



**Chair: M. Wardlaw, Vice Chair: A. Butters, Contact Secretary: J. Taylor,  
Treasurer: A. Butters.  
Committee: S. Wilkinson, L. Lauder, P. Mills, M. Butters and P. Ward.**

**Minutes of Community Council Meeting held Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
in Pittenweem New Town Hall**

**Present:** Margaret Wardlaw, Jim Taylor, Peter Mills, Anne Butters, Martin Butters,  
Linda Lauder Susan Wilkinson

**Councillors:** John Docherty, Bill Porteous.

**Apologies:** Cllr Linda Holt, & Paul Ward

**Visiting guests:** none

**Public Member:** Coral Napier and Norman MacLeod

MW welcomed everyone to the meeting,

It was agreed that PM would take notes for this meeting and JT would write up the minutes. To help get the important factual information off the tape it is requested that no background conversations take place whilst someone is "saying their piece".

MW reminded us that we should prepare and present a written submission of a report that is longer than just a few words.

Prior to the Adoption of December's minutes JT said it had to be noted that two last minute corrections had been requested:

- 1) The initial source of cycle track grant is *Fife Council* not *Sustrans*, and
- 2) Fife patients attending Kings Cross Hospital under the NHS24 Scheme **are** being, not *may be*, turned away.

Both amendments have been included in the printed version for adoption tonight. Proposed AB and MB

**Matter's Arising**

Clarification was requested on the procedures to be followed should a member have, or think another member might have, an interest in an item being discussed. It was pointed out that FC sent all new members a link to rules and standing orders at the time they sent the election notification. A few examples were covered, the main one being that a person with an interest cannot stay in the room whilst a subject is being discussed.

Cllr J.D said the same rules of self-declaration apply to Councillors.

**Bank Signatories:** Bank is still using Brian Ortmann as addressee because a document had been misplaced.

**St Andrews out of hours Service:** It was requested and agreed that the OOHS remains on the agenda for the time being.

PM gave an update on meetings and developments in the past month reporting that the Integration Joint Board of the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership met on December 20<sup>th</sup> in Glenrothes with a plan to make a final decision on the Primary Care Emergency Service (PCES) across Fife. The OOHS group were invited to make a 5-minute presentation reflecting the concerns from North East Fife.

Willie Rennie (MSP) had initiated a multiparty debate in the Scottish Parliament the previous day when the Scottish Health Minister indicated that the level of concern and the participation request made by the OOHS group should have the consequence that the decision be delayed. PM attended and observed the meeting. There was a lengthy debate lasting about two hours during which it became clear that West Fife Councillors on the Board were demanding equity across Fife.

If the PCES in Glenrothes and Dunfermline were to close as there were insufficient medical staff willing to maintain the service, then St Andrews could not be allowed to continue even though medical staffing had never been a problem. This approach seems to ignore the current inequality to those in NEF who have long distances to travel to hospitals in Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline and have poor transport systems which are not available at night. The conclusion of the Board was that an options appraisal would be repeated across the whole of Fife with more appropriate scoring used on this occasion. It was hoped this would allow a decision to be made by April 2019.

SW gave quite a lengthy break down covering similar facts and finished by commenting on the apparent belief of some West Fife Councillors that the weighting balance re costs and facilities already favour N E Fife and must be equalised by reducing services to NE Fife. To prove West Fife Councillors misinformed, she said, we should ask for reports from people who felt the system has failed them and the data should be made public to show the failings of the system in NE Fife.

Both Cllrs agreed with the idea and MW asked them if they were willing to have their e-mail contacts included in the minutes for that purpose.

JT said he felt that a separate article for placing in the notice boards might get a better response than a report hidden within the minutes. This was agreed.

SW to come up with a report.

Cllr BP commented that a freedom of information request has been made which will delay decisions, and it has been noted that the Integrated Joint Board (**IJB**) may be moving the goal posts by asking different questions this time round.

**Play Parks:** A FC group leader was expected to attend tonight to give some insight on what was proposed re Pittenweem play areas and Skate Park. JT said we had already had reports saying that the West Braes Park and the one beside the school would be maintained but the one near Glebe Park will go. The Skatepark funding was postponed to the new financial year. MW said it was felt that new members needed further explaining from FC officials.

**Road Signs:** No new development on normal road signs other than the new no through road ones already mentioned at the bottom of Water Wynd.

MW said there were lots of out of date brown signs around the area and asked the Councillors if they had any info on Brown Signage rules. Cllr JD said there was published information on the subject. JT said it was reported recently that brown signs were not the responsibility of FC other than ensuring they conformed with current rules when a business or group wanted to erect them.

It was thought that one of the James Street road signs was missing.

**Grit Bins:** Bin location map to be retrieved from records for MB to check bins are in position and that they have been topped up.

**Gate Closing device at Play Park:** Request from parents passed to FC but FC report that the gate meets the normal criteria. FC have suggested that "No Dogs" signs should be mounted beside play area. We will follow this up - Fife Council may supply and fit the sign - Cllr JD to follow up.

