

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Meetings – Commencing 7:00 pm Monday 8th May 2017

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Graham Rees, Stuart Paton, Lorna Birse-Stewart, Cllr. Anne Jarvis, Cllr. Ian James

In addition, the local Community Police Sergeant, Caroline Macnaughton was present

Apologies were received from Cllr Grant Laing

There were also eight members of the public present, including Johann Goree, Ian Duncan MSP and Pete Wishart MSP

2. Welcome, introductions and format of today's meetings

David Levy (Chair) welcomed everyone. He explained that the evening would comprise of three meetings:

- The first, an Extraordinary General Meeting to co-opt a new member of the Community Council.
- The second, the Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council Annual General Meeting.
- The third, the Ordinary General Meeting of the Community Council.

David informed the meeting of his receipt of a letter of resignation, from the Community Council, by Na'an McLure. On behalf of members, David expressed his sincere thanks to Na'an, for her support to the CC and the Dunkeld & Birnam Community over a number of years. We all wish her well for the future.

David welcomed our two new Councillors, Anne Jarvis and Ian James.

He also explained the use of audio recording for the meetings, and confirmed that the recordings were purely used to assist the Secretary in the production of minutes and were not retained as a record of the meeting.

3. Extraordinary General Meeting

The minutes of this meeting have been produced separately.

4. Annual General Meeting

The minutes of this meeting have been produced separately.

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council - Ordinary General Meeting

5. Those present:

David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Graham Rees, Stuart Paton, Lorna Birse-Stewart, Johann Goree, Cllr. Anne Jarvis, Cllr. Ian James, Police Sergeant Caroline Macnaughton

Apologies were received from Cllr. Grant Laing

There were now seven members of the public present (Johann Goree having been elected)

6. Agreement of minutes

The Ordinary General Meeting minutes for 10th April 2017 had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Lorna Birse-Stewart
- Seconded by: Matthew Gerrie

7. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £340.03. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £3,109.65.

One micro-grant bid had been received for consideration at this meeting. A 'gentle exercise group' has requested funding to subsidise their activities. An award was agreed and Graham Rees will make contact with the applicant.

8. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Policing

Sgt. Macnaughton spoke to the group. Caroline informed the group that her officers had been providing a visible presence and paying particular attention to deterring speeding motorists in the Dunkeld area, during which operation several have been warned as to their speed.

Caroline confirmed that our local, dedicated Community Police Officers are Police Constables Jamie Elder and Steve Band, both of whom can be contacted via the Police non-emergency number of **101**, or via the following email address:

TaysideHighlandCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Caroline and David Fox (CC member with responsibility for Police liaison) do maintain regular and ongoing communication. Whilst it is apparent through the weekly publication of a Police Commander's report, that the Dunkeld and Birnam area remains a low crime area, Caroline wished to remind residents and visitors that they must not be fearful of ringing the 999 emergency number if they believe that a crime is currently being committed, or if someone is currently displaying suspicious, aggressive or intimidating behavior. If an incident has passed, then the 101 non-emergency number is the appropriate number to use.

However, in addition to the prevention and investigation of crime, the Police do wish to support the local community with 'quality of life' issues, such as anti-social behavior or damage, for which people should not hesitate to make contact and discuss in confidence with a member of their local Policing team.

A member of the public raised the issue of speeding motorists in the Amulree (A822) area. The area of road does not benefit from a footpath and, particularly during the tourist season, many walkers and cyclists use this narrow stretch of road, although many motorists apparently fail to see or comply with the 40 mph signs as they enter Amulree from the South. Sgt. Macnaughton advised that there may be a case for PKC to improve signage and implement additional traffic-calming measures at the location. Cllr. James agreed to make enquiries with PKC, as to what may be possible.

David Levy thanked Sgt. Macnaughton for her update and the ongoing support of Police Scotland.

b) Dunkeld Post Office Closure

David Levy informed the group that he had received a letter from a member of the public, expressing concern as to the recent and apparently unplanned closure of the Dunkeld Post Office.

