**MINUTES of a meeting of Kinross Community Council**

 **On Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 1930**

**In the Masonic Hall, the Muirs, Kinross**

**Present:** CCllr L McKay, CCllr B West, CCllr S Wells, CCllr W Freeman, CCllr E Leslie, CCllr C Willsher, and CCllr K Spain (assistance dog, Zola)

**Ward Councillors:** Cllr D Cuthbert

**Members of the Public:** 6

**Minutes**: Mrs C Aird

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

CCllr L Mckay welcomed everyone to the April meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from CCllr P Chan, CCllr T Stewart, Cllr R Watters, Cllr N Freshwater and Cllr W Robertson as well as PC B Samson, Police Scotland.

CCllr L Mckay advised that CCllr M Wilson had resigned from the Community Council. CCllr Mckay took the opportunity to thanks CCllr Wilson for his work in relation to the CC and everyone wished him well for the future.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements made in respect of any item on the agenda.

1. **Police Scotland Report**

PC Samson and his colleagues were unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report covering the period from the last meeting in March 2024. It was noted that there has been approximately 77 calls to Police from the Kinross area with 20 crimes being recorded on Police systems within this period. Five of these crimes were for theft by shoplifting and other ones for road traffic offences detailed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | OFFENCE | RESULT |
| 10/04/2024 | Take and drive away a vehicle (Section 178 RTA 1988)(Lathro Park, Kinross) | 1 x charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. |
| 15/04/2024 | Assault & Vandalism (Bowton Road and Mill Street, Kinross) | 1 x charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. |

Community officers continue to make efforts to conduct speed checks across the area during patrols. In the last month local officers from Kinross have been conducting speed checks across the Kinross area, including Gairneybank, Gairneybridge, Auld Mart Road and Clashburn Road which has resulted in tickets being issued and drivers reported for speeding.

On 31/03/2024 local officers from Kinross were on mobile patrol on Ochil View, Kinross when they had cause to stop a vehicle, the driver of which was found to be in charge of a vehicle with alcohol in their system over the prescribed limit. The driver was arrested and charged for the relevant offence. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 01/04/2024 roads policing officers were on mobile patrol on The Muirs, Kinross where they had cause to stop a vehicle. The vehicle was found to have no insurance, no MOT and the driver driving with an incorrect licence. The driver was charged for the relevant offences and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 13/04/2024 a vehicle collided with the bollards on High Street, Kinross and the driver was issued a ticket for careless driving.

1. **KGV Playing Field, Muirs, Kinross**

CCllr McKay welcomed Mr Andy Williams, Chair of KGV PMG and representatives from Kinross Astro (KAS) and asked Mr Williams to update the meeting on the current situation.

Mr Williams advised that KAS had submitted a planning application to PKC to use part of the land at KGV but that KGV PMG had not been notified either by KAS or by PKC Planning Committee as a neighbour. KGV PMG had rejected the proposal as it was deemed to be against the objectives of the KGV. The PMG had requested to attend the planning committee to explain their reasoning but this was refused as they had missed the deadline for requesting such attendance. PMG also wrote to the Planning Committee detailing their reasons for objecting and had been advised that their letter would be read out at the meeting but it was not. As such, it was presumed by PKC that PMG agreed with the application.

Mr Williams advised that PMG had met with KAS to discuss alternative options including on 5th December 2023 at the Management Committee OGM where no other options were suggested for discussion.

On 4th March, Mr Williams received a telephone call advising that a worker was digging up land at KGV. It was discovered that this worker was a contractor appointed by KAS to carry out the work. At this point, the contractor was requested to cease and desist but the request was denied.

Over the last ten days work has been undertaken to repair the land to its previous condition and Mr Williams confirmed that the KGV grounds were held by Scottish Fields and Trust with PKC being the landlord. The meeting were also advised that, to date, the costs to KGV run into several thousand pounds.

CCllr C Willsher advised that it was noted on the planning application, KAS claimed to own the land, which they do not, and this had been brought to the attention of PKC.

KAS confirmed that they did not own the land in question but are tenants of KGV and stated that Scottish Fields and Trust were not involved with KGV. The current application is the fourth such one over a period of seven years, all had been identical, with the exception of the issue of the trees. It was noted that the third application had been withdrawn. The current application met criteria which had been suggested by PKC, where it was suggested to close both ends of the area and the lack of public access was not deemed to be an issue. PKC recommended approval of this application.

A Kinross-shire Civic Trust representative advised that Greenspace were unhappy with the area being closed off (3rd application) and wanted the gates unlocked (4th application) to continue public access.

CCllr W Freeman advised that KCC had received an email earlier that afternoon from the Senior Estates Surveyor at PKC giving their perspective of the situation which was sent to KGV on 18th April 2024 in which they “*acknowledge that the Management Committee is within its rights to address this encroachment upon its leased area. However, given that Kinross Astro’s proposed alterations stand to benefit the hockey pitch and its users, and that they align with the stated Objects of the Management Committee, the Council strongly recommends that the Management Committee reconsiders its objection to the alterations, providing Kinross Astro guarantee continued public access over the strip whenever they or other sports clubs are not using the hockey pitch. If your objection stems from a concern that dog walking activity would be relocated from the strip to the other side of the hockey pitch, would additional signage and dog waste bins offset your concerns? I am aware that Kinross Astro have committed to the development of the pitch, that they have secured planning permission, and that they believe the proposal is essential for the progress of the sport in Kinross*.”