AB pointed out that the gate to the actual play area and some fencing was missing. MW said the play area fencing was initially installed by the PCC to keep dogs off the area so it is up to the PCC to repair or replace it. MB is to look to see if the gate can be found and to chase up repair or replacing of same at cost to our funds.

**Road repairs:** both adopted and unadopted

Repairs are progressing very slowly at University Avenue. Cllr JD explained there was a published timetable but urgent road problems elsewhere frequently interrupt planned work.

There is a need for urgent repairs to South Loan, Queen Elizabeth, and West Braes.

It was previously mentioned that funding was available for **unadopted** road repairs. Session Street & David Street were put forward as in need of urgent repair under the scheme. Cllr BP is pursuing this with Ken Gourlay.

**Ovenstone Road:** Cllr BP will ask as to progress in clearing the road of windblown earth, and Cllr JD will ask about Hogweed control.

**Doctor Day's presentation:** Dr Day had asked if she could come to a meeting to make a presentation concerning the SCOTGEM training programme for medical students. We agreed to a visit and she was informed of meeting dates via the surgery e-mail system. That did not appear to work, so a letter is to be dropped off to her to re-invite her to the Feb 14th meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** All relevant information from FC has been passed to all members as it was received.

Inter PCC communications:

- a) As already mentioned above at adoption of last months minutes, the £2000 funding received by PiCT for exploration of the multi use path in Pittenweem come from the Fife Rural Partnership not Sustrans.
- b) Working on the principal that we are to set up a sub committee I suggested that the sum could be passed to the PCC and lodged in the fund raising account to use for this purpose with the proviso that it would be handed over and divided equally between the Pittenweem Community Library and the West Braes project if we did not proceed.
- c) The village tree lights, much appreciated by some, used at Christmas and during the Pittenweem Art Festival and are in need of replacement. Costs for repair by replacement were circulated. PM asked who owned the lights. (explained later under **PCFRC**)
- d) Brian Ortmann's stock breakdown has been circulated reporting that the communal paint store has 25L of assorted paint valued at £152 and rollers, brushes etc. valued at £36.
- e) MW had asked if there was any update on the voting role status of Ian Rooney. He is not yet registered. AB said Bill Ellis who works at the chemists might come to our next meeting in place of IR to see what goes on.

**Treasurer's Report:** The current balance is £1760.41. The PCC needs to show how it intends to spend its surplus resources when applying for the yearly admin grant. AB said a laptop computer and printer for the secretary & treasurer to use had been suggested. MW said it would also centralise printing costs, which at the moment are covered by who ever does the printing.

Some members thought this a wrong decision since everyone already had their own devices.

JT said that is exactly why it is a good idea; it would be far more secure and we would be able to comply with regulations better by having a central storage point. Discussion to be continued at next meeting.

**Planning Report:** Nine notifications during this month. Four were new and three approved. No neighbour contact on any issues. It was mentioned that there were far more extensions being built under Builders Warrants now taking them out of planning discussions.

**Police Report:** Will not be able to attend tonight since on duty, but nothing to report.

### **Councillors Report**

**Cllr BP** reported that the plan for the new Madras College in St Andrews had now been finally approved.

He said there had been a plan to consider 20mph speed limits in all village main streets and it is currently awaiting a community response.

MW said there were outstanding reports on speeding and signs going back at least two years.

JT pointed out that James Street already had a mandatory 20mph limit twice a day and that two traffic surveys have been done on speeds in the area. Extra 20mph pole signs and road marking had been added in Abbey Wall Road although the requested speed survey has not been done- probably being ruled as not required. It was pointed out that a blanket reduction in speed to 20mph can mean a rise in air pollution in the area due to the higher engine revs.

**Cllr JD** reported FC has a statutory duty under the Roads, Scotland Act 1984 to take steps to prevent snow endangering the safe passage of pedestrians on pavements and vehicles on public roads. They have set up a plan for winter management of gritters and snow ploughs as conditions demand. FC has named a winter manager plus nightshift officers to respond to any issues and emergencies.

**The winter shift officers** can be contacted on face book, on Fife Direct or by telephone on **03451-555555 ext 859034.**

**Noticeboard** - Key holders - MW, JT and PM currently hold keys. Community events and charity fund raising can be advertised on the noticeboard by passing the material to the nearest PCC member.

**Action:** JT to ensure info is displayed showing what is appropriate for a poster and how to get into the board

**PCFRC:** (A sub committee of the PCC) the fund raising group raised the monies for the tree lights mentioned earlier. The three powered bollards supplying the lights were also paid from that fund. There are monies left in the fund that can be used to replace the faulty light systems.

**Scottish Resilient Community Plan:** JT asked if we wanted to be an independent group or to join up with the East Neuk group that has already been set up.

It was agreed we join with the EN Group and name representatives since we need to coordinate with other groups in NEF in any case to make Pittenweem compliant with the plan. Some of the previous ideas such as making and keeping a list of vulnerable people and identifying farmers with tractors and trailers to ferry people has now been abandoned. We could still identify business' that could supply "space" heaters and portable generators. Identifying farmers that would help with snow clearing is pointless since FC already make an agreement with them & and it has already been mentioned that the farmers choose to clear certain roads to suit their own needs anyway.

