



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 on Zoom Thursday 10th September 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, and Lynn Balfour.

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

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

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

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 NTH, and that an update on the reopening of the NTH would be provided.

Minutes Approval: Proposed by S. Wilkinson, Seconded by L. Lauder.

Councillors Report: Councillors will comment on items of agenda as we come to them.

Police Report

No report was received from the Police, but **MW** mentioned the recent car accident just out of Pittenweem in the direction of St Monans.

It was noted there are ongoing complaints about speed on that road, and that residents have asked that the 30-mph limit be extended to the junction. Cllr BP confirmed this has been taken forward.

Other local accident black spots were discussed and it was agreed that extra measures should be pursued with the Traffic Management department within FC.

Cllr LH noted there are regulations governing what can be done, but accident statistics can be grounds for reviewing areas of road. All Councillors agreed to this

being looked into. **Cllr BP** said he would highlight that PCC is seeking urgent action on this.

Cllr JD noted that training is restarting for people participating in local Speed Watch scheme.

Matters Arising

University Terrace/Avenue

Cllr LH provided an update on a property in University Terrace that had been at the centre of an anti-social behaviour issue. It was noted that FC is doing everything possible within the law to address tenants who exhibit anti-social and criminal behaviour.

Recognition of Service during Covid pandemic

There was a discussion about the most appropriate way to recognise people and groups who have supported the community during the past 6 months of the Covid pandemic. **PM** suggested submitting a nomination to the 'Scotland Loves Local' project however it was agreed that the PCC would not single out anyone for nomination, and instead would recognise the entire community effort by placing a notice in the noticeboard.

Public Toilets

It was noted that opening times of the West Braes toilets maintained by the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust are listed as 12.00-18.00 for September, and 12.00-16.00 for October.

Tolbooth Steeple

PM provided an update on a meeting that took place to discuss the Tolbooth Steeple project.

It was noted:

- A surveyor's report dating back one year is yet to be received.
- FC is developing a new policy for the maintenance of Common Good properties. Councillors were asked to monitor progress of this policy.
- The structure of the lower steeple has been examined by Property Services and a written survey will be forwarded.
- There is a Council-wide contract in place for the repair of clock faces, and this will be carried out by Smiths of Derby. It was also noted that this contract also covers the clock mechanism at no additional cost.

PM also noted that a bid has been submitted to Historic Environment Scotland for funding support for repair of the clock face, however if work begins on the clock before March 2021 the bid may be rejected as funders tend not to engage in a project if it has already started. **SW** noted that fixing the clock and the tower

could be seen as two separate projects, and that pursuing funding on this basis could be the best way forward to address this.

Cllr LH highlighted that there is no available money from FC to repair the inside of the clock tower or to turn it into an asset for the community, and that if Pittenweem wants to reopen the clock tower, the impetus would have to come from the community.

St Andrews OOH

No new update to report.

Multi Use Path

SW and **PM** met with Crispin Hayes on 19th August 2020 to discuss a feasibility study for the Multi Use Path. Views were given on a desirable route, and it was highlighted that the MUP must work for the whole community. Further feedback will be provided in due course, along with a public consultation.

Recycling Centre

Cllr JD confirmed that Recycling Centre slots still cannot be booked by telephone, and that the Recycling Centre should soon be reopening fully.

Cllr BP highlighted a concern that any reassessment of Pittenweem Recycling Centre opening hours must not be made based on the usage statistics collected during the reduced service of the lockdown.

Campervan Pilot

It was noted there is nothing further to update and that this item can be removed from the agenda.

Fly Tipping

MW reported that there has been some rubbish left behind the NTH, but that there have been no further instances of fly tipping to note.

Abbey Wall Road Embankment

It was noted that PCC funds are earmarked for other community projects and not be spent on maintaining the Abbey Wall embankment.

There was a discussion again about ownership of and responsibility for the embankment, and it was noted that this is a historical issue. **Cllr LH** had asked FC for information on ownership and responsibility back in February 2020 and will seek an update.

Spaces for People

It was noted that there was agreement that the Spaces for People project would not be taken forward in the Marygate. **Cllr BP** noted that concern was raised by

many councillors at a Central FC meeting about how this money is being spent across Fife. **Cllr BP** confirmed he wrote to FC asking for the Marygate funding to be repurposed for widening the path between Charles Street and Ovenstone. He had not yet received a response and will chase it up.

Community Scheme for All

It was noted there is nothing further to update and that this item can be removed from the agenda.

Electric Charging Points

No new update to report.

