



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

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

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

Website: www.fifedirect.org.uk/royalburghofpittenweem

Minutes of Meeting held at the New Town Hall
on Thursday 13th February 2020 at 7pm

Present: Margaret Wardlaw, Jim Taylor, Anne Butters, Martin Butters, Linda Lauder, Gary McClure, Peter Mills, Susan Wilkinson and Jim Wood.

Councillors: Cllr. John Docherty and Cllr. Linda Holt.

Apologies: Cllr. Bill Porteous.

Public in Attendance: John Davidson

Margaret Wardlaw welcomed everyone for coming, and then opened meeting by asking approval of the January minutes.

Approval of January Minutes: Proposed by J. Wood. Seconded by G. McClure.

Councillor's Report:

Cllr JD reported that foreign workers must register before a December 2020 deadline to claim immigration status to live in the U.K. after June 2021, but only one third had already done so up to now.

MW asked if there was a reason for this. Cllr JD thought a lack of input from the Government on advice to E.U citizens on how to register, possibly because of confusion over Brexit. It was thought that farms & businesses would have been sent information on this scheme.

Migrants can get help from the Fife Migrants Forum, and an online referral form can be found at: centreforequalities.org.uk/Eureferral.

Cllr LH said she will give her report as the chairperson went through the agenda.

West Braes Project:

The 6th February saw the closing date for comments on the planning application passing with no objections. JT added Marine Scotland had just indicated that their permission is only needed if any part of the project is below the Mean High Water mark. PM reported a licence for the work would be granted by in the next few weeks. **SW** was asked if she had heard from WBP yet regarding where the sensory garden was going, she would chase this up.

MW reported a group from the Arts School in Glasgow have booked the New Town Hall next week to do a project and will look at the West Braes Project.

SW has had an email from the WBP asking if there would be any objections from the PCC to a mural being painted in the shelter at the West Braes. All members were in favour of this going ahead.

Skate Park:

Cllr LH had no progress to report as pupils have exams at the moment.

Only 8 people, mostly adults, turned up at the last meeting. Sarah Myles the Chairperson is still helping and Dave Smith, the youth worker at the Coastal Church, is still on board, but the rules say the scheme can only be progressed if young members are involved.

It was discussed that the interested 16/17 year olds would soon be leaving school so it might help if 1st year pupils were to join the group. JW said children on bikes and scooters still play in that area.

OOHS:

PM reported **Cllr JD** and **Cllr BP** and himself attended an OOHS Group meeting in St Andrews on 12th February. This allowed us to consolidate information and plan a strategy for the future. The role of the East Neuk First Responders was recognised and strongly supported.

Regular meetings with the Partnership are to continue, the next meeting is booked for 26th February.

The Partnership was asked for details on staffing of the Urgent Care Service Units, operating hours, patient throughput and the number of walk-in patients. The Partnership has had difficulty in providing the requested information and claim that, even although the data is anonymised, it might be possible to trace individual patients due to the small numbers.

Feedback from patients concerning any aspect of the Service is sought and will be recorded confidentially. In particular there have been concerns surrounding the NHS24 service and delays in response.

Your council would like your feedback, good or bad, of your experiences at the Out of Hours in St Andrews.

The NHS Fife website now gives some information on the Urgent Care Service but unfortunately it contains errors, conflicting information and fails to provide clear advice for patients who are suddenly unwell. This will be reported to the Partnership.

Abbey Wall Rd. wall: It was reported that because the overgrown weeds are on a sloping banking Fife Council cannot employ their staff or the Community Service to clear them. Pavement and gully clearing can still be done since that is on the level. The Community Service and Robert Melville had cleared the area in the past but it is unlikely to happen now because of insurance worries and health & safety

issues. **MW** asked if anyone knew of somebody who would be willing to clear up the area. **GM** said he knew a person who might take it on.

Cllr LH brought to our attention that there are some monies in the Pittenweem Settlement Fund that might help with this.

