**MILNATHORT AND ORWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Draft minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on February 10, 2022**

**In attendance:-** Malcolm Thomson (chairman); Phil Britton (treasurer); Elizabeth Rougvie (secretary); Andrea Ward, Freda Brooks, Neill Bingham, Phil Britton, Allan Macrae, Kevin Heneghan (associate member); PKCllrs Calum Purves, Willie Robertson and Richard Watters, and one member of the public.

**Police Matters:-** Andrea Ward reported the following recent incidents:

• A 34 year old man was arrested for theft by housebreaking after being caught by officers leaving a property in South Street, Milnathort in possession of stolen property on Sunday, January 27. He was also found to be in possession of a knife.

• A 32 year old man was arrested for stealing an Audi Q3 from Viewfar Road, Milnathort on Tuesday, January 29. The car was recovered in St Serfs Road, Crook of Devon.

• During the previous week, two drivers were found to be without insurance; three had no licence and two had no MOT.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:-** The minutes of the January meeting were proposed by Freda Brooks and seconded by Andrea Ward.

**Matters arising:-**

• Website: Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the community councillors would provide a head and shoulders photograph and a short ‘bio’ for inclusion on the MCC website as there were a number of new members.

• ‘Smelly tree’: Concerns had been raised about the unpleasant smell from the fruit of a ginkgo biloba tree in a garden in Church Street. Kevin Heneghan said he was awaiting advice from the Botanics in Edinburgh, but in the meantime he will speak to the head greenkeeper at Milnathort Golf Club to see if there was somewhere appropriate it could be sited.

**Correspondence:-**

Andrea Ward reported on the following:

• Rural Community Engagement Fund Launch - Support in Mind Scotland.

Support in Mind Scotland has been funded by the Scottish Government in an effort to improve the mental wellbeing of people in rural communities following the pandemic. The fund

is part of a larger community engagement project, working directly with people in local communities to raise awareness, identify need and work collectively to develop creative local solutions to address local needs.  This grants scheme is designed to fund creative local ideas that develop as communities work together to protect and support the people most excluded as we recover from Covid. It was agreed that Andrea will share this via social media.

• Community Investment Fund Round 2

The second round of the Community Investment Fund is now live and accepting applications. The closing date for applications to CIF@pkc.gov.uk is Friday, February 18, at 5 pm. The application form and guidance documents can be found on the Community Investment Fund webpage. www.pkc.gov.uk/cif. Any further queries regarding the second round of the Community Investment Fund can be made to James Gardner, PKC Community Empowerment Officer, by email: JamesGardner@pkc.gov.uk or by phone: 07887 625142. In view of the imminent closing date, Andrea will also share this.

• Food Waste Survey

Pe PKC’s Waste Services Team has launched a Food Waste Survey to gather feedback from householders across Perth and Kinross regarding their food waste reduction and food waste recycling behaviours.  The survey will be live for four weeks until Monday, February 14, and the results will influence a series of mini-projects which will be delivered in early 2022 to assist householders in reducing the amount of avoidable food waste that they generate and will also encourage and inspire them to recycle their unavoidable food waste.  The Food Waste Survey is available online via https://foodwasteequalsclimatechange.commonplace.is/ - and via the soon-to-go-live webpage, www.pkc.gov.uk/FoodWasteEqualsClimateChange,

It was noted that this was due to close shortly, so Andrea will share it on social media ASAP.

• Undernutrition Grant Scheme

Tayside Nutrition & Dietetic service would like to offer funding for the prevention of undernutrition in older people in Perth & Kinross. The aim of this funding is to provide grant funding to organisations in Perth & Kinross for them to pilot a range of activities that increase awareness of undernutrition within their communities through training, screening and boost box provision. Information can be found via a link to similar work that has been carried out in Dundee at https://api.ltb.io/show/ABBBO . Noted.

• Sustaining Choices 2022, Active Travel Action plans

 Following the successful piloting of the first Sustaining Choices project last year, the place and active citizenship charity PAS has gained further project funding from the Paths for All 'Smarter Choices, Smarter Places' fund to deliver another round of the project. The project grant requires some match funding, which they are currently seeking.  Sustaining Choices 2022 is a project to create mini active travel action plans in up to seven locations across Scotland. It is currently inviting expressions of interest from local authorities and community groups to take part in this project, with the aim of confirming successful project locations by early March 2022. The deadline for expressions of interest is February 21, 2022 at midday. Noted.

• Census

The Scottish Census will now take place in March 2022, after being delayed due to Covid-19. The survey of the entire population normally takes place every 10 years in the second year of the decade. The last census happened in 2011. Information gathered provides government and councils with information on Scottish households which helps decisions to be made on services. In Scotland, the National Records of Scotland (NRS) is responsible for the census. Noted.

