report

LL confirmed all relevant emails had been circulated to **PCC** members.

LL noted it had been brought to the attention of the **PCC** that camping at the West Braes play area had been reported to Police Scotland. As a result the **FCCT** instructed the campers to move on and confirmed new signage will be put up to inform visitors that camping is not permitted on recreational ground.

A.O.C.B.

- It was highlighted that lights in Cove Wind have been out of working order for some time despite numerous reports to **FC**. **Cllr LH** confirmed she will chase this up with **FC**.
- **Cllr BP** suggested **FC** should be providing a 7-day refuse service throughout the summer to deal with the increase in rubbish due to the influx of visitors. **Cllr BP** noted this is problematic throughout the East Neuk. It was noted that litter on the coastal path is much worse this year, and there is a lack of resource for the **FCCT**.
- The **FC** rewilding initiative was discussed. It was noted that proposals have been received from **FC** about areas that could be left to grow naturally and no longer be maintained by **FC**. Concerns were raised about leaving play areas uncut. It was noted that **FC** are promoting rewilding as a green

initiative. **Cllr LH** confirmed **FC** are taking opinions online, and that a decision will be made about which areas are to be rewilded by the end of September. It was highlighted that any objections should be lodged by mid-September. **PCC** members and individuals in the community can submit written objections. It was noted that it would be helpful to highlight specific areas of concern rather than submitting general concerns. It was noted that the West Braes Group should be consulted for their input.

- It was highlighted that temporary barriers have been erected at the harbour area to reserve parking for fishermen due to the influx of visitors to the area. The new Harbour Master sought permission for barriers to be put in place, however it was noted that there have been problems with barriers being moved.
- **PCC** members discussed ideas for recognising groups and members of the community who have provided invaluable contributions during the Covid lockdown to the community in Pittenweem. **Cllr LH** will investigate within **FC** to find out if there are any community award initiatives. It was agreed that **PCC** members should bring suggestions on this to the next **PCC** meeting.
- It was noted that there is uncertainty around when meetings in community halls can start again and that guidelines on this are provided by the Scottish Government, not **FC**.
- It was highlighted that the cemetery gate hinges have dropped due to rusting making it difficult for people to open and close them. **Cllr BP** will take this forward.
- It was noted that parking in Pittenweem is becoming increasingly difficult. Charles Street was highlighted as being particularly problematic. **Cllr LH** confirmed she has taken this forward and noted that any obstructions should be reported to the Police at the time.

MW Closed the meeting at 9:10pm by thanking everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th September 2020 6:45pm for a 7:00pm start.

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