

**MINUTES OF PORTLETHEN &
DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2009

**COMMUNITY
COUNCILLORS**

GORDON MUNN (CHAIR)
RON SHARP (VICE CHAIR)
JUNE WOOD (TREASURER)
BILL GRIFFITHS (SECRETARY)
RAB DICKSON
DEREK JOHNSON
DOROTHY MAIN
ALEX MCKAY
JOHN SHACKLETON
KES SMITH
CHRISTINE STEWART

**ABERDEENSHIRE
COUNCILLORS**

PAUL MELLING
CARL NELSON
IAIN MOLLISON

**ABERDEENSHIRE
COUNCIL**

LYNN BUCHAN

POLICE

APOLOGIES

DOROTHY FOREMAN
GAIL PATON
RICKY SKINNER
JOHN TETHER
COUNCILLOR BEWS
PC KEVIN MARRON

**MEMBERS
OF PUBLIC**

MARTA MACKIE
BRIAN MACKIE
ISOBEL HENDERSON
IAN HENDERSON
MARION FINDLAY
ROY FINDLAY
HAZEL MCKINNON
PENNY SENTANCE
KIERAN PETERSEN
AKIN (PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH)
DEREK (PEACE HOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH)

PRESS

JOANNE ROSTRON (MEARNS LEADER)

1.	APOLOGIES	
	<p>Dorothy Foreman, Gail Skinner, Ricky Skinner, Councillor Bews. At this point Gordon announced that Alec Jones had died at the weekend. His funeral would be held on Monday 30th March at 11.00am in Portlethen Parish Church. He would be sadly missed by the Community Council and also within the local community. Gail Skinner and Ricky Skinner have submitted letters of resignation. Bill asked to send letter of thanks.</p>	Bill
2.	REVIEW & APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
	<p>John Tether had sent an email regarding the following:</p> <p>Regarding the minutes of the 24th February meeting, I think there are a couple of omissions in the “Approval of Previous Minutes”</p> <p>Item 8 It was agreed that there was a consensus view that it was <u>the positioning</u> of the proposed ASDA wind turbines that was wrong. They should be placed further back in their grounds.</p> <p>Item 9 First seven lines to be deleted as they were a verbatim repeat of part of Item 8. This has been noted.</p> <p><u>On these Minutes:</u></p> <p>Item 5 last line. Technically you can’t have a numerical majority without a “no” vote being called. Suggest delete “of 7”.</p> <p>Item 6 starting with “Marianne” .This was no surprise to the Planning Subcommittee and concerns on ribbon development were passed on in our letter to Mr Blaxter [approved by PDCC]. With two Stuart Milne proposals (including South Portlethen) and various other proposals north and south of Portlethen and Newtonhill there is a distinct danger of this happening.</p> <p>There being no other comments the minutes were Proposed by Derek Johnson. Seconded by Rab Dickson.</p>	
3.	POLICE REPORT	
	<p>There were no police present but an email was received too late for the meeting. However for the record a copy is attached to the end of the minutes.</p>	
4.	COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CLD)	
	<p>Lyn Buchan, senior Community, learning & Development Worker, report as follows:</p>	

	<p>Play Park Parent Group: - holding a public meeting at 10.00am on 30th April in the Church Hall to explain their project and to adopt a constitution.</p> <p>Momentum Group: - Partners, youth work staff, parents and young people met last Wednesday, 18th March, and the project starts this week. Driving at Edzell base this weekend and with Leathen Motors mechanics on 3rd April.</p> <p>COMET has been in ASDA car park for the last few Fridays and youth work staff have been engaging with young people who they do not see through the Porty Cabin or Lunch time drop-ins.</p> <p>Consultation meeting tonight to develop and produce a Kincardine & Mearns pocket guide for young people in the area. This is funded by the Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>Portlethen Action Team, Stonehaven Youth Action Team and Mearns Youth Action Group are contemplating forming a combined Kincardine & Mearns Youth Forum.</p> <p>Adult Education Classes. Aberdeen College classes in Spanish, Computing and Digital Photography are keen to see classes continue. Centre classes are running as usual with most full to capacity.</p> <p>Portlethen Community Learning Centre now has its full quota of staff with Evelyn now employed full time and Elimar Simpson employed half time. Both are working towards CL&D qualifications, Evelyn at Aberdeen University and Lilimar at Dundee.</p>	
5.	YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES	
	<p>Three youths from Portlethen Academy have come forward as representatives of the local youths – Penny Sentance, Hazel McKinnon and Kieran Peterson. Gordon welcomed them to the Community Council and assured them that communication would be two way. Hopefully they could put forward the concerns, or otherwise, of the local youths so that the Community Council put forward an action plan to address such concerns. He also suggested that each of the youth representatives put forward a 2 minute introduction of themselves and how they see interaction between them and the council.</p>	
6.	XMAS LIGHTS	
	<p>The team are waiting for a hard copy of various proposals though an email has been sent out for all to see. It was agreed to set up a valid contract with Mark Wallace for any work he carries out on behalf of the Community Council. Gordon thanked the team for all their efforts and asked for this to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	