ATM

A suggestion was put forward to review the original request for an ATM in Pittenweem and highlight that there are no cash withdrawal facilities on Saturday afternoons and Sundays due to the Post Office being closed.

Cove Wynd Street Lights

No new update to report. It was noted that repair was not marked on the active map and reported again by JT.

Summer Street Bin Emptying

It was noted that all three Councillors are keen to see refuse collections in Pittenweem increased in the summer months, due to the number of visitors to the area, and urge FC to find resources for 7-day collections.

Rewilding Complaints

Cllr BP noted there have been many complaints about these plans in Pittenweem, with a particular area of concern being the West Braes. It was noted that a consultation should take place with the Fife community, but it might be mid October until this can happen. It was also noted that rewilding has to be properly managed and that simply allowing grass to go uncut cannot be considered the same thing.

Barriers at Harbour

MW confirmed the Harbour Master has authorised removal of the parking barriers in the harbour area as the number of tourists has decreased, however some remain in place next to boats to allow fishermen clear access.

Cemetery Gates

It was confirmed that the cemetery gates have now open again, however they require painting. **Cllr JD** agreed to take this forward.

Planning

JT provided an update on planning matters and confirmed there were seven notifications in the past month, two of which were approvals.

It should be noted that the 42 Charles Street application for a change of use from hotel to domestic was now closed to comments.

Treasurer's report

Prior to the meeting, PCC members received a copy of the Annual Accounts for the year ending April 2020 for approval.

It was noted that PCC members have reviewed the accounts and confirmed all in agreement that the accounts may now be audited.

It was also noted that the bank statement as of 2nd September 2020 had a balance of £300.63.

Secretary's report

LL confirmed all relevant emails had been circulated to PCC members in advance of meeting.

The following points were highlighted:

- There will be a Community Council Consultation Scheme Rules & Boundary Review presented to FC on 12 November 2020. Community Councils will then be consulted on any proposed amendments.
- A mail was received reporting significant progress with the West Braes pool project, and reporting on a meeting held on 31 August to discuss a Rural Infrastructure Fund bid where the case was put forward for funding for electric charging points, toilet facilities, and a sensory garden. It was noted that if PCC support is required for this latest West Braes project a representative should come to a PCC meeting to provide an update and formally request this. Cllr BP thanked the PCC for all support provided to date.
- Martin Dibley from the East Neuk Forum will host a Zoom meeting and has invited the PCC to attend. **LL** will respond to confirm the PCC are happy with this arrangement.

Chair's Report **MW** noted:

The PCC Fundraising Account bank statements had been sent to AB instead of to her address so she will give a report next month.

Although further funding has now been received towards the MUP it was agreed that monies held in the Fund Raising Account, initially given by Fife Rural Partnership to PiCT, may still be needed for the consultation process and will therefore not be handed back at this stage.

A.O.C.B.

SW had previously put forward a proposal that, to help NTH Funds, the PCC should pay rent for the time it would have been using the hall had we not been in lockdown. All agreed and **MW** thanked everyone for the generous offer, however there had been no opportunity to discuss it with other trustees, but she would keep it in mind if needed in the future.

MW then reported that FC officers are to inspect the hall for reopening on 16th September and there is still cleaning to do and signage to be put in place before then. **Cllr JD** noted he would be happy to help. **Cllr BP** noted thanks to **MW** for all the preparatory work being done.

JT reminded all that a new Data Protection Officer or Named Person will have to be named prior to him leaving. By the revised rules Community Councils now appear to be considered part of Fife Council and it reads as if every CC can decide if they want to have DP Officer or not. A named person and associated address must be provided for the registration document and to receive relevant mail.

SW agreed to act as the Named Person.

It was reported that the Larachmor pub has been serving alcohol to patrons on the pavement directly outside the premises. It was noted that this is against the law. **Cllr JD** will raise this issue with the Fife Licensing Board.

MW mentioned complaints made about items being stolen from graves in Pittenweem Cemetery. The Police have been notified. **Cllr JD** will raise this with the relevant department in FC.

Residents have complained to members that traffic flow in South Loan has become problematic due to the number of cars parking obstructively on both sides of the road. This is creating problems for lorry deliveries to the High Street, but it is highlighted as dangerous since it could cause delays in emergency vehicles gaining access.

Cllr BP noted that instances of obstructive parking should be reported to the police and the **Safer Communities Fife** team. He will raise this specific area as being problematic in an effort to speed up the promised yellow lines.

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

Next Meeting to be Thursday 8th October 2020 at 7:00pm, hopefully to be held in the New Town Hall, Session Street.

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