Also in the letter is a suggestion that it would be beneficial for a meeting to be arranged with all parties to discuss the workings of the lease (due to expire on 31st August 2045) to try and ensure a successful occupation for both parties going forward. In response to a question from CCllr Mckay as to whether KGV PMG and KAS would find it helpful to meet with PKC, Mr Williams did not feel it would be helpful as the matter has been discussed at every Management Committee meeting and KAS had had a number of opportunities to bring alternative discussions to the table, while KAS did think it would be helpful.

At this point, CCllr Willsher asked to withdraw his comment that KAS were owners of the land, and this was noted. He apologised for misinterpreting the way this information appeared on the online version of the application form.

The Kinross-shire Civic Trust representative confirmed that PKC Estates were happy for the development to go ahead as long as public access was maintained unless there was a hockey match on the pitch. For clarification, CCllr Mckay asked if the gates were locked permanently and this was confirmed by KAS who advised that it was clear in the application that they intended to remove the public access, although this was not one of the criteria suggested by PKC. The reasoning behind removing the access was to avoid damage to the pitch and they explained that currently, the players warm up in the car park, which gets mud on the astro pitch and causes damage over time. Current costs to replace the pitch stand at around £200,000. They confirmed that another reason for removing public access was to avoid dog walkers leaving dog mess on the land and there are ample other areas in the town for dog walkers. CCllr K Spain commented that this was only suitable for those who did not have disabilities such as hers, and she felt the removal of the public access was a denial to the community.

KAS feel that they are improving the facility by undertaking this work as anyone can use the pitch, membership has increased and all ages are using it from anywhere. In response to this statement, the representative from Kinross-shire Civic Trust advised that the deeds say that access is for the benefit of the people of Kinross, dog walkers and the elderly. They also commented that when the first artificial pitch was laid in 1999/2000, there was to be a buffer zone between the pitch and the houses on the boundary of the land. With the current application, this will be removed and it was noted that the three main houses which would be affected by this all submitted objections.

CCllr Willsher asked if there was any other area on the land which could meet the requirements of KAS and the meeting were advised that it was preferred to have had the hardstanding area on the east side but they had previously been told that would affect the run off to the rugby pitch. At this point, Mr Williams advised that a number of alternatives were offered by KGV but all had been declined. Land on the north side, whilst noting that not as much land would be available, was offered but this was refused by KAS.

There was then a long discussion around presentations of all applications to KGV MPG noting that the first application was in 2017. In response to a question from CCllr Willsher with regard to the presentation, it was confirmed that this had been to Rugby Club representatives and not KGV MPG.

It was agreed that an impasse had been reached and while KCC had offered to be independent chairs of a meeting, with or without representatives from PKC, it was agreed that KGV MPG and KAS would go away to review plans and look at alternative options.

CCllr Mckay thanked Mr Williams and KAS for attending the meeting. Both left the meeting at this point.

1. **Minutes of Meeting held on 26th March**

The minutes of the March 2024 meeting were accepted as an accurate record and were proposed by CCllr Willsher and seconded by CCllr Freeman.

1. **Matters Arising from 26th March 2024 meeting**

**Portrait of HM King Charles III** – it was confirmed that this had now been ordered and a discussion would be held on where to hang the portrait in due course.

1. **Kinross Town Centre**
2. Pavements

A member of the public raised a concern regarding the number of holes in the pavements and asked what could be done about this. It was also noted that the town was looking ‘dirty’ and it was agreed that Cllr D Cuthbert would ask the road sweeper to attend ASAP. Cllr Cuthbert also advised that he had not had a response from PKC re the rubbish in Mill Street.

**ACTION**: Cllr D Cuthbert

1. Davies Park

Concern was raised about the amount of dog mess in the park.

1. Wall at Rowlands Pharmacy

It was noted that a bus had damaged the wall at the pharmacy and CCllr Mckay had reported this to PKC to be advised that it was not their wall and as such, the matter should be discussed with Greens. It was noted that PKC were waiting on an insurance payment before repairing.

1. Replacement of Bollards at Opticians

CCllr McKay enquired as to when the bollards would be replaced and Cllr Cuthbert was unable to confirm a date for this. It was suggested that a wall would be a better option.

1. Overhanging hedges in High Street

CCllr Willsher advised that he had submitted a request to PKC for householders to be reminded of their responsibilities in respect of overhanging hedges and had had an acknowledgement from PKC to his request.

1. BCA Site

A member of the public asked if the work at the site was going ahead. Those present were advised that the flood defence systems need to be in place before any work on the site can be progressed.

A member of the public asked if the work at the site was going ahead. Those present were advised that the flood defence systems need to be in progress before any work on the site can commence. Objections to the flood defence proposals are open until 26th April.