We do need to suggest a Refuge.

The New Town Hall and the Church Hall will be considered as community centres in the event of adverse weather conditions or some other happening creating an emergency.

MW as key holder would be an obvious named contact for the New Town Hall.

SW will complete the form she has as soon as possible and ask Gillian Duncan or Elizabeth Riches to give a presentation to enable progress to be made.

**Multi function cycle path:** Cllr BP mentioned the amount of monies already spent by FC and Sustrans on multi use paths. The path from Anstruther to Pittenweem and beyond was discussed and, as an answer to why nothing had been done up to now, it was pointed out that PiCT was previously handling it and that the PCC had not been approached until last summer. PM said it was noted that the project is a long-term and the ability of the PCC to manage such a project is a concern. JT suggested that, even though we did not agree with the project as a group we should consider in the first instance, forming a subcommittee to explore taking on the responsibility of managing the Pittenweem section and its possible extension to our boundary on the St Monans side. If it then spun off to become an independent group we would have at least made an effort. The members voted to take this forward. PM will be the project leader of a sub committee tasked with finding out more information. He will contact PiCT, Bill Howett of the Anstruther team and the St Monans' CC secretary. JT will also be part of the sub committee.

**Training:** No PCC members elected to undergo additional training and the period for application is now closed.

**Church Tower:** The delay in repairs to the church tower remains a concern. SW felt we should still try to raise funds to get the repairs done despite the argument against that last month. Cllr BP made official the report we had already seen by saying that substantial capital plan funding is required for the repair and nothing has come as yet from common good funding. Janice Laird in Community Services and Alan Paterson in Property Services are exploring the funding through the capital plan. The tower was last checked structurally in October 2018.

JT reminded the Councillors present that we had already asked for their help in ensuring the leases that allowed Mr L Low to use the church tower be rescinded. Cllr JD will investigate this subject.

**Bins in St Adrian's:** This issue has now been resolved.

**Land Slip at St Adrian's:** Three gardens are to be underpinned and the work is to be completed before the end of the financial year.

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

AB said there was a need for yellow line parking restriction in St Abbs Crescent where it joins with Milton Place.

JT said the same is needed in South Loan between the Backgate and where it joins the High Street.

**Action:** Cllr JD will make a request for yellow lines in those areas.

JT reported that Brian Ortmann had handed in the paint store key this evening.

MW asked Coral Napier if she had any observations having sat through the meeting.

Coral indicated that she had enjoyed the meeting but felt the PCC needed to try to engage more with the Pittenweem community by putting things in local newspapers and on Facebook (offering to do that via the library.)

MW pointed out that the activities of the PCC are always published in the High Street notice board and in the Community library, put on the Pittenweem Community website, and in the past were put into the East Fife Mail but, since the change of ownership, they no longer guarantee to publish and insist on the right to edit.

Coral then said people she talks to say they do not know what goes on, and comment that a lot of info shown is out of date. It was pointed out that the minutes would always be a month late because of the system, but she said it was information on who to contact about advertising and meeting dates that was meant.

The publication of contact names would be helpful, and the agenda should be in the High Street notice board in advance of the monthly meeting.

PM agreed with publishing an agenda saying it might encourage members of the Community to attend if they saw items of interest to them.

MW said that contact names are already out there and pointed out that members spend many hours per week doing things in the background - not just, as some people think, the two hours a month attending a meeting. Our new members are enthusiastic, but even they have been surprised at the work required.

MB said Coral should join us and sign up as secretary.

MW asked Coral if she was interested in joining us and on getting the answer "No" thanked Coral for her input, saying the points regarding notice board information and agenda were noted, but since she did not want to join us, it was hoped that she and the gentleman with her would go out and "spread the word" now they had some insight into what we did.

Cllr JD said that in their defence he thought Pittenweem CC very successful, working well as a group and with some members putting in a lot of effort to achieve an outcome.

There was a short two-minute discussion on "secretary" after the public members left.

We really need to split it into three or four divisions - Minute Secretary, normal Secretary, IT Secretary (e-mail post person) and a Media secretary (face book and web person).

The minute secretary can be a paid job!

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY @ 6:45PM for 7:00PM start.

Abbreviations: **M.W** – Margaret Wardlaw; **A . B** – Anne Butters; **M . B** – Martin Butters; **L.L** – Linda Lauder; **J . T** – Jim Taylor; **K.E** – Karen Edwards; **P . M** – Peter Mills; **S.W** – Susan Wilkinson; **P . W** – Paul Ward.

**Cllr. L.H** – Councillor Linda Holt; **Cllr J.D** – John Docherty; **Cllr B.P** – Councillor Bill Porteous.

**FC**- Fife Council; **PCC** - Pittenweem Community Council; **PiCT** – Pittenweem Community Trust

**OOHS** – Out of hours service; **IJB** - Integrated Joint Board; **PCES** - Primary Care Emergency Service