A discussion then took place, involving the members of the public in attendance, on the urgency of replacing the Post Office in Dunkeld. It was stated that Royal Mail has said that they will make efforts to find a suitable replacement within Dunkeld. The urgency was agreed and the CC agreed to take the matter further, including by contact with Royal Mail. David Levy said that he will make further contact with the author of the letter. The item will be placed into the agenda of the next meeting.

c) Defibrillator training

In relation to the public-access defibrillators, which have been installed at various locations across our community, Graham Rees informed the meeting that it is his intention to arrange a programme of defibrillator training in October. Dates to announced and published via the Bridge.

d) Windfarms

Mr. Alan Wylie spoke to the meeting. Mr. Wylie had represented the CC and local community at the November 2016 inquiry into the Crossburns windfarm. Whilst a decision, from Scottish Ministers, had been anticipated in the spring, Mr. Wylie said that it was likely that there would not be a final decision until late summer.

Stuart Paton thanked Alan Wylie for his support and hard work on the Crossburns windfarm inquiry.

Stuart explained that the Dulater Hill windfarm inquiry took place at the Birnam Institute over four days, in late March 2017. The inquiry had been well organised and Stuart made particular comment as to the hard work of the Lunan Valley community group, in supporting the views of local people. Final submissions have been submitted and we await the outcome of that inquiry, which is likely to be towards the end of 2017 or into 2018.

David Levy outlined the concerns of the Community Council, as to the cumulative effect of a number of current and proposed windfarms in the Dunkeld & Birnam CC area. It is apparent that windfarm planning does not fully acknowledge or consider cumulative impact, although it was discussed that, during the Crossburns (public) inquiry, a representative of the applicant had stated, in support of the Crossburns development, that it would serve to protect other parts of rural Perthshire from such developments.

David Levy updated members on the proposed development of a new 'Spatial Strategy' for inclusion within the Local Development Plan. The new strategy is intended to include supplemental guidance, which sets out the factors which new windfarm proposals or energy developments will be assessed against, including those relating to cumulative development. However the document is not yet ready.

e) **Roads**

David Levy informed the meeting of the work of the local A9 working group, in its efforts to work with Transport Scotland in the creation of a co-creative, consultation process on the A9 dualling options at Birnam. However, David expressed concerns that all progress with Transport Scotland has halted. Transport Scotland appear to have lost momentum and are failing to engage effectively. The likely implications of this situation are that the local community, which has been fully engaged and involved via the efforts of the working group, could itself lose momentum due to disillusionment with the lack of progress.

The next monthly meeting of the A9 working group, is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 31st May at the Royal Dunkeld Hotel. The meeting will also incorporate the working group AGM. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Further information is also available in The Bridge and on its website.

f) **Correspondence**
'Birnam in Bloom'

A local initiative plans to create a new stretch of footpath in Birnam, between Young's Garage to the current footpath, which ends at a gate some 200 Metres beyond. The new path will provide improved access and safety, for walkers and cyclists into the village, from the footpath. The Treasurer of the group, entitled 'Birnam in Bloom' has requested support of the CC for the initiative. David Levy has responded, outlining support for the scheme in principle, whilst providing information as to micro-grant/SSE 'windfarms' funding options. Additionally, a local business owner, who has heard of the proposed development, has contacted the CC with an offer of hardcore. The author was advised of the 'Birnam in Bloom' group and contact details provided.

PKC Health & Social Care Public Partner Events

PKC has arranged a series of public events, in order to discuss changes to health and social care service delivery. They hope that the events will allow people who use the services and unpaid carers to be more actively involved in shaping changes. The meetings are open for any interested person to attend. Details to be published in The Bridge.

SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2017

The aforementioned fund is available to non-profit organisations, community groups and charities, working in the SSEN distribution area. The fund supports local projects that:

- 1) Protect the welfare of welfare of vulnerable community members through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.
- 2) Enhance community facilities, services and communication

specifically to support the local response in the event of a significant emergency event.