Cllr Cuthbert advised that Scottish Government need to see these plans and agree revised finance calculations. LSPIM, the developer of the BCA site, has issued a revised timetable based on PKC starting flood defence works August 2025 – April 2026 leading to Loch Leven Gateway Construction April 2025 – August 2026, with a target opening of the development in May/June 2026.

CCllr Mckay advised that she had contacted the developers for an update but was advised that they were awaiting a decision by PKC regarding the Aldi application in Milnathort, which had now been refused, so they will progress with their plans.

1. Car Park Signage in Town

CCllr S Wells advised that she had been contacted by retailers about the poor signage in the town.

1. **KCC Website**

CCllr Freeman advised that a working group needs to be set up and access to the website was required. It was agreed that CCllr E Leslie would contact Hannah Phillips (editor of the Newsletter) for this.

1. **Millbridge Hall, Kinross**

CCllr Mckay introduced Fiona Eastop, Trustee of Millbridge Hall (<https://www.millbridgehall.org/>), who had asked to attend the meeting to update the members on the Hall and to obtain advice/guidance on how to increase usage. Fiona gave some background information on how the hall came about and its funding streams. Use of the hall had been going well but post-Covid a number of users had not returned, a number of trustees had passed away resulting in other trustees fulfilling a number of roles which impacted on their home life, and increased fuel bills/cost of living crisis was not helping. Fiona advised that the hall needed upgrading and the trustees were also looking to convert to charitable status to open up other funding options.

The trustees had held an open evening earlier in the month to gain more information on what users of the hall would like to see/what improvements could be made etc and a number of suggestions were made. Fiona advised that funds had been set aside by Kinross-shire Action Partnership but a scoping exercise and feasibility study were required to be completed.

Fiona advised that initially the Trustees were looking for more volunteers to run the Hall as well as ways to maximise its use. It was agreed that Fiona would send information on the Hall, including hire rates, occupation capacity etc into the KCC inbox and it would be advertised on the Facebook pages available to KCC.

In response to a question from Fiona to those present regarding thoughts on what needed to happen, suggestions for clubs etc for children/teens were required and it was agreed that the Hall could maximise its bookings with CCllr West commenting that the Masonic Hall itself was having to turn organisations away as they did not have the capacity to accept all interested bookings. CCllr Leslie also suggested having a staff at the next Farmer’s Market.

In response to a question regarding being able to speak to someone/getting advice from PKC, Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that it would be useful to contact Tracy Armstrong, and it was agreed that CCllr Wells would sit in on meetings where she could, to ensure that there was a link back to KCC.

CCllr Leslie also suggested contacting “Roller Beats” who were always looking for alternative venues for their roller disco events.

CCllr Mckay thanked Fiona for attending the meeting and asked her to stay connected with KCC.

1. **Planning Matters**
2. **Planning Applications Received**

No planning applications had been received by PKC since the last meeting.

1. **Planning Applications Determined**

No planning applications had been determined since the last meeting.

1. **Other Planning Matters**
2. **Reports from PKC Councillors**

Cllr Cuthbert advised that he had joined the PKC Learning and Families Executive sub-committee which deals with Education Scotland reports into primary and secondary school performance, commenting that early learning and primary schools in the area received good marks. However, the first three secondary schools on the list only received ‘satisfactory’ marks and one was graded as ‘weak’ in two quality indicators.

Cllr Cuthbert has requested a discussion/workshop to work through the self-evaluation process and following a paper to the committee which had completed by the schools regarding quality indicators, he had requested an explanation of how the schools intend to improve scoring.

1. **Reports from CC representatives**

CCllr Leslie raised the issue of fences around the drop off/pick up area at the primary school to act as a buffer to improve the safety of the children.

CCllr Wells commented that Old Cleish Road seemed to being used as an unofficial HGV park and Cllr Cuthbert advised that the path down the old railway had been blocked (planning permission refused). He has therefore asked the PKC Paths Officer to get involved but due to their workload this had not progressed yet.

CCllr Leslie also raised the issue of cars parking on pavements at the tennis courts and down Station Road, and when staff have approached parents, they have been met with a level of abuse which is not appropriate. CCllr Leslie is to contact PC B Samson to ask his colleagues to patrol the area.

**ACTION**: CCllr E Leslie

Cllr Cuthbert also advised that double yellow lines were coming (a top priority) and that the zig zags were to be extended.

CCllr Mckay expressed her disappointment that the Davies Park work had been delayed; Cllr Cuthbert advised that the tender process had commenced w/c 10th April.

CCllr Mckay also raised an issue with blocked drains and was advised by Cllr Cuthbert that the teams are working their way around the town.

CCllr Mckay also advised that she had recently completed the Speedwatch training and had found the process very interesting. She advised that if a driver were caught speeding, they would receive a letter from Police Scotland.

1. **Licensing Applications**

No applications had been received.

1. **Correspondence**

All appropriate correspondence had been circulated to Members.

1. **AOCB**

In response to a question from CCllr Mckay, a member of the public confirmed that they continued to raise the issue of HGVs using Gallowhill Road.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Kinross Community Council will be held on Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 1930 hrs in the Masonic Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Meeting closed at 2134 hours approximately

All meetings are draft until considered at the next meeting.