



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

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**Chair: M. Wardlaw, Vice Chair: A. Butters, Treasurer: A. Butters:
Contact Secretary: J. Taylor.**

Committee: S. Wilkinson, L. Lauder, M. Butters, P. Mills, P. Ward and G. McClure.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th June 2019 in Pittenweem New Town Hall

Opening of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm and welcomed all present.

Present:

Community Council: Margaret Wardlaw, Jim Taylor, Peter Mills, Gary McClure, Susan Wilkinson, Jackie Johnson (Minutes).

Fife Councillors: Cllr Linda Holt, Cllr John Docherty and Cllr Bill Porteous.

Apologies: Linda Lauder, Anne Butters and Martin Butters.

Members of the public: Alison Graham and David Stutchfield ex Pict.

Guests: Ian Smith (Fife Council) and Nicola Thomson (West Braes Project)

Approval of Minutes

Proposed: P.Mills Seconded: J. Taylor

Guest Speakers

Our guest speakers were welcomed by the Chair and **Nicola Thomson of the West Braes Project** was invited to give her report.

Nicola thanked the **PCC** for getting the March minutes to the Project so quickly. She reported that Fife Council has now made a conditional offer of funding totalling £270,000, and that the news would be announced in the local press soon. Work on the pool will commence in Spring 2020 weather permitting.

Cllr. LH congratulated the **WBP** on all their hard work.

NT thanked **Cllr BP** for attending every meeting and for all his support.

Cllr BP added his congratulations and said there is still a lot of work to do, which he will continue to support.

MW wished the project good luck in the future and said not to hesitate to come back to the **PCC** for anything they could assist with.

MW thanked **NT**, invited her to stay for the remainder of the meeting if she wished to, and asked the next guest speaker **Ian Smith** of **Fife Council** to introduce himself. **PM** said he should perhaps do that.

PM introduced **Ian** as **Head of Sustainability Traffic and Travel**, saying that he has agreed to offer us help in applying for funding and to assist with the feasibility study into the routing of the Multi User Path from Anstruther through or around Pittenweem and onwards.

Ian explained the remit of his department, the interaction between the Scottish Government, Sustrans and **FC** in the funding and setting of standards for paths, and the possible cost of such paths. He explained the making and processing of applications and reminded us that although the planning and public consultation costs are 100% funded by Sustrans they only "match fund" 50% of the actual construction costs, so other sources have to be looked at for funding any planned scheme. He said he would stop there for any questions.

MW asked **PCC** members to put questions to **IS**.

Q **PM**: What is the timetable for putting forward an application?

IS: New applications can be made from the 1st July up until April 2020

Q **PM**: What capacity does your Dept have to do this, and what would the possible time scale and costs be?

IS: The actual bid is easy being just a day or so's work. More pressure when it comes to the actual design time especially as the Dept has had staff leaving. These vacancies have now been filled but we have a backlog of work as a result. Fee would be four % of the planning stage costing.

Q **PM**: We don't wish to hold Anstruther Cycle Group up so will work be completed this year?

IS: Good question, I see there were two paths put forward for consideration, so we need to get a commonality of view as to the best route. It appears that the roadside route has been the one taken forward.

A discussion followed:

David Stutchfield stated that the inland route was reported as the **PCC** preferred route at least four years ago.

Cllr. LH said that the same point was raised when she first got involved on being elected over two years ago.

JT made the point that the previous **CC** members had voiced concern about not being included and that the Anstruther cycle group were making decisions within Pittenweem's boundaries.

IS said he had not been initially aware of that having been told that a cycling group from each village was taking things forward.

MW added that having decided to get involved, the new members were angered by being told the route had already been decided on.

SW said that although the **PCC** would like to support the path to Pittenweem there is no obvious safe route through and there is no cycling permitted on the coastal path. The back route across the fields is also problematic as there are several landowners involved.

IS explained there were drawbacks with both routes. The council is not willing to maintain routes away from roadways because of access difficulties for repair, this was one of the hurdles on the Crail to St Andrews section, and where a path runs alongside a *main* road we need to ensure a 1.5m barrier between traffic and the 3m cyclists path. This means even more land is lost from the fields.

SW stressed the importance of getting this sorted out - the path stopping at the Pittenweem limit will only create a bottleneck, and the main road with its narrow pavements is very dangerous.

IS said he thought cyclists could be routed up Milton Road to get to the core path or back route we planned as a way round Pittenweem and onwards.