7.	COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTICE BOARDS	
	<p>Bill was asked to take the 'bus notice boards' which were purchased by the previous Community Council to the next meeting.</p> <p>Alex McKay will investigate the possibility of using the Bourtree Hall notice board.</p> <p>Dorothy Main suggested using the web. Gordon pointed out that the existing Community Council web site was out of action at the moment due to having been hacked into.</p> <p>Ron thought that vandalism could be a problem. He will contact ASDA to see if permission can be given to mounting a notice board at their premises.</p> <p>Alex suggested contacting the swimming pool – Bill to contact Rab will check with the library.</p> <p>The Health Centre was suggested but most thought it was only used by the medical practice.</p> <p>Kes reported that the Findon notice board needs replacing.</p>	<p>Bill</p> <p>Alex</p> <p>Ron</p> <p>Bill</p>
8.	COMMUNITY PLANNING	
	<p>A meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st April in the Academy with members of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning group to discuss running a Dynamic Drop-in weekend in Portlethen. Bill, Christine, Ron and Dorothy Main will attend.</p>	
9.	TREASURER'S REPORT	
	<p>June stated that as of 10th March the Community Council bank account held £1470.77 and as of 19th March the Clochandighter account £6032.28.</p> <p>June will have the accounts duly audited and copied to Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>It was agreed to send a cheque to the amount of £50 to Alec Jones widow as she has agreed to split any donations between the Community Ambulance and the church.</p>	
10.	PLANNING REPORT	
	<p>Derek reported that the only planning application of any significance was for alterations to the COOP at Muirend Road.</p>	
11.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	<p>Bill was asked if a cheque had been sent to become part of Planning Aid. Neither Bill nor June thought that this had happened. Bill given CC cheque to send.</p>	
12.	COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR REPORTS	
	<p><i>Alex McKay</i></p>	

The footpaths in Burnside Gardens have been repaired and Aberdeenshire Council seem to have done a good job.

A local group are raising money for the Medical Practice and will hand over more than £2000 next week. The money will be used to purchase suitable equipment which is not supplied by the NHS.

Dorothy Main

She asked Stewart Milne to point out on a map play areas which are earmarked for the Hillside area. She was shown 2 proposed landscaped areas which belong to the houses and will be factored, not taken over by Aberdeenshire Council. What effect will this have on children who live outside the area? Ron said that landscaped areas are actually play areas and factoring includes the upkeep of everything within the area, including play equipment. The areas are open to the general public.

Derek Johnson

The request to have repairs to the Old Portlethen road has been carried out but nothing has been done about the soft verges.

He reported on behalf of John Tether (see below) that John had attended a Scotrail meeting at Stonehaven. Everybody was left standing for some time before a Scotrail representative turned up. John had hoped to get to sort out various problems but the meeting turned out to be a whinge session for customers. Scotrail have no intention of adding in any further stops so cannot improve the service for the public. They hope to have the line fully electrified by 2025. Perhaps Councillor Bews may have further information.

Councillor Mollison added that Aberdeenshire Council was trying to get Scotrail to commit to Crossrail but there was no money available. Most new money is going towards the new Forth Bridge. Scotrail see improvements to be incremental. Possible expansion to the Aberdeen – Inverness and Inverurie – Stonehaven routes. Laurencekirk Station is due to open on 14th May.

John Tether (by email)

Inaugural (Stonehaven) Transport Forum was attended by four! (not me). They intend to invite speakers to further meetings.

One such was the “Meet the Managers” of ScotRail, which seems to have been a bizarre, waste of time, as far as Portlethen is concerned anyway – but o. t. u. Mr. Johnson. Last word is that it seems we are wasting our efforts trying to speak to ScotRail about timetabling! [Mr Bews please note]

Bus Forum. Main conclusions have been circulated and are attached for easy reference. The last point may need to be addressed

