



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

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**Minutes of Meeting held via Videoconference on
Thursday 9th July 2020 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, Peter Mills, Jim Wood, Susan Wilkinson
Lynn Balfour.

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

Apologies: Martin Butters, Anne Butters, Linda Lauder, and Gary McClure.

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

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

Opening of Meeting:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and suggested that it may be possible to hold the next meeting in person in the **NTH**. **SW** provided an update on building reopenings and confirmed further clarity would be required about reopening of halls for use by members of the public. It was agreed that there was no requirement for the meeting to be audio recorded.

Councillors Report:

Cllr JD confirmed that public toilets are due to reopen within two weeks and that Council properties e.g. halls that haven't been used are subject to a significant backlog of work for Legionella testing, therefore it may be some time until these properties can reopen safely.

Matters Arising

University Terrace/Avenue

Cllr JD reported that all three Councillors met with the Fife Police Divisional Commander to discuss the ongoing antisocial behaviour problem in Pittenweem

and noted that Fife Police are fully aware of the situation and are being proactive. **Cllr LH** added that it was important to note Fife Police acknowledge there is a serious problem that needs to be addressed but there is a lack of resource for community policing and there is no quick fix to address this. LB provided a brief update to note that there has been no improvement with the situations in both University Terrace and Avenue, and that **FC** do not appear to be taking any action. **Cllr BP** reported that there are antisocial behaviour instances throughout the East Neuk.

A member of the public in attendance reported that accumulated household rubbish at a neighbouring property in Pittenweem had been left to decompose over a period of 10 weeks and had been reported to **FC** numerous times as a health hazard, yet no action had been taken to date. **Cllr JD** requested for email communications about this to be sent to him for follow up.

Cllr LH noted that she had spoken with **FC** about the ongoing problems and more is being done than people realise however, communication has broken down between **FC** and local residents, which is why people may not be aware of the ongoing work. **Cllr LH** asked to use the office of the **NTH** to have a follow up meeting with **FC**.

Police

MW noted there were no further updates to report on recent police activity in Pittenweem.

St Andrews OOH

PM reported that there had been a lot of correspondence around test and trace. It was also noted that St Andrews has reverted back to operating restricted opening hours and now provides very little **OOH** cover. **PM** has sought clearer information on what the activity has been, and will be in future, but noted an understandable lack of communication from the Health Board at present.

West Braes Project

MW noted that the **WBP** had gone out to tender and the **PCC** will be kept updated on progress. **MW** has passed on best wishes to all involved on behalf of the **PCC**.

Tolbooth Steeple

It was noted that repairs to the steeple will go ahead and will be covered by **FC** with no apparent cost to the Pittenweem Common Good Fund. Although this was noted as very positive news, there have since been reports of some debris falling from the steeple which will need to be addressed. **PM** raised the possibility of a structural survey being carried out in case there are wider structural problems with the building that may require work. **Cllr LH** confirmed she will write to **FC** to

ask if there has been a survey and regular inspections, and to request a general condition survey. **PCC** noted a longer-term sustainable plan for the Tolbooth is needed.

Cllr BP noted that a significant amount of work had been done to arrange the work on the steeple, and care should be taken not to put this at risk, however there is concern about how **FC** looks after its public buildings, with a more reactive than proactive approach being taken, and noted this should be highlighted in any communications.

SW also highlighted the health and safety risk of not surveying public buildings on a regular basis.

After a discussion about how to proceed, it was agreed that a meeting should be set up with **FC** and all three councillors. **PM** noted that a representative from the **FC** Archaeological Unit could provide support at the meeting. **Cllr LH** agreed to take this forward.

Multi Use Path

PM noted there was no further update on the **MUP**, which is mostly due to a delay with Transport Scotland issuing an award letter. **PM** will continue to chase for further updates.

Spaces For All

It was noted that **FC** has put forward a proposal to have yellow lines added to the Marygate as part of the Spaces for All project to provide space for walkers and cyclists in built up areas. There have been numerous complaints from residents in the area who object to the proposal; particularly given it will significantly reduce parking. **PCC** members agreed that this proposal is seen as a waste of time and money and is not appropriate for Pittenweem. **Cllr LH** reported that she had already written to **FC** to highlight that Pittenweem did not endorse this project being carried out. A vote was held, and **PCC** members present at the meeting unanimously voted for lodging an official objection on the Spaces for All Marygate project. **Cllr LH** agreed to put forward this objection on behalf of the **PCC**.

Primary School

Cllr BP asked the **PCC** to pass on any known issues raised by parents and carers about school trip cancellations and refunds in case follow up is required, although it was noted that there may not be such a problem.

Recycling Centre

It was noted that the Recycling Centre had partially reopened, however access is

still subject to bookable timeslots, which can only be accessed, online. **PM** noted the Recycling Centre appeared to be very underused.

Fly Tipping at the graveyard was also discussed. **Cllr JD** also noted that there had been reports from local farmers of illegal tipping in fields. Fly tipping near Viewforth Place was also highlighted. **Cllr LH** agreed to follow up on this.