He added that Sustrans has recently said that an urban passage should have 3.5m for cyclists plus 3.5m for pedestrians, not really practical, and Transport Scotland are also looking at setting standards

SW emphasised that until we find out if the back route is feasible the Anstruther path should be stopped at Dreelside and not even brought to the Spindrift.

Cllr BP countered that, stating that the path, being a separate work-study, could still proceed to the Pittenweem boundary as planned.

SW continued saying that we would object to it proceeding.

IS said that you cannot actually object, but buy in from the local community is essential – no route will be enforced.

Cllr LH said what happened was unfortunate but we must now look ahead.

MW then said she had a further question and asked:

Q There is a problem with local B roads not being maintained so what happens when a cycleway starts to deteriorate?

IS: if it is roadside it will be the responsibility of Fife Council. If not it would fall on the communities involved.

Q PM: Given concerns around traffic pollution does it make sense to run the path along a main road?

IS: The planned increase in electric vehicles should lead to an improvement in air quality.

Q MW: To finish, have you got a preferred route?

IS: At the moment it would be along the main road but it will depend on the feasibility study and public opinion. August would be a good target to get this completed.

MW thanked **IS** for attending the meeting and for offering to assist. The **PCC** will discuss further and then contact **IS** via **PM**.

Minutes of Meeting held on 9th May – **GM** Proposed and **PM** seconded.

MW announced that **JJ** would be paid the new rate per meeting previously discussed and agreed by **PCC** members, given the length of time it takes to write up minutes.

Councillors Reports

Cllr LH reported that:

1. Abbeywell Road householders who's properties back on to the high wall on Abbey Wall Road had been asked to give a response in time for the July **PCC** meeting on where their boundaries lay.
2. **JL** has told her that weed cutting is now on the list of works and that the Locality Team will be in touch with **MW**.
3. **FC** will not now be replacing damaged bins in coastal areas with the new seagull proof bins promised, they will use only standard bins. She has spoken to the new member of staff responsible and he has said there is no funding for new bins or to add extra ones, and even if the community decide to buy their own they will not be emptied, as they will not be on the contract.
She was angry about this and was going to contact the local press.
4. The Charles Street Bus Stops are not used by the Waid at the moment but might be if needed by a pupil in the future so cannot be removed.
5. On Signage for local services - a bid would have to put in via **JL** but **PCC** needs to decide first which signs it wants. **SW** asked if a sign at the West Braes was included.
ACTION **MW** to check.
6. Pittenweem Arts Festival - **JL** doesn't think there is any chance of getting a meeting with the organisers. She has agreed that a contact number is important and is going to get a mobile number to give to **MW**.
7. Clocktower - **JL** still looking to broker a solution between property services and Common Good Fund but Council money cannot be spent on Common Good property. However a community group of at least 4 people could form a Trust to access grants. **FC** won't help do this, but I am happy to be involved.
ACTION: **Cllr LH** to contact the East Neuk Preservation Group.

8. Skatepark - Caroline Berry has still not been in touch re the West Braes Project.
ACTION: **NT** to get in touch with **CB** via e-mail copying **MW** and **Cllr LH** in.

Cllr BP reported that:

1. He was concerned that Fife Council support for volunteers who work on the Multi User Path is not very good.
2. An application for £30,000 has been made by the Library to the Common Good Fund for repair work. **JT** said we have to vote on this later, but it is unfortunate that the Old Town Hall and Tower have not been maintained by Fife Council. **MW** suggested that the Pittenweem Arts Festival be asked to contribute. A vote was taken and four members supported writing to **PAF**.
3. There is a possibility of repair work being carried out to the Dreel Burn in the near future.

Cllr JD reported that:

1. Fife Council do not see any need for new commercial bins. **JT** said he felt this was the responsibility of the individual local business owners, not **FC** or the **PCC**.
2. "Include Me" the Citizen Advocacy Service in NE Fife is looking for volunteers. See <http://www.includeme.org.uk/> for details.
The service matches a volunteer with a vulnerable adult who may experience exclusion or unfair treatment to help them voice their opinions and take an active part in decision making about their own lives.

ACTION: **Cllr JD** to invite Martin Dibley Secretary of the East Neuk Forum to give a presentation at a later date.

Matters Arising From Minutes of 9th May :

Cemetery Gates: **FC** member of staff dealing with this is still off work, so there has been no update for 3 weeks. ACTION: **Cllr JD** to chase.

St Andrews OOHS: **PM** reported that it is becoming clear that there is likely to be some service at St Andrews Community Hospital and that this will be discussed at a meeting of the **IJB** in one weeks time. No clarity regarding plans at the moment but it looks like it will be a significantly reduced service. **SW** asked if this outcome was legal.

