

**PORTKNOCKIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD Monday 11th December 2023**

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

In addition to PCC members, a member of the community also attended to observe and raise issues where relevant.

- Action/
attention
- 1 **Apologies:**
Tracy Colyer, Jade Tindall, Theresa Coull.

 - 2 **Police Update**
 - The update was circulated prior to the meeting. There were 13 calls but no crimes to be investigated arising from those calls.
 - It was raised that there had been issues with parking on pavements causing blockages and inconvenience. It is now illegal to park on pavements and this should be reported to the Police.

 - 3 **Guest Presentation**
 - There was no guest presentation

 - 4 **Adoption of minutes of last meeting**
Proposed: SF Seconded: JG

 - 5 **Matters Arising**
 - Harbour Toilets: Cllr DG has been attempting to get answers on actions awaited by TMC.
JG had received an email responding that it still had to be determined what the issues are in order for repairs to be done and the issue could be a result of misuse.
This is clearly not the case and a survey should be arranged to locate the break in the system causing the overflow issues.
JG will forward the emails to DG Councillor to follow up.
Grants that have been received for the upgrade of the toilets may have to be returned as there is a time limit but work cannot commence until this issue is resolved. DG (Cllr)
 - Firth View Play Area: The option of allotments has been discussed but this is not a simple fix. To set up there will need to be a committee, rules and regulations agreed, waiting list management and TMC would have to agree to change of use.
A resident of Firth View was in attendance and expressed the view that allotments were not necessarily the best use for the piece of land and would come with issues on parking, suitability, the erection of unsightly garden sheds etc.
The resident agreed to canvas the opinions of residents of the area to get their views and report back to the PCC. SF

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- Community Development Trust Officer (CDTO): (Meeting with Cullen CDTO) It has been agreed to arrange a meeting in January as a convenient time for all parties could not be found in December.
- Resilience Planning (RP): A leaflet arranged through SSEN and Moray Council has been distributed to all households. This contains useful information and guidance in case of emergencies.
The sub group is continuing to look into setting up “Safe places” within the village and to communicate with these on access and agree a plan in the event of an emergency, also, to set up events within the village to raise awareness. A request is made to TMC to agree on a form of words to post on Facebook to encourage vulnerable individuals and carers to be sure they know what the emergency protocols are. We continue to check potential funding sources for items such as torches etc. JT has sourced emergency contact fridge magnets and thermometers which will be distributed throughout the village.
The PCC will seek advice on the potential insurance needs to cover any resilience activities. (JG will email question to DG Councillor)
- Defibrillator: A new battery has been fitted funded by the PCC. It was noted the website details for our defibrillator, the new battery and new pad, had not been updated. It must be clarified who is responsible for this and to make sure records are maintained and when new pads or batteries are required the PCC (who fund replacements) are notified straightaway.
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6. Treasurer's Report

- Account balance currently sits at: £2,860.57.
Expenditure includes £55 for the hire of the hall for meetings, contribution to the purchase of new Christmas lights £633.47 and £345 for new battery for the defibrillator.
Thanks to Lord Seafield for his donation of £600.
Two signatures are required for payments, following the resignation of the current second signatory SF agreed to do this. GM will arrange with the bank the required checks and paperwork.
Discussion on how payments were made, currently it is by cheque which is not always convenient. Options are to be sought, eg: obtaining a debit card for the PCC account. It is vital that there is complete transparency and tracking of all payments.

7 Planning

- N/A

8 Events

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- The Christmas Lights Switch-on was very well attended.

9 Members/Elected Members Updates:

- Theresa Coull: - In addition to the round-up of committees attended, I visited Aberdeen where Moray has contributed to the building of a plant that will burn waste instead of putting it in landfill. I also visited Aberdeen City Hydrogen depot. All good projects for the future.
Budgets are still the main focus of discussion.
The Portknockie Christmas Lights event was very enjoyable, many thanks to all involved.
- Donald Gatt - see appendix. 1.

10 Community Feedback

- Portknockie / Cullen Track; there are requests for some sort of barrier or gate at the entrance to deter speeding motorbikes. It must accommodate access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and pedal cyclists. DG
- It was again asked whether or not the hardcore area currently created in the Macleod Park for the heavy plant being used for footpath repairs could be retained when the works are completed as it could be used for car parking. DG will ask the question.
- The costs of green bin collections are rumoured to be increasing? DG said this was one of the many things under discussion and had not yet been agreed.
- Complaints regarding the road to the Buckie recycling centre. It is in a very bad state with potholes and with the weather it is now flooded in places and covered in mud in others. As we should be encouraging people to recycle as much as possible this needs to be rectified.

11 JCC

- Minutes forwarded 8th December / No issues arising

12 AOB

- The issue of dangers posed to pedestrians walking to houses beyond the 30mph zone at the Farm and where no footpath exists was raised. DG agreed to raise the issue of potentially moving the 30mph zone to extend beyond existing housing as this would provide a safer environment for pedestrians, particularly in the dark. In response to this from our last meeting, TMC sees no justification for a footpath or reducing the speed limit. Cllr DG

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- The Scottish Government are considering reducing all residential area speed limits from 30 to 20 if budgets allow.

13 **Next meeting**

8th January at 7pm in Macboyle Hall.

ALL