



The Royal Burgh of
Pittenweem and District
Community Council

Website: www.fifedirect.org.uk/royalburghofpittenweem

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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, G. McClure. J. Wood.

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2019 in Pittenweem
New Town Hall**

Present:

Community Council: Margaret Wardlaw, Jim Taylor, Peter Mills, Gary McClure, Susan Wilkinson, Linda Lauder, James Wood.

Fife Councillors: Cllr John Docherty, Cllr Bill Porteous

Minutes: Julie Knaves

Apologies: Anne Butters, Martin Butters

Visitor: one member of public

Guests: PC Chris Stecka, Nicola Thomson of West Braes Project, and Kevin Lancaster, an Anstruther Cyclist

Opening of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm, welcomed all present and asked that all mobiles and electronic devices be turned off.

Adoption of August's Minutes - Proposed LL with SW seconding

Police Report - PC Stecka gave update on local crime figures and explained training for Speed Watch --- see Addendum 1.

Councillors Reports

Cllr BP reported:

1. No real answers on the OOHS at St Andrews Hospital. It is understood that nurses and GPs are not keen to sign up to 3hr shifts, so questions were asked re numbers agreeing. Still no response from the partnership up to today. You will have seen the articles in the papers expressing concerns.
2. As we know Fife Council have spent nearly fifteen months looking for a site for a Care Home and Care Village to replace Lady Walk but to date no suitable site has been found. By the end of the month they will have had an architect look at the feasibility of just replacing the building on the site of the present home. They will obviously have to consult all present residents on how they can do that. We need to continue to fight for something here in North East Fife.

Cllr JD reported:

1. He wanted to emphasise that having a Care home in the East Neuk is a very important issue that must be followed up.
2. On St Andrews OOHS - letters were written about what seems to be diversionary tactics being used by the Board. There have been more letters supporting that view and another that the system was being set up to fail. **MW** asked if there was any truth that St Andrews Hospital was to close. She received the answer 'No'.
3. The charity, 'Include me' are looking for volunteers and will be attending the next East Neuk Forum meeting.
4. He has been appointed as a Trustee to Fife Centre for Equality, due to his Equality and Health Service background.

Cllr LH's report - **MW** said Cllr Holt had sent through e-mails for tonight on various subjects, some just before the meeting, we will mention them when the subject comes up. **JT** said he had forwarded copies to all members.

Matters Arising

West Braes Project and Skate Park - **Nicola Thomson** gave update on both subjects - see Addendum 2.

St Andrews OOHS - **PM** has circulated members a report he prepared which was used in press reports. He spent time at the St Andrews OOHS centre and reports that the service is complex and not easy to quickly understand. This raises questions as to whether the Partnership fully understand what they are planning. Willie Rennie MSP discussed the matter in Parliament; the Medical Director has been written to and asked to address the questions in the report. 22 GPs have been contacted, 12 replied saying they will not take part, 3 said they might, and the remainder have not responded. GPs are only now being contacted regarding starting on 4th November. Many say it is not feasible to work 3-hour shifts and a report is to be written saying why the 12 have decided not to take part. **Cllr JD** reported the changes have caused a huge knock on effect at Ninewells resulting in an increase in waiting times.

Abbey Wall Road – **JT** reported members have been sent a copy of a mail just received from **Cllr LH** stating - No response as of yet, have sent an e-mail to chase.

School crossing – Cllr JD reported no reply received as yet. Problems have been reported from other areas as well so FC looking at issues of whole area. To be keep on agenda

Football Trophy – **MW** has written and thanked BM for coming along to show us the trophy and explaining the Easton history. She has asked him to keep us updated.

Clock Tower – There is a Planning Application in - a Costing Survey is to be done, as this is required before starting any repairs. Cllr LH has organised an open public meeting on 18th September when Janice Laird will explain the way forward.