Cllr LH said that everything that could be done had been done at the moment.

Abbeywall Road: already discussed.

Street Names and Signage: already discussed

Police Report: Since the 1st May there have been two crimes reported, a road traffic matter and an attempted theft of red diesel. There have been eight other calls to assist members of the public re noise complaints and in relation to motor vehicles.

The police have apologised for not attending **PCC** meetings recently, this has been because of duty rosters and injuries. MW said it was important that they should try to attend in the future

Secretary's Report received and forwarded were:

1. A map from Elizabeth Riches re Multi Use Path. **MW** had replied that the **PCC** would endorse a feasibility study.
2. Make Cycling Mainstream -Training for Cycle Routes organisers. If any **PCC** members are interested in attending you can claim mileage allowance.
3. Kincardine Bridge traffic report - essential maintenance work will commence on 5th June meaning traffic disruption for 6 weeks.
4. Review of Fife Council Community Council Scheme, we have to put forward ideas for improvements. Crail has already replied and their comprehensive "answers to the problems" has been circulated.

ACTION **PM** to respond to Andrew Ferguson saying **PCC** supports Crail's views.

5. Complaints of Traffic Problems in James Street being caused by new shop and café which appears to have opened without applying for planning and other permissions. **Cllr LH** to contact enforcement officer.

6. Request from police to include a **CC**. "copy in" to the area office address: eastneuklandwardcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk when we contact an individual officer so that a mail is not missed if they are off duty.

7. Update on Painting of Pittenweem Cemetery gates - already discussed.

8. Holding Events in Fife - a guide to assist with enquiries we may get in relation to holding events.

9. Public Access Defibrillator Pittenweem Harbour – where does **PCC** want it to go? **SW** said First Responders preference was Fish Market. AGREED unanimously.

10. Common Good Application from Pittenweem Old Town Hall - we are requested to discuss this and send our comments back as our input to the decision making process.

Application was discussed and it was AGREED unanimously that the grant should be awarded. ACTION: **JT** to respond.

Treasurer's Report: **AB** currently on holiday. MW reported that there is £676.48 in the bank account. Bank mail is still being sent with **AB's** name to MW's address despite time being spent at the bank to rectify.

Chairperson's Report:

1. **MW** reported that lights for the trees on High Street have now been purchased but that a cherry picker is required to get them on the trees. **JT** has been looking into costs at St Andrews Garden Centre and "equipment with man" Kirkcaldy. Cost would be £250 minimum. **Cllr BP** said St Monans uses a Kirkcaldy company who also supplies an operator.

ACTION: **Cllr BP** to speak to **MW**.

AGREED unanimously to pay for a cherry picker.

2. New deadline date for comments on constitution rules - already covered.

3. Received mail informing us of new guidelines re Common Good Fund allocation policy re buildings such as the clock tower.

4. Scottish Water Newsletter – **MW** had circulated to everyone.

AOCB

Cllr. LH reported gritting routes are changing - will forward e-mail for discussion at meeting in July.

PM asked what our response to Ian Smith is to be regarding the feasibility study.

AGREED unanimously to go ahead with study.

NT said that West Braes Project is being asked about electric chargers for cars.

ACTION **Cllr JD** to pursue and report back.

MW has received a large number of complaints re Dog Dirt on High Street.

ACTION: **Cllr JD** to contact dog wardens.

MW reported a main street lamppost beside Water Wynd has been hit by a vehicle and bent.

ACTION: **MW** to report.

The PCC sent its best wishes to Linda Lauder who is recovering from surgery and will be absent for the next 3 months. **MW** to organise some flowers.

Meeting finished at 9-30pm

Next Meeting: Thursday 11th July 6.45pm for a 7pm start.

Abbreviations:

JT- Jim Taylor, **MW**- Margaret Wardlaw, **SW**-Susan Wilkinson, **LL**- Linda Lauder, **AB**-Anne Butters, **MB**-Martin Butters, **PM** - Peter Mills, **GM**-Gary McClure, **JJ** – Jackie Johnson, **Cllr JD**-Cllr John Docherty, **Cllr LH**- Cllr Linda Holt, **Cllr BP**-Cllr Bill Porteous, **JL** - Janice Laird, **FC**- Fife Council, **PCC**- Community Council, **PCCFRC**- Community Council Fund Raising Committee, **IS**- Ian Smith, **NT**-Nicola Thomson, **CB**- Caroline Berry, **WBP**- West Braes project, **OOHS** – Out of hours service; **IJB** - Integrated Joint Board; **PCES** - Primary Care Emergency Service.