

**PORTKNOCKIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD Monday 13th January 2025**

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**In attendance:** Shirley Firth (Secretary – Correspondence), Alexandra Forsyth, Donald Gatt (Councillor), John Going (Chair), Lillian Urquhart, Theresa Coull (Councillor), (Tracy Colyer - Councillor, via Zoom)

- |   |  |                          | Action/<br>attention |
|---|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | <b>Apologies:</b><br>Anne Anderson, Jade Tindall.  |                          |                      |
| 2 | <b>Police Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None received.</li></ul>  |                          |                      |
| 3 | <b>Guest</b><br>Local Resident.  |                          |                      |
| 4 | <b>Adoption of minutes of last meeting</b><br>Proposed: LU Seconded: AF.   |                          |                      |
| 5 | <b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Treasurer</u> - Due to the very sad passing of Gladys Mckenzie, Alexandra Forsyth has agreed to take over the role as Treasurer.<br/>We really appreciated all the work that Gladys did for the PCC as treasurer, member and organiser of events, over many years and we will miss her.<br/>Many thanks to Ali for taking on the role of treasurer from all the members.<br/>JG will contact the Bank of Scotland to facilitate changes;<br/>statements and contact details and add AF as the signatory.</li><br/><li>• <u>Defib Machine</u> - We have been refused a free machine from the BHF but were offered a discounted cost to purchase a new one. This would still cost approximately £1200 to £1400. The offer from Kerians Legacy was about half this so contact will be made to check if this is still on offer and when we have the final costs we can decide how to fund this.<br/>A fundraising event could be arranged.</li><br/><li>• <u>Resilience Planning</u> - no updates available.</li></ul> | JG<br><br><br><br><br>SF |                      |

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**6 Correspondence Received**

- Reply form TMC about the village having Cycle storage and repair equipment. Positive that it would be useful to have as we do have the NCN1 track and Moray Coastal trail. They suggest facilities near the Spar bus stop, on Seafield Terrace at the start of the track and on the coastal route, sites and further details to be agreed.
- Following our request that signs be erected on the track by Sustrans telling cyclists to be aware of, and to make themselves heard to warn other users on the track of their approach. Examples of signs and barriers have been passed onto Janet MacDonald at TMC.
- JCC (Debra Duke extract from her email) “Should the JCC and/or community councils set up a website(s) using the **gov.uk** domain name?”  
This follows regular requests from some CC’s to set up a more professional web presence, the proposal could be for the JCC to set up a website and then have a page for each CC.  
The PCC thinks a site for the JCC would be useful but does not think, bearing in mind costs and maintenance, that we would need our own domain site.
- From NHS Grampian; In Aberdeen an “Ice Crew Volunteer” group has been set up. The idea being that they are given prior warning of potential icy conditions and would be able to alleviate the risk of slips and falls by spreading grit in high risk areas in the village. Training, Salt, tools and resources would be provided. Do we have any volunteers to set up a group?  
At present we do not have the people available who would be able to be involved but if any villagers feel able please get in touch with the PCC for further details.
- Cullen and Deskford CC have put in a “Local Place Plan” and have asked for comments/feedback. We have nothing to add and wish them all the best with their plans.
- From Stephen Birtwistle Findochty CC asked for feedback on ideas for community engagement? How to get people more involved with their local CC’s and to feel engaged and included.

We do have good response to events and activities in the village, organised mainly by the PCA with which the PCC has members in kind and therefore a good working connection, it is difficult to reach all sectors but we will continue with our Facebook page and posters.

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- Road Closure. Due to the excessive rainfall in December the A942 was closed near Cruats Farm and the road to Findochty was very difficult to traverse, Buses were cancelled and we were almost cut off. Details were passed on and the TMC councillors will investigate and ascertain if any remedy can be found. (DG is awaiting a reply)

**7 Treasurer's Report**

- Provisional Account balance £2,899.32. AF will need to verify this when she has access to the latest statements.
- The annual accounts that had been finalised and audited to be sent to Debra Duke.

SF

**8 Planning**

- none.

**9 Events**

- none.

**10 Members/Elected Members Updates:**

- The next full council meeting will be on the 21st Jan, main business will be the budgets for the coming year.
- TC highlighted the very hard snow and ice conditions that the gritting and refuse collection teams had to work in recently and acknowledged our thanks on their behalf.

**11 JCC**

- No comments

**12 Community Feedback**

- There is a request for more Grit bins in the village. Go to the Moray Council website "Request a Grit Bin" "Winter Maintenance" link. (Ask also for the grit to go in the bin)
- LU advised that most of the work on the harbour toilets had been completed. DG raised the point that there were still possible issues with drainage and the cesspit and he would pursue this with the relevant people at TMC.

**13 AOB**

- AF will attend the next meeting of the Road Safety Champions on the 20th January.

**14 Next meeting 10th February 2025 at 7pm in Macboyle Hall.**

ALL

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