Play Parks – MW reported Cllr Holt was supposed to have asked Alan Bisset from Fife Council to come to this meeting to discuss the £10,000 Funding promised for a replacement roundabout at the New Grange play park. **JT** said no time scale was stated, but others felt a definite answer was needed. Chair wants all previous correspondence to be collated to keep paper trail. **Action** - JT to send Email.

Cycle Routes – PM reported some progress, but he has been unable to contact Ian Smith as he is off ill at present. **Cllr BP** said, "Hopefully he will be back by the end of the month".

Kevin Lancaster a former founding member of the Anstruther Cycle Group, invited to attend by **SW**, then gave a talk on the earlier history of the group, previous planning and funding received. Following a discussion he was asked if he was willing to share any early stage relevant information he had and said he could. He said it is important that all EN villages work together for safe cycle routes since local people, as well as tourists, would benefit from them. Pittenweem residents need to be consulted on the Anstruther to Pittenweem route, as they will probably be the main users, especially children travelling to the Waid Academy. It has been said FC would not maintain an inland core path route but there is uncertainty about that. Kevin suggested that the PCC should continue to explore routes and then open up the discussion to the public. **SW** said there are no objections from local farmers. Kevin then stated the initial £75,000 to put a cycle path in place between Anstruther and Pittenweem had now jumped to £600,000. A question was asked about how the current route was approved. Kevin reported "By **Sustrans**". They did come out to do surveys if requested. They had looked at the earlier routes and funding had already been given. MW thanked Kevin for his input and asked him to pass the information previously mentioned to PM. After Kevin left **PM** said Sustrans had told him that no funding has been allocated to date, which contradicts the information just passed to us.

ACTION PM to follow up.

PAF – MW reported on a mail from **Cllr Holt**. There will be a meeting with Janice Laird when a date is agreed. The Impact assessment is felt to be quite misleading; they need to look at issues raised by the community. **MW** again expressed the view that the meeting should be held here in Pittenweem New Town Hall.

Gritting Routes – MW said an email had been sent from FC explaining the reason for the withdrawal of some services. The information they have been fed was wrong - School buses do still turn at University Avenue and that it will still be covered by looping from it to the High Street via West High Street instead of via South Loan. Abbey Wall Road will not be covered. It was said the RNLI sometimes need to access to the harbour. **Cllr JD** said it was a definite health and safety issue. **Cllr BP** said he would like PCC to write to say that we do not agree to the change. East Neuk committees, FMA and various groups should be asked to write letters of objection. **ACTION: PM** to write letter on behalf of PCC.

Short Term Lets – Still awaiting the promised report. **ACTION: JT to chase**

CC Review Scheme – to be taken off agenda.

James Street Shop – nothing has come through from planning or any other department. To be kept on agenda.

Old Town Hall & Library – to be carried over. This will be discussed with Janice Laird on the 18th.

Neighbourhood problems – **MW** reported that a recent complaint had been resolved, it went to court but there was no prosecution. Case now closed.

Cemetery Gates – **MW** has been approached again, gates in desperate need of repair/replacement, to date **FC** have taken no action. **ACTION Cllr JD** to chase.

Traffic Management - **FC** came back regarding yellow lines in South Loan. Cllr LH is dealing with this, wait till she comes back.

Traffic Signs - it was suggested we ask Stewart Goodfellow to come to next meeting. It is coming up to six months since we had the walk around.

Giant Hogweed – remove from agenda

Jackie Johnston- **MW** presented Jackie with two outside plants in tubs as a thank you for her services as minute secretary, Jackie passed on her thanks.

East Neuk Forum - we have all seen the minutes - there was a mention of a clean-up of the Dreel Burn and the mention of ENCAP. **SW** explained what ENCAP was and wondered what happened to the funding that they had been given. **MW** mentioned that when Martin Dibley had answered a question regarding who pays the charges for the hall meeting, he said "usually the CC of where the meeting is being held picks up the costs, but we had to pay for our night at Pittenweem ourselves".

Common Good Artefacts - It was agreed a separate meeting would be held to sort things out, bearing in mind it needs to be done before the end of the month.

ACTION MW- to send potential dates to all.

