**MINUTES of a Meeting of Kinross Community Council**

**On Tuesday 24th October 2023**

**in the Masonic Hall, Kinross at 7.30 pm**

**Present**: CCllr L McKay, (Chair), CCllr W Freeman, CCllr E Leslie, CCllr H Phillips, CCllr C Collins, CCllr S Wells, CCllr B West, CCllr M Wilson and CCllr C Willsher.

**Councillors**: Cllr N Freshwater and Cllr R Watters

**Minutes:** Mrs C Aird

**Members of the Public**: 8

1. **Welcome and introductions**

CCllr L Mckay welcomed everyone to the October meeting and introduced CCllr Brian West and CCllr Chris Willsher, both of whom had recently been co-opted to the Community Council.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from CCllr T Stewart, Cllr W Robertson, Cllr D Cuthbert and Police Scotland.

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**

While unable to attend the meeting, Police Scotland had submitted a report which CCllr B Freeman read out, advising the following:

Since the last meeting, there have been 71 calls to Police from the Kinross area, with 11 crimes recorded on Police systems during this period. Crimes of note since the last meeting included:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | OFFENCE | RESULT |
| 26/09/2023 | Racial abuse of a retail worker (Sainsbury’s, Kinross) | 1 x charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal |
| 26/09/2023 | Theft of motor vehicle (Dalwhamie Street, Kinross) | 1 x charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal |
| 27/09/2023 – 28/09/2023 | Theft by housebreaking (Wilson Court, Kinross) | Subject to live investigation |
| 01/10/2023 - 08/10/2023 | Theft by housebreaking (Maree Place, Kinross) | Subject to live investigation |
| 05/10/2023 – 06/10/2023 | Theft of car registration plates (Green Park, Kinross) | Subject to live investigation |
| 06/10/2023 – 07/10/2023 | Theft by housebreaking (Argyll Road, Kinross) | Subject to live investigation |
| 18/10/2023 – 19/10/2023 | Theft of motor vehicle (Myre Terrace, Kinross) | Subject to live investigation |

Community officers are aware of regular areas where there are complaints about speeding in and around Kinross. These have all been added to the speeding matrix and efforts to carry out speed checks across the area during our patrols we will continue. In the last month local officers from Kinross have been carrying out speed checks in Kinross, Carnbo, Milnathort, Powmill and Glenfarg during which time, tickets have been issued for mobile phone and speeding offences.

Community team activity can be followed via Twitter (@PSOSPerthKin) where updates are regularly posted about what Police Scotland are doing out and about in the local area under #KinrossCPT.

In relation to the recent series of theft crimes in Kinross, Police patrols of the area have increased and if residents would like prevention advice, they should get in touch with officers via email –

taysidekinross-shirecpt@scotland.police.uk

1. **CATCH Loch Leven (Presentation)**

CCllr Mckay introduced David Cairns (chair), Bill McDermott and Mike Ramsay to the meeting.

Mr Cairns and his colleagues were present to speak to the Community Council about ways to reduce heating costs for the residents/community of Kinross and Milnathort via a District Heating Network.

Mr Cairns advised that CATCH were working on a local heat and energy efficiency strategy which involved utilising Loch Leven as a heat source, thereby supplying energy to homes in Kinross by means of underground pipes. He advised that 60% of PKC households are now defined as being in fuel poverty, stating that the country was in a climate crisis, and new energy sources need to be found. While heat pumps are a great source of renewable energy, two-thirds of houses would require a major upgrade for their installation to be successful. District heating is not a new idea: it has been successfully implemented elsewhere, mostly in Europe, providing low cost, low carbon energy to local communities and the technologies are well proven.

Loch Leven is currently under stress. Climate change is driving rising temperatures, combined with long standing issues of nutrient run-off which are changing the eco-system balance and CATCH had asked to present to KCC about their project.

After the presentation, members of KCC confirmed that they were happy to encourage CATCH to continue with their work on the project and wished them success with public consultation work. CCllr H Phillips was asked to write and send a supporting statement to CATCH.

**ACTION**: CCllr H Phillips

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 26th September 2023**

CCllr C Collins raised concerns regarding inaccuracies of the draft minutes of the September meeting regarding item 6, Potential Kinross Community Action Plan and stated he had sent a number of emails to which he had not received responses. CCllr Collins raised a number of concerns with the minutes, namely the omission of the name/job title of the representative from STAR (Lesley Campbell, STAR Group Senior Consultant), the description of STAR as a ‘local action group’, the way in which the meeting had taken place without anyone else from the CC being invited to attend, the delay in information being relayed to CC members, the way in which the presentation at the meeting had seemed to be a ‘fait accompli’ and the omission of a large part of the conversation from the discussion at the September meeting.

