



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 Zoom on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 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, Councillors: Cllr. Linda Holt, and Cllr. Bill Porteous.

**Apologies:** Martin Butters, Anne Butters, Gary McClure and Cllr John Docherty.

**Public Attending:** None.

**OPENING OF MEETING:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted it had still not been possible to revert to in person meetings in the New Town Hall yet. The Hall has now been passed in all areas and is ready to be re-opened. JT had questioned a statement in September's minutes regarding a request to move speed limit markers. It was agreed that PCC had not voted or agreed to move limits. Minutes will be amended.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Proposed by J. Wood, Seconded by S. Wilkinson.

### **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

**Cllr B. Porteous:** Pittenweem Outdoor Pool meeting went well.

The Tender has been awarded to an Aberdeen firm with previous experience and work may start before the end of the month.

It has been reported to him that land on the seaward side of the roadway leading to West Braes carpark is in danger of collapsing and may need attention.

He had met Roger Honeyman regarding "rewilding" complaints, and is pleased to report that the West Braes has been mown, but it looks like it may be just a first cut. **MW** reported that Newgrange Park had also been cut, and a mower had extensive damage done to it when it hit a concrete post and old metal that had been fly-tipped in the long grass. It is noted that not cutting areas only encourages fly-tipping and unseen hazards. **Action: BP** will follow up.

**Cllr. L. Holt:** Will comment on agenda points as they come up.

**POLICE REPORT:** There was no update sent from the police this month. **Cllr LH** reported all three Councillors had a positive and productive meeting with Police Scotland in St Andrews today. Police are over stretched. A suggestion that a single monthly report covering all East Neuk & Landward Wards be introduced replacing the report to individual CCs was agreed by acclaim. Police have applied to Fife Council and Area Committee to fund an additional community Police Officer. It was reported that crime in the East Neuk is down and covid-19 compliance is high. The drug and domestic issues remain.

The accident at the junction with the B946 to Waterless Brig on 2<sup>nd</sup> September was mentioned and **MW** reported she had again witnessed speeding coming into Pittenweem by watching the speed indication sign.

A discussion arose again regarding what could be done to slow traffic. Rumble strips, extra signage, and moving the signs that show driver's speeds out to the 40MPH zone were suggestions put forward. **SW** mentioned the reply from FC explaining moving speed limits out was not possible as they have to be within a certain distance of the start of a built up area, and the comment from the police that speed traps show very little speeding, and that there it is a common perception that cars look like they are going faster than they are.

**Action: Cllr. LH** will write to police asking what warnings and traffic calming methods they would recommend and support. Cllr BP said he supports Cllr LH contacting the police and would support any request put to Fife Council.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

**UNIVERSITY TERRACE/AVENUE:** The situation has settled since a resident relocated. Support for those taking cases to court is harder due to pandemic.

**Action:** Keep under review.

**RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS:** **MW** stated that there had been unfortunate, misinformed criticism on social media. PCC recognises the entire Community effort and can't vote for any one group or business over others. It is for individuals to do so. **No further action:** This matter is now closed.

**TOLBOOTH STEEPLE: PM** Notes that there is no evidence of work starting on the spire. A walk-through Survey in September by David Narro Associates, states the building is basically sound but many repairs are necessary: broken lintels, window bars missing, joists need replacing, a large crack down one wall etc. This is not a full structural survey.

It is agreed the work on the roof must go ahead ASAP. The question is who is going to pick up the cost for further repairs on the structure and ongoing maintenance.

**PM** has been advised by Historic Environment Scotland that it may be possible for the PCC to apply for funding providing a letter of approval is received from Fife Council. He asks why FC cannot apply directly for funding as they are eligible to do so and did so recently for Inverkeithing. **LH** replied that she thinks another group was involved in there and funds were available from another source now closed.

The clock repairs were discussed. **PM** is reluctant to start a lengthy and difficult application for funding if the repairs will start before the funding is awarded. No funding can be awarded after work starts. **SW** said that it is worth finding out since repairs may not start until next May due to the weather.