• Events for CCs: Draft National Planning Framework online events during February and March. PKC passed on the following from the Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division: NPF4 Consultation Events: Registration is now open for Draft NPF4 online events during February and March, facilitated by Kevin Murray Associates (KMA) and PAS. The purpose of the informal, interactive sessions is to raise awareness and share views about the Draft NPF4, in order to inform and support the preparation of responses to the consultation, which closes on March 31, 2022. Noted following discussion.

• Managed for Wildlife Trials Consultation

The Managed for Wildlife Trials public consultation was due to be launched on February 7 via https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/managed -for-wildlife/   The consultation includes a survey with a story map which shows all the sites and areas within the trials in an easy to view and understand format and includes a short video explaining the trials. It invites people to suggest additional sites for future consideration and to get actively involved. The consultation will be open until the end of the growing season in September/October. Noted.

• Local Place Plans

 Local Place Plans offer communities the opportunity to develop proposals for their local area, expressing their aspirations and ambitions for future change. Legislation on the preparation, submission and registration of Local Place Plans came into force on January 22, 2022. The Scottish Government has prepared a Circular to accompany the legislation - Planning circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans - gov.scot (www.gov.scot). Additional resources to support their development will be published shortly at  www.ourplace. Noted.

**Planning matters:-**

Applications submitted -

Ref. 21/02223/FLL: Erection of a house and garage on land 80 metres south west of Athronhall Farm. Noted.

Ref. 21/02184/FLL: Extension to house at 35 Muir Way. Noted.

Applications decided -

Erection of a house, alterations to garage/store to form ancillary accommodation, home office studio and store, formation of vehicular accesses and associated works at Tillywhally Farmhouse. Approved.

**Queen’s Platinum Jubilee:-**

The secretary advised that Charlotte Giacopazzi had offered to form a sub- group to plan events to mark the occasion of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June. Following discussion, the secretary agreed to flag this up on social media. Funding will be made available from PKC but the amount won’t be known until after its budget meeting on February 23.

**Core Paths Group:-**

Kevin Heneghan reported on the following:

• PKC were to be commended for the speed with which a fallen tree had been removed from the path alongside the golf course following the recent storm.

• A meeting had been arranged with Alistair McLeod of Greenspace to discuss what could be done about the depressions in the local paths, which were becoming very muddy.

• Kevin and Malcolm are to visit Birnie Loch Nature Reserve to look at the various types of benches there before deciding which would be the most suitable for Milnathort. They will be installed on the core paths not owned by PKC and, following discussion, it was agreed that Kevin would pursue the idea of acquiring sponsorship and look at the possibility of installing a bench to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

**Councillors’ reports:-**

PKCllr Purves had attended the first meeting of Kinross-shire Local Committee along with Malcolm Thomson, which had been successful in that decisions could be taken about long-standing issues that PKC had either been unable or unwilling to deal with. For example, the committee’s devolved powers allowed it to lower the speed limit on the road from Scotlandwell to its border with Fife, which has been a matter of concern for some time.

As the council’s block grant had been reduced, decisions will be taken at the budget meeting on February 23 as to where cuts could be made.

**PKCllr Robertson** advised that there was potential for significant traffic disruption due to forthcoming work by Persimmon Homes to re-lay the sewers from Lathro and link them into the sewerage system. This will involve digging up Auld Mart Road and part of South Street. Work will begin on February 21 and March 28 respectively and will last for a total of 11 weeks. Residents of the affected areas have been informed by letter and there may be scope for Lathro residents to claim compensation as a result of the well-documented sewerage issues in the first phase of the development.

PKCllr Roberston has written to SEPA to request that tighter controls are placed on the amount of phosphorus going into Loch Leven, as the water quality is deteriorating. The letter has been signed by all four ward councillors. He was supported by **PKCllr Watters**, who said that scientists were currently investigating ways of preventing the growth of algae. Following discussion, it was agreed to await the response from SEPA, which, it was hoped, would be positive.

**CC Membership:-**

The chairman reported that Allan Macrae and Phil Britton had officially been co-opted on to the CC, and that Freda Brooks and Neill Bingham were awaiting validation. He expressed his thanks to Phil Britton and Liz Rougvie for taking on the roles of treasurer and secretary respectively.

The chairman also wished to record his gratitude to Craig Williams, who was stepping down after many years’ service to the CC, including a lengthy spell as chairman.

**AOCB:-**

Neill Bingham noted that Fossoway Community Council were looking for a minute-taker, possibly a school pupil taking modern studies. It was agreed that Neill would contact Fossoway CC to find out what the feedback had been as MOCC is also keen to attract young people.

**Date of next meeting:-**

The next meeting of Milnathort and Orwell Community Council will be held at 7pm on Thursday, March 10, 2022. It is hoped that meetings can be resumed in the Town Hall as work on the sound system is nearing completion. Members of the public are invited to attend.