Christine Stewart

	<p>Christine is to attend a workshop with other similar likeminded editors which is being run by Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p><i>Bill Griffiths</i></p> <p>Has received complaints about the condition of the Old Coast road which is a right of way and is being used more and more by both local people from Portlethen and tourists from further afield. Rab pointed out that this rout was part of NORTRAIL and advised writing to Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Also a resident (86 years of age) from Downies said she had asked to board a school bus but the driver informed her that he was only allowed to take school children. It was thought that recent legislation had stopped the general public being allowed to use such bus transport. Bill to write to Aberdeenshire Public Transport department to clarify the matter.</p> <p><i>Gordon Munn</i></p> <p>Gordon had received an email (circulated) on the condition of Potlethen Primary School after its refurbishment. This seems to put in doubt the need for a new school, which the PDCC has always supported. With this in mind it was agreed to ask Dr Gordon McEwan, Chair, Portlethen primary School parent Council to attend the next meeting in order to update the PDCC.</p> <p>Gordon pointed out that the new Google Street View covered Portlethen and that not all faces have been obscured. He suggested members of the public check and if necessary use the data protection act to have alterations made.</p> <p><i>Ron Sharp</i></p> <p>Ron had attended the open day at the Porty Cabin and was very impressed with the set up</p> <p><i>Rab Dickson</i></p> <p>PDCC have received notification of the closure of the bridge at Lairihillock Inn for 2 weeks from 6th April. The suggested diversion is some 16 miles long. Bill was asked to write to Aberdeenshire Council to see if a shorter route could be indicated.</p> <p><i>John Shackleton</i></p> <p>He was sorry to hear about the death of Alec Jones and pointed out that when people reach his own age they can no longer drive the Community Ambulance and are not even allowed to take in a stray cat.</p>	<p>Bill</p> <p>Bill</p> <p>Bill</p> <p>Bill</p> <p>Bill</p>
13.	ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORTS	
	<p><i>Councillor Melling</i></p> <p>Paul Has made a presentation to the Academy on possible cycle paths</p>	

between Portlethen and Newtonhill. He is waiting for a response. His report has also been passed to the primary schools for comment.

The CDG urgently need a PDCC representative. A review on their working is ongoing.

A paper has been put to the Education department reviewing the primary schools.

He has assisted the Tennis Club have their lights repaired.

Councillor Nelson

Last year there had been a lot of issues for Community Councils so he had arranged for Newtonhill & Muchalls CC to host a meeting of local CCs. This had been very successful and it had been agreed to hold a similar meeting in subsequent years. This year North Kincardine has agreed to host a meeting on 21st May at 7.30pm in the new Lairihilloch community school. He hoped most of the PDCC would be able to attend. Next year it would be PDCC's turn to arrange.

Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee had approved the planning application by TESCO to build a supermarket in Newtonhill.

They are trying to get more playing fields, including changing facilities.

Tomorrow the Area Committee are to discuss developer wishes for the new Local Plan. This will cover from the Aberdeen City boundary to North Water Bridge.

Councillor Mollison

There are proposals to close many of the gaps on the A90 between the Badentoy interchange to Charleston.

Proposed cycle path routes within Portlethen have been circulated.

The Area Committee had turned down a planning proposal to make use of land adjacent to the stone circle at Badentoy due concerns by Historic Scotland.

Previously the Area Committee had turned down a planning application to extend a house in Boswell Road but their ruling has been overturned by the Scottish Executive.

Stagecoach has been very forceful in their support to stop the Nightbird service.

There have been complaints from Newtonhill residents about the school bus service from Portlethen Academy.

	Aberdeenshire Council are investigating the possibility of interconnecting local community footpaths.	
14.	AOCB	
	<p>Cooption of Kes Smith to represent Findon. Bill proposed, seconded by Gordon Munn. Carried unanimously.</p> <p>Member of the public, Akin announced that their Peace House Community Church meet in the academy on Sundays from 11.00am to 1.00pm to bring gospel into the community.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 9.00pm.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 28th April 2009 at 7.00pm.</p>	

DRAFT

POLICE REPORT TO PORTLETHEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2009

REPORT FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

CRIMES & OFFENCES

VANDALISM	- 5 reports received. 3 detected and 2 undetected.
ASSAULT	- 1 report received and detected.
BOP	- 3 reports received, all enquiries ongoing.
THEFT	- 2 reported, both undetected.
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	- 1 report received and detected.
ANNOYING/INDECENT TEXT	- 1 report received, enquiries ongoing.

The above does not include any ASBO Fixed Penalty tickets issued.

ROAD TRAFFIC

DANGEROUS DRIVING	- 1 detected
SPEEDING	- 2 detected
DRINK DRIVER	- 1 detected
OFFENCES CONNECTED TO RTC's	- 2 RTC's where offences were detected.
MINI MOTO OFFENCES	- 1 detected

The above does not include Fixed Penalty tickets issued.

INCIDENTS ATTENDED

Youth Related Calls	- 4
Noisy Music/Neighbour Dispute	- 5
RTC's	- 9
Alarm Activations	- 5
Animal related calls (including on road)	- 2
Suspicious Incidents	- 4

RT Other	- 25
Concern calls	- 2
Assist the public	- 2
Missing Persons	-1

NOTES

[] This is only the Portlethen area and does not include the other community beat areas: Newtonhill, Cammachmore, Muchalls, Drumoak, & North Of The A90.

[] There has been a dramatic decrease in youth calls in the past few weeks. The specific unmarked and marked extra anti-social behaviour patrols over the weekends will have undoubtedly helped with this matter.

[] The football tournament previously arranged for Friday 6 March 2009 on the all weather pitches for the local youths has been postponed for a later date, due to a lack of teams submitted. (3)

[] The joint Momentum project between the Police and Community Education and Learning department commences this week. The project relates to youths being educated on vehicle crime, law, driving instruction and learning about the workings of vehicles with the assistance of Leathen Motors.