**JT** asked if a group had been formed yet to deal with the Tolbooth and steeple. The answer was No. The public meeting resulted in the community feeling unable to take it on due to lack of sustainability and continued unaffordable costs.

**Action:** **PM** will write to Janice Laird, asking for clarity on the above issues and for a letter of approval. **MW** to talk to contacts at the Big Lottery Heritage Fund.

**OOH'S UPDATE:** No change since last month.

**MUPS:** No change to Crispin Hayes Associates carrying out feasibility study.

**RECYCLE CENTRE:** **Cllr BP** and **PM** reports issues are just as bad. **Cllr LH** reports that changes were announced today. More types of vehicle and rubbish will be accepted but booking is still online only. **Cllr JD** was to take this up and report back but couldn't make this meeting.

**Action:** **Cllr Vettrano** will be at the NE Fife forum next week. PCC members attending will put discrimination and fly tipping issues to **Cllr Vettrano**. Community are encouraged to write to **Cllr. Vettrano**.

**POTHoles:** **MW** reported:

Serious potholes in **David Street** leading into the cemetery car park and the small recycling area. This area is used on a regular basis by FC lorries and the public.

A serious hole developing in **Session Street** at the gas and water services area just outside the NTH gates. Coastline Community Church was to resurface Session Street when planning was agreed, this has never taken place.

Potholes in **Charles Street** near Toll Cross The potholes in Charles Street have to be reported to FC before Councillors can do anything. **MW** to do this.

**Action: Cllr. BP** will contact Funeral Care for David Street and Cemetery and will take up the issue of the Coastline Church's responsibilities as laid out in planning for the services under the road and road repair.

**ABBEY WALL EMBANKMENT:** No reply yet from Frances Ratcliffe. **PM** has tried to find out the owner. He suggests a search of the Land Register Sasine records as a way forward but that will cost £50. JT states PCC has been asking FC to do that for years.

**Action: Ask Cllr. JD** if he has found anything out. Discuss paying for the Sasine records search at next meeting.

**SPACE FOR PEOPLE: MW** and **SW** report that repeated requests for this funding be used to provide a good path up to Ovenstone have been ignored by FC. Allegedly Alan MacLaine - Sustainable Transport Officer - decided to use the money to remove parking and these decisions are going ahead against the express wishes of the communities.

**Cllr LH** reports that some barriers were removed from St. Andrews' Market Street, but FC is refusing to remove them from elsewhere.

**Action: PCC** to challenge Cllr. Vettrano regarding:

- Discrimination to the most vulnerable disabled and partially sighted who need to be able to park near shops.
- That NE Fife does not have the public transport infrastructure that makes pedestrian and cycling possible.
- That these measures are hitting small businesses hardest when they are already under unprecedented pressure due to the pandemic.
- Community is encouraged to write to FC.

**TRAILER AT JOHN NICOLSON:** It is legal with a number plate and reflectors. No further action. Remove from Agenda

**REWILDING COMPLAINTS:** Has already been discussed under Cllr BP report.

**Action: PCC** members attending meeting to make clear to Cllr Vettrano that rewilding is a lot more than just not cutting grass. Not maintaining public areas only encourages fly tipping as does the present restrictions at the recycling centre.

**LARACHMOHR:** PCC have received more complaints from residents regarding seating outside on the pavement and in the road. This was discussed at the Councillors meeting with Police today. Fife Council and Police are well aware of the breaking of by-laws and are taking action.

**Action:** Follow up with Cllr JD and police at next meeting.

**CEMETERY GATES:** Many complaints from residents that gates have dropped again and in terrible state. **PM** noted PCC has complained to Fife Council almost every month for the last 2 years.

**Action:** In the absence of Cllr JD who normally follows this up, Cllr BP will explain how bad the gates are and that they now need replaced.

**BOUNDARY REVIEW:** Closed, remove from agenda.

**EAST NEUK FORUM:** Meetings will be online for the foreseeable future.

**PLANNING REPORT** JT: Three applications, no objections.

Pittenweem Inn's application for change of use to residential has been approved with conditions. JW reported concerns from residents.

