



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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Pittenweem Community Council Meeting Online at 7pm
May 21st 2020

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

Prior to opening of meeting it was noted that Jim Taylor resigned his post as Secretary and had written that Linda Lauder, having shadowed him for some weeks, has kindly agreed to take on the Contact Secretary part of the role immediately if approved by other members.

Proposal was by **SW** and seconded by **JW**.

We now need a volunteer to take on the other tasks of the role either on a permanent or temporary basis.

JT will remain a member of the Council and he was thanked for his excellent work in the past.

MW opened the meeting by welcoming everyone who had joined us on line. The April 9th meeting had been cancelled due to the lockdown for the Covid 19 pandemic.

Present: Margaret Wardlaw, Linda Lauder, Peter Mills, Susan Wilkinson, Jim Wood and Jim Taylor,

Councillors: Cllr Bill Porteous and Cllr Linda Holt.

Apologies: Cllr John Docherty, Martin & Ann Butters, and Gary McClure.

Guests: 4 members from the community logged into our meeting

Immediate Matters:

Public contribution: There has been a lot of disturbances & harassment in some streets in Pittenweem that has caused serious concern to neighbours. Unfortunately although reported to us, we as a committee are limited on what we can do, and can only pass on those residents concerns to our local councillors. The residents have gone through all correct procedures by contacting the police who are working extra hard dealing with these incidents. **FC** is also involved but because of Covid 19 their resources are limited. The local councillors say the situations are ongoing and unfortunately these problems & criminal activities have risen nationwide due to the lock down.

Public contribution: There is a problem with the number of second-home owners and holidaymakers who seem to be flouting the lockdown, guidance on travel and social distancing rules. A discussion followed. There are some people like key workers isolating from family & farm workers that are occupying these houses legally. Police Scotland can also follow up on enquires regarding properties if phoned on 101.

Anyone breaching lockdown rules can be reported to covid19.enforcement@fife.gov.uk.

Cllr. L.H to follow up on lock down rules being broken.

Approval of Previous Minutes: proposed by Peter Mills seconded by Jim Wood.

Councillor's Report:

Cllr L.H reported that Pittenweem Recycle Centre has staffing difficulties therefore it is unlikely that it will open on or after 1st June despite the Scottish Government giving ample notice.

Some Landowners are taking on a large project to restore the Dreel Burn. It is reported that there is 8 acres that needs to be cleared of giant hogweed down stream of the recycle centre.

Volunteers are welcomed if they want to help. Fife Council has been negligent in dealing with it in the past and is being pressured to take urgent action.

S.W has complained every year regarding the spreading of giant hogweed up to Easter Grangemuir. **J.T** reminded us that **F.C** do take action just before the seeds set & that there is also a hogweed problem upstream from the recycle centre.

Cllr B.P: reported that the current Acting Head Teacher of Pittenweem Primary School has been appointed to the permanent post as Joint Head Teacher at Largoward & Lawhead Primary Schools, St Andrews. At present there is no one to replace the Head Teacher at Pittenweem Primary, but all possible action is being taken to ensure the post will be filled even if it is on a temporary basis. He also reported that **F.C** has started cutting grass in parks & open spaces.

Police Report: Police officers could not attend. In a written report between the two months March and May 2020, police received 2940 calls in North East Fife. 104 calls related to the Pittenweem area. Of these numerous crimes were recorded. Other calls were to assist members of the public, road traffic matters, noise complaints and anti-social behaviour.

Matters Arising from previous Minutes

West Braes Project: due to Covid 19, work on the mural has been postponed, but the Thomson's were able to update PCC on the delay to the start of work. New drawings and information was received on the day of Council meeting.

OOHS: PM reported that meetings with the Partnership are on hold at present. The OOHS Group have been providing advice on the need for community virus testing and recruitment of volunteers for contact tracing.

The OOHS service has been expanded during the pandemic. Hours have been extended and they are now open every night 6pm – 12am & all weekend.

St Andrews Hospital is a Green Zone where patients can be seen after careful triage & don't have Covid 19. Any patients with Covid 19 related symptoms are triaged by a hub in Glenrothes, if patients need to be seen they will be directed to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy which is a Red Zone.

Tolbooth Steeple: Cllr LH reports that on Feb 27th Janice Laird had promised to meet with officials and write a FC report on options for funding of repairs, including using unspent monies from the Council capital budget, that could mean the actual Common Good capital remained untouched. No further feedback has been received from FC and PCC will chase up on this contact. Again work has been postponed due to Covid 19,

Multiuser Path: PM reported that Sustrans seems to have agreed the combined request for feasibility funding from PCC and ENCAP to explore the section of path from Anstruther to Largo. Final confirmation of the contract has not yet been received from Transport Scotland. The study will be conducted by Crispin Hayes Associates. Once completed community consultation will be arranged to allow public comment and choice on possible routes.