Vacant Building Land- **MW** brought up the idea that since Pittenweem had vacant building ground could that not be utilised to build the new old folks home. It was agreed about the possibility of a care home for the elderly to include homes and shops. There have been some discussions regarding problems of access and a lack of agreement between landowners in the past.

ACTION Cllr JD- to put forward to **FC**, he took the plans away with him.

Planning Report - **JT** said there had been 17 notifications since last meeting. 6 permitted/approved. 8 new. 1 amendment. 2 reporting work completed. Water Wynd application has at least 19 objectors.

The application for 65 Abbey Wall Road was questioned. It *is* in the conservation area and one window *is* on the street. If there are other uPVC windows in the area then it might be passed. FC are to fit uPVC windows in Priory Court, right in the centre of the controlled area.

CIIR BP reported being present at a planning meeting when an application was initially refused but then passed since it was impossible to tell that the new design double-glazing was not wood when seen from the street.

Treasurer's Report- E-mail from **AB** reports £235.31 in bank.

Secretary's Report- All emails forwarded to all.

To mention:

1. Settlement trust - we cannot be told who got the £200, but Janice Laird is one of the controlling officers.

2. Common Good – We should decide if there is something we want to keep the monies for before it is transferred into the investment fund. JT suggested funds should go to the NTH for emergency batteries since their application was rejected because the fund had been used for scaffolding. To be discussed at next meeting.

3. Clock Tower - There is Meeting at 7pm 18th September at New Town Hall to discuss possible actions.

4. Wild Camping Complaints- Letter received on subject.

Robbie Blyth from FC to look into how the problems arising from the waste from camper vans and tents at various sites around the East Neuk could be addressed.

5. VE Day Celebration- May 2020 Bank Holiday dates. We are to consider setting up a committee regarding celebrations. To be discussed at a future meeting.

6. Disabled Toilets - Complaint resolved, cleaner left equipment by mistake and has apologised.

7. Larachmor Beer Garden – Covered by PC Steckla, who said it was still ongoing at present.

8. Public Notice re West Braes Project leasing pool and sloped area.

- Pittenweem CC has been asked to display public notices throughout regarding the West Braes Project requesting a 25-year lease on Common Good property. It was asked if PCC had to agree or comment on the lease. The answer given was only if objections were lodged by members of the public. Should that happen then PCC would have to be involved

A.O.C.B.

High Street Trees – **MW** reported that we are awaiting a quote for trimming the trees and putting up the new lights. **JW** reported that only one of the three lights left on was now working. **JT** was asked to check out and to disconnect the power.

Cllr BP- Asked if school buses to and from Waid are overcrowded. If anyone hears of any problems let him know. **MW** said surely the question would be answered if the bus drivers were asked. Cllr BP was reminded that Waid pupils from Pittenweem pay for their transport.

Public Notice for West Braes.

PC and Facebook- Some discussion was held yet again regarding the purchase of a computer for the PCC. It would reduce paper storage and ensure access to documents presently stored on the personal device of whoever was the active Secretary. Some members felt it would also be a good way of setting up Facebook to reach the wider community.

To be discussed in the future, possibly by the end of the year.

Hall Hire Payment for Skate park meeting- MW offered a free hire for the first meeting of the skate park group held in August. This was noted by a CC member who said that since it was community business the CC should be picking up the tab not PNTH. All agreed.

Issue with local Business- A member of the community has raised concerns over a Pittenweem business and the behaviour displayed by the business owners. CC members in unison encouraged this person to report any such problems to the Police. **Cllr BP** expressed the opinion that the PCC should support the local community by minuting any such issues for future reference.

A discussion took place regarding this and the reporting of complaints when the person wished to stay anonymous. It was said that we, as a CC, had to be careful we were not reporting hearsay; we cannot become involved in alleged complaints other than suggesting the complainer contacts the police. If the complaint is about a criminal act then we should tell the complainer that they must contact the police.