CCllr Mckay apologised for not amending the draft minutes to include Ms Campbell’s name – this has now been done, and for the delay in passing information on to CC members – this had been due to CCllr Mckay becoming unwell the day after the meeting. CCllr Mckay also agreed to the draft minutes being amended regarding the description of STAR. It was also noted that it was CCllr S Wells who had suggested a vote and not CCllr Collins. The Minute Secretary was asked to update the draft minutes as per the request.

**ACTION**: Minute Secretary

CCllr Mckay again advised that “the meeting” had not been a formal meeting but more a chat with herself, CCllr Freeman, Cllr D Cuthbert and Mr Bruce Crawford about the potential of a Community Action Plan for the area and funding application being submitted, to which they had no prior knowledge of either.

During the meeting, Ms Campbell had contacted Mr Crawford to advise she would be passing through Kinross that afternoon and could drop in some leaflets/information on the process. Ms Campbell did deliver the leaflets while CCllrs Mckay and Freeman and Cllr Cuthbert were with Mr Crawford and during the discussion, it was agreed that Mr Crawford would be invited to the next CC meeting (September) to present the idea to members. CCllr Mckay also confirmed that other CC members (CCllr S Wells and CCllr E Leslie) were invited to attend at short notice but had been unable to do so. CCllr Wells and CCllr Leslie confirmed this as being accurate.

CCllr Mckay also advised that the minutes did not have some information in them as that information had been said after the September meeting had closed and also received by email in the days following the September meeting. As such, this information could not, and would not, be included in the minutes of the September meeting. CCllr Collins disputed this.

CCllr H Phillips raised concerns with regard to a private sector person (Ms Campbell) recommending one particular organisation for this work to which CCllr Mckay advised that STAR were PKC’s preferred bidder for this type of work, having undertaken the work on numerous occasions in a range of areas, and should the CC be successful in their application for funding, STAR would not automatically be “employed” to carry out the work, but that a tendering process would need to be undertaken.

The discussion became heated, and a member of the public commented that the conversation should not be held in public. CCllr C Willsher also advised that he was not impressed by the behaviours and commented that he would be reconsidering his position if this was the way the CC conducted business. CCllr Mckay apologised for the discussion and confirmed that meetings were not like this. CCllr Mckay felt the discussion was becoming person and advised that she was raising a motion regarding CCllr Collins’ behaviour under section 7 “Obstructive and Offensive Conduct” contained in Appendix 2 (Standing Orders) of PKC’s Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils ([PKC Scheme of Establishment (pkc.gov.uk)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/44741/Scheme-of-Establishment-of-Community-Councils-2019/pdf/FINAL_Perth_and_Kinross_Scheme_of_Establisment_for__Community_Councils_2019-2023_LH.pdf?m=637056259189600000), and asked CCllr Collins to leave the meeting. This motion was proposed by CCllr Mckay and seconded by CCllr Freeman, and subsequently carried. CCllrs Collins and Phillips left the meeting at approximately 2027 hrs.

CCllr Mckay again apologised to those present for having to witness the discussion and behaviours shown.

CCllr Leslie asked those present whether they had been happy with how the information had been provided and this was confirmed, with CCllr Wells advising that Mr Crawford had come along to advise the CC on how to access the information and that there was nothing to lose in applying for the funding.

The minutes of the meeting, subject to the changes noted above were proposed by CCllr E Leslie and seconded by CCllr S Wells.

1. **Matters arising from meeting held on 26th September 2023**
2. Planning Actions – complete.
3. CAP Funding – CCllr Freeman confirmed he had submitted the funding application.
4. Drain cover, Springfield Road – repaired.
5. Bin protection (from seagulls) – Cllr R Watters advised that officers regularly visit the area and that all rubbish had been removed.
6. Speed reduction stickers for refuse bins – this idea had been put to PKC for consideration, but this had been declined.
7. Town twinning – more information had been received from David Munro with Cllr Watters confirming that PKC were changing the ways town twinning was being undertaken (handled centrally by PKC and adopted by respective CCs). It was noted that any such twinning would be covered by the CC’s liability insurance and that there would be no cost to KCC. After consideration, the CC agreed to participate in this.
8. LHCC hire costs – no update available.
9. **Kinross Town Centre**
* Burns Begg Street Junction – following a request by CCllr Mckay for an update on this, Cllr Freshwater advised that work was in progress and that he would raise the issue again at the Road Safety meeting on 13th November.

**ACTION:** Cllr N Freshwater

* Parking in Shared Space – CCllr Wells advised that this parking area was not fit for purpose due to indiscriminate parking and cars being parked between bollards meaning people were having to walk out into the streets to move around the town centre. It was agreed that Cllr Freshwater and Cllr Watters would raise this at the Road Safety meeting on 13th November.

**ACTION:** Cllr N Freshwater/Cllr R Watters

It was also agreed that signage for alternative car parking was poor.