Cemetery Gates: The Locality Response Team has asked if the painting of the gates is a new project to be added to program. **Cllr JD** has been chasing this up.

Tollbooth Steeple: The PCC met with Lorraine Bell and Dr Robin Evetts from the Fife Historic Buildings Trust on 31st January. The Trust confirmed that the Steeple is an important historic building that must be preserved and maintained for the future. They agreed to consider issuing a letter of support to the Community, but were unable to give clear advice on how to achieve charitable funding for this effort other than taking over the property by Community Asset Transfer.

The PCC plan to discuss this further with Fife Council. Discussions followed on engaging with the Community to stimulating interest. Ideas put forward were restarting the Clock, opening it up on Doors Open Day, and exploring Fife Council, University and HES architectural and archaeology records. The Priory complex (Priory, Great house, Gatehouse, Old Town Hall, Church and Steeple) is a historic campus that could be a focus for exhibitions and historic tours in the future.

Cllr LH had been in touch with Janice Laird about the lawyer saying there could be no ALOE. He has been approached again, and has asked for more details since an ALOE may be possible since this project is so different from the other Trusts in Fife. Cllr LH has sent Janice Laird notes from our meeting and pointed out our concerns. Hopefully a meeting can be set up with the Head of Departments higher up in Fife Council to discuss finding a legal vehicle or an organisation group to deal with the clock tower

Cllr Holt has made it clear that the community as a whole does not want to see the Common Good Fund destroyed further due to Fife Council's neglect. Janice Laird has passed the email to various people including Paul Vaughan (Policy, Communications and Area Management), Alan Ford (Head of Estates) and solicitor Alan Paterson. We await a response from them so that a meeting can be held. It would help if questions that need asking were written down so that they could be put to them in advance of the meeting.

An urgent decision has to be made re who is going to pay for the scaffolding, a proposal is being put forward where FC would pay half and the CGF would pay the other half, this is unacceptable but some kind of an agreement needs to be made. Funding needs to be secured now since work on the outside stonework, delayed since lime mortar cannot be used during frosty weather, could start soon as we approach spring.

It has been brought to our attention that no survey has been done on the building, and projected costs are based only on viewing the outside.

PM enquired if we knew why the actual clock was no longer working. The general assumption is that it is due to an electrical fault.

Play Parks: Nothing new to report.

Police Report: Police could not attend but sent a report – see addendum.

C.C Review Scheme regarding Boundaries, A letter/email still needs to be sent in response stating that the PCC accept the boundaries as shown.

MUP: PM reports that he and SW met with Sustrans and Fife Council at Bankhead Central on 23th January. Sustrans was supportive of the aim to plan a MUP around Pittenweem and to extend beyond to Largo. Fife Council will complete a “Places for Everybody Scheme” application for funding for a feasibility study and public consultation for us. They will either conduct the study in house or contract out to WSP consultants because of the complexity of land ownership around Pittenweem. The closing date is May 8th.

The Anstruther Cycle Group has been delayed in extending their section of Path toward Pittenweem by the planning application for a Rum Distillery at the Milton Muir Steading.

There was a discussion on long-term maintenance of the MUP after the 15-year period. Initially Fife Council had stated that maintenance could only be provided to a MUP alongside a main road, however what they mean is that the roads department would only maintain paths adjacent to roads, other departments in the Council would be responsible for rural Paths.

Yellow Lines: an email was sent to Martin Kingham asking for an update. If we get no response we have then to chase up Colin Crow

Common Good Register Review: Nothing new to report.

Pay Phone Removal: FC has told BT not to remove the phone box from the harbour.

Electric Charging points: FC is still deciding where to erect them in the area. It was reported that the charging and parking of electric cars would no longer be free.

East Neuk Community Group: the next meeting is to be held at Cameron Village Hall on the 19th March at 7pm.

Planning: JT reported that the National Planning Framework Version 4 is being prepared now for 2050 if the younger members wanted to get involved!

