

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7 pm Monday 13th March 2017.

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Attendance

Those present: Matthew Gerrie, Graham Rees, David Levy, Helen Taylor, Cllr. Barbara Vaughan, Cllr. Grant Laing

Apologies – Na'an McLure, Stuart Paton, David Fox and Lorna Birse-Stewart

Members of the public present -Johann Goree

2. Minutes of meeting of 13th February:

- Amendments: None
- Proposed by: Graham Rees
- Seconded by: Helen Taylor

3. Treasurer's report:

Graham Rees reported that the Accounts Community Council account has £388.03 and the Griffin Micro Grant account £9.65 – with £5,000 on its way.

Micro-grant applications/awards –

Blue Plaques grant – the D&B Historical Society have been working closely with the PKC planning authority. They have contacted all the owners – where they exist – and all but one has agreed and signed the form. Everyone agreed that this was a good project to support with a micro grant.

Birnam Arts – for upgrading and updating of the Beatrix Potter exhibition – cost of the project is £1,500 – asking for £500. Approved.

A9 Community Group grant had previously been agreed – so in total £1500 being disbursed as soon as our new funds come in.

Stuart was to explore with the Safe Start group about whether they would be better applying for a bigger grant. David Levy to chase him.

4. Matters arising & subject updates:

A9 Dualling – David Levy

No movement from Transport Scotland – no meetings, no proposals.

Transport Scotland and the community group are exploring if Planning Aid Scotland could provide mediation to progress the Co-Creative process. And there has been good political support from Scottish Government for this Co-Creative process.

The A9 community group is still meeting regularly with the community and is now planning for a community objectives setting process to work out in more detail what the community's objectives are for the road.

Windfarms – David Levy

Dulater Wind Farm Public Enquiry happening very shortly (ie next week) – Stuart is going to put posters up advertising it.

Gritting review – Most agreed that the gritting appeared to have been OK this year. However the mild winter might not be a good test. David Levy to feed back to David Fox – and ask if he could check that the gritting covers Brae Street.

A9 Junctions - Grant has managed to get action re A9 junctions. Bollards are to be assessed and replacement/new reflectors will be fitted probably by the end of March. BEAR will carry out the repainting of lines in April. Thanks to Grant for finally getting action on this issue.

5. Correspondence/Website

David Fox got back to PKC re the 'consultation' about the Core Paths. PKC have confirmed that Landowners have been approached about the amendments.

Ms Bleau is still to approach the Birnam Hotel re a disabled space. She is planning to do this in May when she has friends staying there.

6. Policing

PC Cochrane and PC Buchan attended – with apologies on behalf of community Sergeant, Caroline McNaughton.

Police are still looking for the stolen campervan, which had been reported just prior to last month's meeting.

Grant Laing asked about reports of antisocial behaviour. This was agreed to be discussed between Grant and the police in confidence later.

Police message: beware of bogus callers – there have been reports of a red van going around in Aberfeldy, and Ballinluig etc. This is the time of year that people are starting to think of doing work in their gardens and this can often be the target for bogus callers.

Abandoned car on A9 for over a month. PCs said that it had been reported to the Council – but Grant said it may be an issue for BEAR Scotland – so Grant is going to investigate and see who is responsible and try to get it sorted out.

7. Broadband

Lunan Valley project – the project has had 19 different expressions of interest to tender. Credit to John MacMillan for all his hard work. So progress is happening.

8. A.O.B.

Save our Birnam Buses - very active group – over 800 signatures. Looking at how they can present the matter to the Scottish Government for action.

Rail service

Another group of residents have been monitoring the situation with the development of the new Highland Main Line Timetable. There is a plan to change it – to have an hourly service from Inverness to the Central Belt. Concern that service to intermediate stations might be limited in some way. Concern to make sure that Dunkeld and Birnam doesn't lose from this and if possible to see if it can benefit from the changes. DL said that he agreed that the Station was very important and he would be happy to lend our support to the project. Various options are being looked at in terms of reducing time of journey – not all require cutting out intermediate stops.

New timetable is supposed to come into force in 2018. Apparently there is a group in Pitlochry who are involved in this. BV suggested that the group should contact Barbara Renton - Exec Director of the Environmental Service.

David will submit the Bridge article by 17th March.
Matthew Gerrie to install Dalguise Noticeboard.

Amulree Hotel replied to David Levy's email and said that construction works will resume in the summer.

Johan – asking about whether there is a networking group of businesses in Dunkeld area. But nothing formal just now. Tourist Association used to do something. Suggestion that setting up such a group would be a good idea – business breakfast idea might be a good thing. David Levy and Graham Rees offered to help.

Johan commented on the low online presence of the Community Council – and a Facebook Page was suggested. Johan agreed to put together a one-page proposal for a Facebook Page and bring it to the next meeting.

Next meeting:- Monday 10th April 2017 – 7pm Birnam Institute

Members of the public are most welcome to attend