It is the intention of the Dunkeld & Birnam Emergency Preparedness and Coordination Group (D&BEP&CG) to submit a bid in support of the recently published plan.

A number of articles and items of correspondence have been forwarded for publishing on the website.

g) Proposal for a Dunkeld & Birnam CC Facebook Page

Johann Goree has proposed the introduction of a D&BCC Facebook page, in order to further community engagement/consultation activities and provide an improved means by which a broader range of local people can interact with D&BCC.

A discussion took place, following which the initiative was agreed. Johann Goree and David Fox will undertake administration and monitoring responsibilities.

h) Community Resilience

Lorna Birse-Stewart shared copies of the latest version of the local resilience plan. Lorna explained that it was important that emergency services, key utilities and community members knew of the existence and purpose of the group. It is also important that the group attracts a range of volunteers, who are willing to be contacted in the event of an emergency.

The date for the next meeting of the local preparedness and coordination group (D&BEP&CG) would be announced in The Bridge (magazine and website) shortly.

i) Culture & Events

Stuart Paton reminded everyone of the forthcoming event, to mark the 450th Anniversary of the Royal School of Dunkeld, on 27th June. The event will include a service in the Cathedral and an event in the school itself. Further details of the event will be published in the Bridge.

j) Environment/Planning

Helen Taylor had reviewed the recent planning applications. A total of eight such applications were discussed, for which it was agreed that the CC would make no comment. There were no other issues of note.

k) Broadband

The Lunan Valley broadband project, incorporating the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree has reviewed four initial tender applications, all of which have now been invited to submit comprehensive bids by the end of June. Following this, a further community consultation process will be conducted (October) and, hopefully a suitable contractor selected.

Stuart Paton made the point that, whilst the majority of properties in the area either will be included in the proposed broadband improvement initiative or are currently receiving an acceptable level of service, there will be those who do not benefit from those initiatives. It will be important for the CC to monitor the situation and continue to support local people to find a suitable broadband solution.

l) Road Safety and Parking

As previously communicated, David Levy wrote to PKC some weeks ago, in order to feed back the results of the CC Parking Review conducted by Lorna Birse-Stewart. Despite repeated attempts to solicit a response, David has not received a meaningful response from PKC. He will continue to chase up a response and update members accordingly.

Lorna Birse-Stewart, who led the local parking and road-safety review, expressed her concern as to the lack of response from PKC, especially in light of the recent announcement of a public consultation on improving parking in Scotland, by the Minister of Transport. One of the key areas of focus within the consultation is the provision of Disabled Parking spaces. This has been included within our submission to PKC, yet we have no response to date.

Cllrs. James and Jarvis said that they would make enquiries with PKC.

Lorna Birse-Stewart will draft a further letter which (as Chair) Stuart Paton will send to PKC (copying in the Councillors).

m) Audio recording of CC meetings

A discussion took place around the audio recording of CC meetings, which has been trialed for some months. The purpose of audio recording is purely to support the Secretary in the preparation of minutes, following which the recording is destroyed. The recording cannot be retained any longer than absolutely necessary, nor will it be shared with anyone for any other purpose. The associated protocol was reviewed and all members agreed to the formal implementation of audio recording for future meetings.

9. A.O.B.

Playpark at Royal School of Dunkeld

There are concerns that cats are using the sand at the playpark, as a toilet. Whilst the new playpark is a great facility, this problem is a real cause of concern to all. The CC supports the concerns in principle and will consider any associated bids to the micro-grant fund, in order to alleviate the problem.

Review of CC portfolios

Matthew Gerrie will represent the CC at the forthcoming Griffin endowment fund meetings.

All members have been asked to consider the allocation of CC portfolio responsibilities, to support a conversation at the next meeting.

Recreation Ground

Stuart Paton is now the Chairman of the Recreation Club Management Committee, which is looking to engage with various organisations locally, including the leisure group and other community bodies, in order to consider the best way of taking forward sports and leisure facilities at the recreation ground.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 12th June at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.