The links to planning were still awaiting repair but he could still access the site for updates and send them to members. There had been no building warrant notices this month. **PM** asked if anyone had heard anything regarding a planning application for a Rum Distillery at Milton Farm. **JT** said it had been in one of the weekly attachments forwarded to all at the start of each week, but since it was under Anstruther he did not point it out.

Treasurer’s Report: AB reported £362.20 in the account at the minute.

Secretary’s Report: J.T reported that there was not really anything we had to action as a group amongst the mail this month and some subjects have been covered as we have gone through the agenda.

We have been reminded that the courses that some members were interested in are on again. Susan made the point that it would be more suitable if training took place closer to the East Neuk. Members are at work and don't want to be adding extra travel on to their day.

We have had mails asking if anything was planned for the eyesore of the Roman Catholic Lodge and whether the land and buildings were for sale. He suggested they get in touch with the trustees of the Archdiocese of St Andrews.

Chairperson's Report: MW reported that PM had thought it might be a good idea if we could have a newsletter type review to inform the local community of what the PCC had been up to in the last year. A copy of his Review 2019 was sent as an email to all members for comment. The replies were that this was a positive thing to do. It was suggested the letter could be displayed in the notice board and on the web site.

MW then mentioned the mail we had been sent regarding the Freedom Camping article by the Fife Coast & Countryside Trust reporting on motor home use in Fife, saying it made interesting reading.

The report mentions the people who "freeload" off areas not designated as parking places for these vehicles, but they are not breaking the law.

The comment that not all community councils want to ban motor homes since the visitors do bring some money into the villages led to a discussion on the main complaints giving concern. The worst problem is caused by only a small minority of those who overnight, both in and outwith designated parking or camping areas, those who leave their litter and toilet contents when they move on.

The problem is countrywide and needs to be better managed. Having toilet emptying facilities and parking meters with a small charge to cover costs at designated sites could be one way of preventing some of the motor homes taking up necessary street parking space.

Cllr LH said Fife Council is piloting a scheme at the moment; if it is a success they will roll it out across Fife. At some sites there are already areas for motor homes to park, but they could start issuing, for a fee, a passkey or pin number to allow access the toilets that are locked at night.

It was thought that provided suitable areas are set up for people to overnight park, Fife Council could bring in some kind of regulation or bylaw that could force people to move on or even be fined for overnight parking up in the street or in private areas when they do not have the owners consent.

A.O.B:

Cllr LH reported that she and the other councillors attended a workshop in the Roads Department about resurfacing, budgeting & traffic management schemes. It was pointed out to the person in charge that a report they were shown, broken down by wards, mentioned nothing about pavements and footpaths in the East Neuk. The person said that this was an oversight.

If there are pavements in your area that need attention, get in touch with your councillor.

It was noted a pavement in Ninian Fields, the pavement between Anstruther & Pittenweem and potholes all over the village need attention and will be reported.

LL asked what was happening about the 8th May V.E day celebrations, are we doing anything. **MW** had asked for Lottery Funding to help with this, but was unsuccessful. **MW** and **LL** would discuss this later and get back to the members with a date in early March for a meeting to put forward suggestions.

JT reported on questions and discussions on the ownership of the Priory garden and the repairs to the bulging wall.

Along with an answer we have just been sent there is a map showing the land area now deemed to be the Common Good ground to the south of the Old Town Hall. It is marked off as the small yard at the south end of the building accessed by the gate at the top of the steps.

PM suggested we should start sending minutes to Georgina Stutchfield again to have them put on the *aboutpittenweem* website since the library cannot do it at the moment.

SW reported that the defibrillator at the harbour was now operational.

MW reported on an e-mail from Caroline Berry giving details of a First Aid class to be held at Waid Academy.

MW closed the meeting at 8.45pm. by thanking everyone for coming.

The next meeting will be **12th March 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, NTH - New Town Hall,

WBP – West Braes Project, CGF – Common Good Fund.

Addendum:

Police report is already in Notice board.