Yellow Lines: there had been no response to the request first made in February 2020 for extended yellow lines in South Loan or for yellow lines on the east side of Lady Wynd.

Cllr LH will contact FC again.

Planning Report: There have been less than half a normal months notifications during the past two-month period.

Applications, including the Listed Building consent one, have been passed for the Old Town Hall.

Despite the building warrant for the NTH being passed, there was frustration over continued requests for further information being requested by the Estates Department.

J.T went on to explain he is not on the NTH Committee but found the requests odd, but it may be that a public building application is somewhat different from a normal housing one. Councillors will take this up with FC executives.

New improved drawings and updated information for the West Braes Project application 19/03470/FULL has just been received today and forwarded to all. Please inspect later.

Treasurer's Report: Statement at 30th March shows £483.07

Secretary's Report: **JT** provided a summary of all the information forwarded to the PCC through the previous period. He reminded us of the possible availability of Covid 19 funding to help allow improved social distancing for walkers and cyclists. **Cllr B.P** suggests this should be discussed by the committee.

Chairperson's Report: **MW** reported on several issues.

Speeding Some vehicles coming from St Monans are not slowing down when approaching the 30mph speed limit into Pittenweem. Colin Stirling head of traffic is extremely limited in visiting sites with problems due to the current Covid 19 restrictions.

His reply in an email read: under the circumstances of lockdown this means traffic volume is a lot lighter which some drivers think it is okay to go faster through the village. The current speed of 40mph coming into Pittenweem at both ends doesn't meet the criteria for 30mph as the stretch of road coming in to the village has no built up area developments or street lights. The Roads Authority is responsible for introducing legislation, lining, signing & other interventions for speed limits. Speed cameras at these areas would need to be raised with Police Scotland who are responsible for speed cameras across Scotland. To be added to our agenda after lockdown.

IT Equipment: A number of our members do not have equipment to join meetings on a video link. **SW** has looked into funding for this but we didn't meet the criteria so she has reported our problem to Willie Rennie. **SW** reported requests to support access to computers to allow local democracy to continue during lockdown have not been supported by **FC** but **Willie Rennie MSP** is seeking help from the Scottish Government.

Parking restriction at Dump: **FC** will impose restrictions on parking around the recycling centre shortly as they anticipate queues of traffic once it reopens.

ATM: **AB** has had contact with **Wendy Chamberlain MP**. This issue will be addressed once the pandemic settles.

Rodents in Viewforth Place: A letter had been received from a member of the public concerning rats having been seen in the locality. It was suggested that they may have temporarily moved on from the closed recycling centre. **Mark McColl** of **FC** has investigated but found no evidence of rats during the visit.

On search for a Minute Secretary: **M.W** has had a few enquiries regarding the job. One interested person stays 1hr 30mins away, other replies had come via face book but because of where they stay it would be difficult to send recording back & forth.

One of the guests attending the meeting was interested in the role and will discuss it with the Chair. **J.T** asked if she would like to become a member of the **PCC**.

Caroline Berry is to hold a class about how to spot & stop scams. If any members are interested get in touch with **M.W**,

Adult Learning is arranging a class in Food Hygiene **M.W** had attended a previous class & said it was worthwhile. You earn a certificate at the end.

A.O.C.B

One of our guests asked what was happening about the Skate Park.

Cllr. Linda Holt replied that although there was considerable enthusiasm for reopening the skate park the project cannot progress without young person involvement.

The problem was that the older pupils don't have the time because of exams or they are leaving school. It needs younger children to be involved at the meetings held at Waid during lunch times.

Having interested adults with children just starting or who have just started at Waid Academy volunteer to help & encourage the group when the school reopens & Covid 19 rules allow it, would be a great help! The project does need new input if the skate park is to be used again.

MW asked our guests if they would like to be involved in helping the group get it off the ground.

One showed an interested.

MW thanked everyone for attending, the online meeting closed at 8.40pm

It is hoped to have another online meeting 11th June 2020.

ABBREVIATIONS: FC – Fife Council. 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.

OOHS - Out Of Hours Service, MUP - Multiuser Path, NTH - New Town Hall, WBP – West Braes Project, CGF – Common Good Fund. ENCAP - East Neuk Community Action Plan