1. **Planning Matters**
2. **Planning Applications received**

**23/01604/FLL** - Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse at The Bungalow, Brunthill Farm, Kinross, KY13 0LB.

**23/01607/IPL** - Erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle) at land 45 metres north of Chance Inn Farm, Kinross, KY13 0L.

**23/01668/FLL** - Change of use of land to form extension to garden ground and erection of a fence at 40 Devonvale Place, Kinross, KY13 8FR.

1. **Planning Applications determined**

**23/01274/FLL** - Part change of use of flat to form short-term let accommodation unit (in retrospect) at 3 Town Hall Apartments, High Street, Kinross, KY13 8FA **(APPROVED).**

**23/00112/FLL** - Erection of a dwellinghouse and formation of vehicle access at land 140 metres northeast of Hardiston Farm, Cleish, Kinross **(APPROVED).**

1. **Other planning matters**

**22/01004/FLL** - Erection of a retail unit (Class 1), formation of parking areas, landscaping and associated works (LDP site E21) | Auld Mart Business Park Kingfisher House Orwell Road Milnathort Kinross KY13 9DA – the meeting was advised that amended plans had submitted and therefore comments could be submitted prior to deadline (14th November 2023). CCllr Freeman was asked to request an extension to this deadline and asked the Minute Secretary to remind him to do this.

**ACTION:** CCllr W Freeman/Minute Secretary

**23/01413/FLL** - Formation of access road, land 60 metres southwest of Baltree Farm, Hatchbank.

Mr and Mrs Fernie from Greyhound Rescue Fife addressed the meeting about their planning application for the formation of an access road at Baltree Farm. Mr Fernie advised that he had been surprised to see two letters of objection, one from KCC and the other from Kinross-shire Civic Trust and wanted to advise the CC of the reasons for the application and the work which would be involved in what was classed as ancient woodland.

Mr Fernie advised that he and his wife had made a number of improvements over the years, including the clearing of drains, removal of fallen trees as well as planting new trees. In respect of this application, he advised that that there would be no damage to the woodland as all digging work would be done by hand and once complete, the road would only be used by cars.

On hearing this additional information, the CC agreed that they would contact PKC to withdraw their letter of objection. It was also noted that the Civic Trust had withdrawn their objection.

**ACTION:** CCllr H Phillips

Mr and Mrs Fernie thanked the CC for their time and invited everyone to visit the Centre in the future.

**23/01349/FLL** - Part change of use and alterations to building to form 10 short-term let accommodation units at 54 - 56 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AN.

In response to a question from CCllr S Wells, CCllr Freeman confirmed there was no further information available on this application.

1. **Reports from PKC Councillors**

Cllr N Freshwater –

1. Missing VAS at Gairneybank – no update available. Also highlighted a missing 40 MPH sign.
2. CCllr Mckay questioned whether there was an update available regarding the replacement bus shelter at Kirklands Hotel. Cllr Watters agreed to raise this matter with Cllr D Cuthbert.

**ACTION:** Cllr R Watters

Cllr R Watters –

1. Advised that an application had been submitted for a banking hub for Kinross, which would be a great benefit to the community since the closure of all the Banks in the area. He advised that a hub had previously been refused due to the alleged small number of businesses in the area (29) and the number of residents in a 1 km area (4000). These figures were subsequently challenged, with Cllr Watters advising that there were currently 62 businesses in the area and more than 4000 residents. Calculations have now been undertaken again and a team will be sent to assess the area for a potential hub. If successful, discussions can then commence on suitable premises.

In response to a question from CCllr Wells, Cllr Watters advised that not all hubs are in existing premises. A further question was asked by CCllr M Wilson in respect of who the hub was being aimed at and Cllr Watters confirmed that it would be available to anyone who wished to use it. CCllr Wilson questioned whether there was a need for a hub since a lot of people now carry out their banking online, but it was felt that the hub was a requirement for the area, given the lack of banking facilities and therefore the need to travel to other areas.

Cllr Watters confirmed that if the application was unsuccessful then the FCA will review the decision. He will provide an update at a future meeting.

 **ACTION:** Cllr R Watters

1. Advised that Taktran who are responsible for a regional transport strategy/active travel plan would be issuing a consultation shortly and encouraged the community to respond. Cllr Watters also advised that Kinross had initially been omitted from the map, but this had now been rectified.
2. **Reports from CC representatives**

CCllr Mckay again welcomed CCllr Brian West and CCllr Chris Willsher to the Community Council, having recently been co-pted and apologised to everyone present for the heated discussion earlier.

CCllr Willsher asked if there was a formal way for information to be shared and questioned why the minutes from the September meeting had not been uploaded to the website but were available on the Facebook page. Everyone was advised that information for CC members tended to be received by email and as such was forwarded on by the Secretary, CCllr Phillips, or CCllr McKay or CCllr Freeman. There had been some IT issues recently, but these had now been resolved. The September minutes had not been uploaded to the website due to an admin error.