PM also noted that recycling points have remained open but this information was not publicised. **Cllr LH** will discuss with **FC** to see if access to the Recycling Centre without prior booking is possible for smaller loads, particularly given the apparent lack of traffic.

ENCEPT

MW noted that ENCEPT had produced an information sheet with a useful list of contacts. **MW** will forward this to **PM** for the noticeboard.

Covid 19

It was noted that all relevant emails had been forwarded to committee members.

Motor Home Pilot

Cllr BP reported that resurfacing had taken place at Kingsbarns and Ruby Bay and that motorhomes are permitted to park in these areas without restrictions as there is no way to impose any restrictions at this time.

ATM

MW confirmed the application for an ATM in Pittenweem had been turned down, as the criteria for requiring an ATM were not met. **Cllr BP** noted that contactless payment is increasing, so there is perhaps less of a need for cash. **PM** added that having a Post Office was the main difficulty in making a case for an ATM.

Hogweed

Cllr LH provided an update on progress with the removal of giant hogweed. The Fife Coastal and Countryside Trust and The Dreel Burn Restoration Group have made arrangements for contractors to spray weeds and then have these chopped down. It was noted a 5-10 year programme is required to fully tackle this problem, however good progress has been made.

Other points discussed:

- It was noted that the pathway from the Recycling Centre to Balcaskie Estate had been reported overgrown with protruding vegetation making it difficult for walkers to use the path safely. **PM** confirmed the verge had since been cut which has improved conditions on the path.

- **SW** suggested that it would be useful to consider widening the road out from Pittenweem towards the Recycling Centre and Balcaskie Estate entrance to include a cycle path, and that perhaps money ringfenced by **FC** for the Marygate Spaces for All project could be repurposed for this. It was agreed that all three Councillors would take this suggestion forward with **FC**, with **Cllr BP** leading.
- All committee members agreed to recompensate the person involved in auditing the **PCC** accounts as per last year's agreement.

Planning

JT provided an update on planning matters including updated legislation permitting **FC** to agree to requests from businesses for temporary relaxation of planning rules to facilitate social distancing. A document with details of these conditions had been circulated to **PCC** members.

It was noted there have been 10 planning notifications for the area:

Work started (1)

Work completed (1)

Work approved (2)

New work (6)

Treasurer's report

MW reported that no bank statement had been received prior to the meeting. **MW** noted that there is a December deadline for Annual Grant Application forms to be submitted. **AB** will complete the application for £615.56 and send to **FC** along with the required audited accounts.

Secretary's report

LL was unable to provide an update due to connectivity problems.

Chair's report

MW provided an update on the **NTH**, confirming that building work and rendering was almost finished and that further work on toilets is not expected to begin until later in July. **MW** and **Cllr BP** will work on ensuring all necessary actions are taken forward before reopening of the hall can commence.

A.O.C.B.

- **SW** noted that **FC** has all information required on defibrillators in the area. **SW** will ask for insurance details for reporting back to the **PCC** for noting for information.
- It was noted that cutbacks have meant there has been a lack of proper grass cutting particularly at New Grange Park. This issue has been compounded by seasonal staff not working during lockdown. It was noted that this is a problem in other areas, not just Pittenweem and there are ongoing discussions about allowing certain areas to revert to natural wild states.
- **Cllr BP** noted there would be no issue with **PCC** identifying areas that should take priority for grass cutting. This can be passed on to Councillors, who would in turn inform **FC**.
- It was noted that **FC** appears to be slow to take forward the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit, and that other Councils appear to be taking action quickly.
- An email was circulated to **PCC** members about the reopening of playparks. It was confirmed that it is not known if playparks are fully reopened yet
- A local contractor has offered to tidy up the Abbeywall Embankment. **PCC** members were in agreement that this should be taken forward. **MW** agreed to progress this and will highlight to the contractor that any work undertaken would not be covered by **FC** insurance.
- **SW** circulated an email about campervan tourism to **PCC** members. It was agreed that it would be useful if there were clearly marked areas for campervan tourists to use. **Cllr LH** noted she had forwarded this to The Fife Coastal Countryside Trust and to the Tourism department within **FC**, in the hopes that **FC** will take a proactive approach.
- It was noted that the Scottish Government is trying to put through legislation to stop parking on pavements following public consultation.
- It was noted that a programme of weedkilling is taking place in the village.
- The **PCC** received a question about local establishments selling alcohol to patrons on tables/chairs outside of premises. **Cllr JD** agreed to raise this with the Fife Licensing Board.
- It was noted there is an opportunity for families to get involved in outdoor sports at the Waid Community Centre. **MW** will pass a poster on to **PM** for the noticeboard.

- **MW** reported she had submitted a Community Council Chairs Survey regarding Covid.

MW Closed the meeting at 8:45pm by thanking everyone for attending.

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th August 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, CllrJD - 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.