

# PORT OF MENTEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the General Meeting of the Port of Menteith Community Council held in the Port Hall on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023

**Present :** Jim Riach, Chair  
Peter Stewart, Vice-Chair  
Becky Saunders, Secretary  
Claire Outterside, Treasurer (Minutes)  
Robin Armstrong  
Cllr Gene Maxwell

## 1. Members Present and Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Alastair Orr Ewing and David Mackie.

## 2. Declarations of Interest in the Items of Business

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of the General Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The adoption of the draft Minutes of the General Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was proposed by Peter Stewart and seconded by Claire Outterside. **Action : CO**

## 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### 4.1 Recruitment of Minute Taker

Claire advised that there had been no response from anyone in the local community expressing an interest in taking up the position on minute taker. Jim advised that there might be interest from the daughter of a local resident. Claire to contact. **Action : CO**

### 4.2 Inchmahome

Jim confirmed that he had emailed Historic Environment Scotland and their response reiterated that the Priory remains closed due to safety concerns surrounding the masonry and they are unable to undertake a survey until the Ospreys have fledged (October time). Robin advised that there seems to be access issues surrounding the car park after speaking with an HES contractor who believed the padlock had been changed. The fence is in poor condition and there is potential for damage to the boat house. It was noted that there are other local residents who have contacted HES directly to express their concerns. Peter advised that there might be a named point of contact within historical correspondence between the Community Council and HES. Request further info regarding the proposed survey and copy in local councillors. **Action : JR**

### 4.3 Renewal of Data Protection subscription

Jim has contacted the Information Commissioners Office in an attempt to have the subscription changed into his name however it is apparent that a new application requires to be made. It was noted that we may be eligible for a fee exemption. **Action : CO**

### 4.4 Renewal/cancellation of subscription to Bluehost for Domain Names, Website etc.

Members were in agreement that the current subscription to Bluehost should be cancelled. One option would be to utilise a free service for emails etc. Robin offered to take on a 'postmaster' type roll regarding the CC email inbox. There is a significant volume of historical emails – members were in agreement that anything over 2 years old should be deleted. **Action : BS/JR**

### 4.5 Community Email Circulation List

This has now been transferred over and an initial email has been sent out to confirm recipients are happy to remain on the circulation list. It is hoped that a revamped CC website will allow information to be shared with the local community more easily. Claire offered to set up a Facebook profile for the Community Council. Due to the length of time it takes for minutes of meeting to be available on the Stirling Council Website it was agreed that a short summary of important matters could be drafted and shared with the local community by email/website link. **Action : CO/BS**

5.

## **Roads & Other Issues**

### **5.1 Roads & Verges**

It was noted that Stirling Council have a budget of 300k allocated for works on the stretch of road from Port of Menteith to Callander. It would be beneficial to have an update from S.C regarding the programming of works planned. Gene advised that everyone should be encouraged to report pot holes via the online portal to ensure the council are made aware. The verges on the B8034 have recently been cut back and work appears to be ongoing.

Potholes have been reported to the council at the Lochend junction but so far have not been actioned.

Robin expressed his concerns surrounding speeding through the village which seems to have been exacerbated during the UCI Cycle event. In particular the area at the T-junction near the primary school/road from Dykehead. Request speed camera from Police Scotland. **Action : RA**

### **5.2 Cardross Bridge**

Jim advised members that the CC were still awaiting a formal response from Stirling Council regarding the situation however other local CC have been updated. Gene advised that he will take this forward.

6.

## **Financial**

### **6.1 Statement to end July**

Claire confirmed that there had been no change since the last meeting.

### **6.2 Audit of Annual 22/23 accounts**

Claire advised that this has been done and authorised by Peter Forrester.

### **6.3 Bank account & signatories**

The mandate requires to be printed, signed and sent off to the Bank of Scotland. **Action : CO**

### **6.4 Community Council Administration & Minute taker Grant**

The application and authorised accounts have been submitted to Stirling Council for consideration.

### **6.5 Community Council Employers Liability & Asset Insurance Docs 2023/2024**

Claire confirmed this is in order and isn't due for renewal until May 24.

7.

## **Correspondence**

Becky advised that there had been queries regarding the availability of the Community Council minutes on the Stirling Council website. A response was sent advising of the process. An email about matters of transparency was discussed in terms of a broader communications strategy.

8.

## **Planning & Licensing Issues**

### **8.1 New Planning Applications**

Nothing to report.

### **8.2 Planning Updates**

Nothing to report.

### **8.3 Planning Notifications**

Nothing to report.

9.

## **Forestry**

### **9.1 Forestry & Land Scotland Local Activities Report**

No report received.

### **9.2 SF Consultation request for Felling Permission – Rednock Estate**

The date for a response had passed prior to the meeting.

### **9.3 Auchyle Woodland Creation Consultation**

Robin provided a copy of the report delivered to residents in the immediate locality of this application. This looks to be a new application – CC inbox to be checked for application and for this to be forwarded to members for consideration. It was confirmed that initial comments should be submitted by mid September. ***Additionally: A similar submission has been made for woodland***

*creation at Malling - again for comments by mid September – this was circulated to all CC members on 30.8.23*

**10. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park**

**10.1 Port of Menteith NPA entry sign**

Members were keen to keep this in view and request an update from David Mackie at the next meeting.

**11. Strathard & Trossachs Place Based Visitor Management Group**

Members agreed this can be removed from the agenda going forward.

**12. Reports**

**12.1 Councillor's report**

Gene advised that Stirling Council are underfunded and understaffed in lots of areas. There is currently a voluntary redundancy scheme ongoing. They continue to look at cost savings regarding buildings. There has been some progression with the area of MOD land and possible sale and redevelopment which hopes to attract businesses in to the city. There has been further discussion involving all councillors around active travel options, particularly in the Aberfoyle and Drymen areas. Housing issues continue to be prevalent. The removal of some early years nursery funding is an area of particular concern as the savings are minimal in the grand scheme of things and future policy developments are likely to reverse the decisions made. Members asked if Gene could provide information on Stirling Councils schools admissions policy regarding placement requests – namely is this set down by the education authority or is it a council policy. The roll at the local Primary school has dropped dramatically due to placing requests. **Action : GM**

**12.2 NPA report**

No report received.

**12.3 Carse of Stirling project group report**

Jim advised that the project group were currently conducting an audit of other local groups and trusts etc.

**12.4 Port Church & Cemetery**

Robin read a report by Sheena MMC on the state of the church and concerns about the ongoing viability of the same. This led onto a discussion about the wider village facilities and concern that falling numbers in church, school and hall could lead to the closure of all if we do not find ways to better engage the community. It should be noted that the church only owns the footprint of the church and the council owns the graveyard and steps to it.

**12.5 Port Hall Committee report**

No report received from Matt Woods however Claire was able to provide a verbal report that the hall remains in need of volunteers to join the committee. Bookings are fairly low at present and the hall requires upgrades such as a more economical heating system. The car park extension is largely complete and it is hoped that the front garden and fence area can be upgraded in the near future.

**12.6 School report**

From Ben Outterside (attached)

**12.7 Police report**

From Donald King (attached)

**13. Any Other Competent Business**

**13.1 Police Scotland: The Community Ownership Fund round 3** Not discussed

**14. Date of Next Scheduled Meeting : Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 7pm**