It was agreed that CCllrs West and WiWillsher would be added to the member’s What’s App group.

**ACTION**: CCllr L McKay

CCllr Leslie advised that

1. the PKC Road Safety Team had been out to look at the VAS in Gallowhill Road, there was no update available, and she would contact Cllr D Cuthbert for more information.
2. The Safer Route to School programme had also been discussed with the Road Safety Team and raised previously by Cllr Watters.
3. The Primary School are trialling a ‘walking bus’ where pupils meet at certain points (Green Park, LLHC and the bottom of Kinross) to walk to school with one teacher and one volunteer. In doing this, CCllr Leslie also highlighted an issue with parking on double yellow lines/zigzags outside the school, resulting in several ‘near misses.’ A more permanent solution was required, and she asked if the Police could be involved, speaking to drivers and highlighting the issue. Cllr N Freshwater agreed to raise the issue at a meeting of the Road Safety Team on Thursday, and Cllr Watters would take photographs to provide evidence.

**ACTION**: Cllr N Freshwater/Cllr R Watters

Cllr McKay advised that a disabled resident had contacted her recently about them having difficulty accessing their property due to cars parking on/at the dropped kerb. The resident had also experienced problems whilst out in the town where the camber of some paths meant that they were being ‘tipped out’ of their wheelchair and were then unable to get up and into their chair. Cllr Watter agreed to investigate this matter and report back.

**ACTION**: Cllr R Watters

With regard to grey refuse bins, residents were advised to contact PKC Waste Services either via the website or the Facebook page.

It was suggested that the restrictions regarding on street parking in the High Street be removed but it was felt that this would cause the High Street businesses to suffer due to a reduction in movement. Cllr Watters agreed to raise the issue at Thursday’s Road Safety meeting and CCllr Leslie is to speak to business to gain their views on the current parking issues.

**ACTION**: CCllr E Leslie/Cllr R Watters

CCllr Mckay enquires as to the action regarding the clearing of drains and was advised that PKC had doubled their efforts in this respect.

CCllr B Freeman advised that the Christmas lights switch on would take place on 23rd November in Greens car park.

He also advised that the Remembrance Parade would be held on 12th November with CC representation required. CCllr Mckay confirmed she would lay the wreath and CCllr Leslie would set up the speaker/equipment at the Memorial. CCllr M Wilson advised that he would be attending the Church service and the Parade. CCllr Mckay also advised that the Masonic Hall would be opened for residents to come and have refreshments afterwards – donations would be gratefully received.

The rehearsal for he Parade was being held this evening and one night the next week (date/time to be confirmed).

1. **Licensing Applications**

No applications had been received.

1. **Correspondence**
* Broke Not Broken – CCllr Mckay advised that she had invited Anne McCormack to come along to the October meeting. CCllr Mckay also suggested that members consider visiting/volunteering to pack Christmas hampers.
* Kinross Newsletter Fund – CCllr Mckay advised that all Community Councillors are welcome to join the group which receive/review/award funding to local groups if they wish. The next meeting is arranged for 7th November (7.30 pm) with the venue to be confirmed.
1. **AOCB**
* Wind Farms – Neil Bingham, Milnathort and Orwell CC, advised that following a scoping exercise, the application for Craigie Wind Farm had seen the height tips and number of turbines being reduced. He also advised that a meeting was arranged for all CCs in the area to come together to discuss investments and use of funds for improving the area. At this meeting, there will be a short presentation from a representative from Ayrshire who will explain what has happened in their area, following the installation of wind farms.
* Community Speedwatch - Mr Bingham also advised that Fossoway CC had purchased equipment for their speedwatch group but were now no longer able to participate and as such, Milnathort and Orwell CC were now holding the equipment. The CC were looking for volunteers for the campaign and anyone interested should contact them direct – full training would be given with volunteers being vetted by Police Scotland before being appointed.

Mr Bingham advised that anyone who was caught speeding would be sent a letter by Police Scotland with details of the offence. CCllr Leslie asked if it would be beneficial to include a letter from a child giving their point of view of speeding and what it could mean to them, and she was happy to tie in with the PTA to do so. Mr Bingham asked CCllr Leslie to wait until more information was available.

* Milnathort and Orwell CC race night – anyone wishing to purchase tickets for the event on 10th November should contact Mr Bingham direct.
1. **Date of next meeting**

CCllr Mckay confirmed that the KCC AGM would be held on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 7.30 pm and would be followed by the usual monthly meeting at 7.45 pm. Papers for both meetings would be sent out in due course.

**ACTION**: Minute Secretary

CCllr Mckay thanked everyone for attending and apologised again for the behaviours shown earlier and for the duration of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 2237 hours approximately.

All minutes are draft until considered at the next meeting.