**Action:** JW to find out from residents exactly what the concerns are.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** MW reported on behalf of A. Butters:

PCC: account £300-68.

PCCFRA: £3,971.22p. This includes £2,000 handed over from PiCT re cycle path, rest is there for maintenance of lights etc.

FC has confirmed receipt of the Community Council Grant Application and audited accounts passed at the previous meeting.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- LL has received guidance on how to hold an outdoor event safely and within Pandemic restrictions and will make available to all members who request it. This covers bonfires, tree lighting ceremonies etc.
- LL attended an online training meeting ran by Helen Rorrison of Fife Voluntary Action, on how to research, present and apply for funding.
- LL found the workshop very useful and looks forward to using these new skills to raise funding for Pittenweem.
- LL asked if PCC would consider joining Funding Scotland since it will help with applications. PM asked for more information.

**Action:** LL to distribute information about Funding Scotland to members so we can decide if we will join at the November meeting.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

**Community Council Training** – what are PCC's training needs?

Only suggestion was from PM, training on planning.

**Action:** Send comments to MW by Monday.

**PARKING TRIAL ALLOCATION:** Cllr. BP states that there could be a further £20K allocated for missing signage.

**Action:** Missing signage to be reviewed and sent in for funding by MW.

## **A.O.C.B**

Coastal Path: Residents have complained again of fossil hunters digging under the Path to the west of the West Braes pool, thus destabilising the path and threatening a landslide. Most recently a large slab had been dug out close to the largest skerry. It is thought it's a very small number of people doing this. The residents who reported it are happy to show the rangers exactly where the problem is.

**Action: Cllr L.H.** to contact Robbie Blyth of Fife Coast & Countryside Trust.

**SHORT TERM LETS:** Members were asked to put ideas forward via this survey.

**Action:** Keep under review.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** All present agreed we do not need or want to have an AGM until the PCC stands down at the end of our 4 years.

**Action:** FC to be informed. Remove from agenda.

**CHILDRENS PANEL RECRUITMENT:** Poster has been shared on social media. Kerry Elliot is recruiting new members to be on a Panel or to be an Assessor. **PM** asked everyone to consider taking up this important roll to support our young people and families.

**Action:** JW to put a poster in notice board.

**CITIZENS RIGHTS:** Information regarding the loss of Vulnerable Citizens Rights has been distributed to Community Councillors.

**ENCEPT AGM:** SW HAD attended the MEETING and gave a brief report. ENCEPT will be distributing Emergency Boxes to every Community Council soon. The Boxes include two different pumps for flooding as well as a lot of other equipment. Training will be arranged to give instruction on how to use the equipment.

**Action: PCC** to consider where the Box can be stored and accessed easily in an emergency.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** A resident has been in touch with PM regarding preparations for Remembrance Sunday. He reminded us that Cllr. JD was commended last year for stepping in and taking control during the **Act of Remembrance** at 11:00 when groups arrived expecting a combined Church ceremony then instead of the planned one at the later time.

**PM** understands there is to be an organised event with all Churches taking part this year.

It was confirmed that a combined Wreath Laying Ceremony will be at 11:00am at the War Memorial at the Kirk on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November. All welcome.

**MARKET PLACE BENCHES:** A resident has pointed out to JW that the Coronation benches need repainting.

**Action:** JW and JT to assess condition and MW to approach The Men's Shed or Community Service to do the work.

**NEW PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS:** Cllr. BP asked everyone to remember to look out for their neighbours, especially those who may feel isolated and lonely.

**CLOSE OF MEETING.** 9pm

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AT 7PM

ABBREVIATIONS: PCC – Pittenweem Community Council. MW - Margaret Wardlaw, LL- Linda Lauder, 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 - Multiuser Path

NTH - New Town Hall, WBP – West Braes Project,

CGF – Common Good Fund, HES - Historic Environment Scotland.