PORTKNOCKIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD Monday 9th October 2023

In attendance: Shirley Firth (Secretary – Correspondence), Donald Gatt (Councillor), John Going (Chair), Theresa Coull (Councillor), Alexandra Forsyth, Gladys McKenzie.

Action/ attention

1 Apologies:

Jade Tindall, Anne Anderson, Lillian Urquhart, Donna Coull, Sue Lane, Tracy Colyer (Councillor)

2 Police Update

- The update was circulated prior to the meeting.
 6 Calls were made in the month. One, a person behaving in a threatening and abusive manner, is subject to ongoing police investigations
- 3. No Guest presentation.
- 4. Adoption of minutes of last meeting

Proposed: JG Seconded: SF

5 Matters Arising

- <u>Harbour Toilets</u>: JG and DG have been in contact with various departments at TMC but have not had any constructive feedback or arrangements for remedial work to address the problems with drainage and flooding at the toilets. The blockage appears to be inside the building and floods the male toilets and the storeroom
 - This has been a major issue for years without any solution in sight.

DG will again try to contact the people in charge of this and try to resolve it.

- Community Development Trust Officer: some ideas for the kinds of projects such a Trust could support were offered. The Facebook post had a very limited response with the majority not in favour, seeing it as an unnecessary expense.
 It was agreed we contact Cullen and Deskford CC as they have a Development Officer in place and ask about the possibility of sharing.
- Resilience Planning: AA sent a report in her absence detailing the recent meeting attended. This will be reviewed with AA at the next meeting. A list of prospective "Safe Spaces" was discussed and it is agreed to contact them to ascertain if they are willing and able to host in case of emergency.

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DG

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- <u>Firth View Play Park</u> We have been offered the opportunity to acquire this piece of land free of charge.
- All feel it could be a good move to take the offer of exchange of ownership but we need more information.

A meeting is to be arranged with the Chair of Ladysbridge CC who have undergone a similar transaction and learn from their experience.

A post to be placed on facebook asking, should we take it over SF

SF

and what could it be used for if we did.

6. Correspondence

- The resurfacing of the track from Portknockie to Cullen should commence at the end of October. There will be an area of the playing field used for storage of equipment and supplies, this is temporary while the work is in progress.
- A resident raised serious issues about the abuse of the fields overlooked by Wood Place, owned by Seafield Estates. Dog faeces was at such levels that the fodder that is grown in the fields could not be used for animal feed as there is a severe risk of this causing illness in cattle and pregnant cattle to abort. This was a shock to all present and it is a difficult issue to address. We must try to warn people of this and make them aware that simply picking up the dog mess would enable the farmer, who pays for the use of these fields, to produce good quality and safe feed for the cattle. Contact will be made with Seafield Estates to ask if signage at the fields warning walkers of these issues can be arranged. Also raised was the criminal damage to the fence which has been cut. This has been reported to the police. SF

7 Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £2948.17.
 £55 is to be paid for the purchase of replacement defibrillator pads.

8 Planning

N/A

9 Events

 <u>Christmas Lights Switch on</u> - The tree donated by Seafield Estates, has been requested for delivery on the 30th November enabling the volunteers to erect and position the lights for the event on the 2nd December (this date to be confirmed). New

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lights are to be purchased with the costs to be split between the PCA and the PCC.

10 Members/Elected Members Updates:

- Budgets are the main focus of discussion as there will potentially be cuts and changes to services next year.
- The Bowfiddle sign with the potentially dangerous advice has been removed and will be changed.
- The direction sign for the Bowfiddle and other missing street signs have been agreed to be replaced.

12 Community Feedback

 Harbour Safety: following discussions with the Harbour Master, he advised that the RNLI, Coast Guard and himself visit schools and clubs to make all aware of the hazards and safety message of using harbours. There is a speed limit of 3 knots for boats entering or leaving the harbour but Portknockie does not appear to have signs showing this. Contact will be made to check this.

SF

- <u>Defibrillator:</u> new pads have been fitted and a second set will be ordered so there is a spare available if required.
- 13 **JCC-** minutes forwarded 22nd Sept.
- 14 **AOB**
 - None.
- 14 Next meeting

13th November at 7pm in Macboyle Hall.

ALL