It was then pointed out that civil offence complaints can be lodged with the CC to pass to the councillors who would then pass them on to the FC Safer Communities Team who deal with such problems.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th October 6.45pm for a 7pm start.

Abbreviations:

AB-Anne Butters, **GM**-Gary McClure, **JT**- Jim Taylor, **MB**-Martin Butters, **LL**- Linda Lauder, **MW**- Margaret Wardlaw, **PM** - Peter Mills, **SW**-Susan Wilkinson, **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, **PNTH** - Pittenweem New Town Hall, **IS**- Ian Smith, **NT**-Nicola Thomson, **WBP**- West Braes project, **OOHS** – Out of hours service; **IJB** - Integrated Joint Board; **PCES** - Primary Care Emergency Service. **PAF** – Pittenweem Arts Festival.



Addendum 1

Police Monthly Update - by PC Chris Steck 21.09.2019

It is very difficult for us to attend all CC meetings, but if we find we cannot make a meeting for operational duties we can always send a crime report. There were 1359 calls to North East Fife in August 32 from Pittenweem. These involved road traffic incidents, domestic incidents and vandalism. We are currently pushing for Speed Watch volunteers, a very important issue, since only two police officers cover the East Neuk. Community Speed Watch Scheme allows members of the community to train to use handheld speed detection equipment and help carry out speed enforcement. We will be looking for volunteers from a village or area to train and then work together as a team. A team consists of three people a gun operator a registration number reader and a note taker. Those detected speeding would receive a warning letters, if caught again another letter and should they be detected a 3rd time, a Police visit. There is currently a big push for speed checking in the East Neuk, locally there is reported problem from traffic coming to the village from the Anstruther side.

MW said we had considered volunteering for training before but were put off by having to operate in our own area. PC Steck said volunteers can now operate in a neighbouring village if they are uncomfortable working in their own area. He then asked if anyone had any questions.

MW asked if there had been anything reported during the Arts Festival period. PC Steck replied nothing specific to the Festival.

He then repeated that unfortunately they cannot always attend the PCC meetings, so if there are any issues then to contact the Local Community Office by e-mail or call 101.

PM asked if Cardboard cut-outs are still used and moved around the area, PC Steck replied "yes and one will hopefully be brought to Pittenweem."

CIlr BP asked PC Steck if he had an update regarding Larachmohr. PC Steck reported that it was still under investigation.

MW thanked PC Steck for his update and asked him to keep the monthly reports coming through.



Addendum 2

Nicola Thomson on;

West Braes Project 21.09.2019

A Pool measuring survey has been done to allow drawings to be completed and an Environment Impact Survey carried out. No bats or other wildlife were found that would be affected, so there were no issues there. All information required for the Planning Application is being pulled together. This process should only take around 6 weeks. No issues are currently foreseen as the project is revamping what is already there rather than making significant changes. The project will then go to tender. We are hoping to get 3 quotes from local businesses for the funders to approve. This should all take approximately 3 months to complete with the hope that, as a community led project using local tradesman and volunteer workers, the Pool will be ready for summer.

SW asked if there was anything the PCC can do to help. **NT** replied "not at moment". **Cllr JD** expressed that letters of support can be very useful and give more weight to applications. **Cllr BP** suggested that the PCC put together a supportive statement.

The Skate Park was then discussed. **NT** reported meeting with the Head teacher at the Waid Academy last week along with Scott Duncan and Councillor Linda Holt. The Waid are very keen to have the pupil's involvement and Caroline Berry is looking to having primary schools involved in design sessions. Having the Skate Park in Pittenweem is looking very favourable. **DT** has set up a constitution and it has been stated that it would be wise to have a bank account set up for any donations and funding received for the Skate Park. **JW** asked why the previous structure was removed and was told it had corroded metal sheeting and was taken down due to Health and Safety issues, any replacement one will have to be concrete. **NT** then mentioned an incident involving a small boy and having to tell the boy's mother that Fife Council would be liable, not the **WBP** group. She finished her update by saying she has an e-mail saying the Skate Park would be covered by FC's Public Liability insurance.