

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 11th June 2018

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

Stuart Paton, David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Graham Rees, Cllr. Grant Laing

The group were also joined by Alistair McLeod, a PKC Greenspace Ranger, who was in attendance to talk about the local footpath networks.

Sergeant Caroline MacNaughton and Constable Jamie Elder, from the local Police, were also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Johann Goree, Cllrs Anne Jarvis and Cllr Ian James

2. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 14th May had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: David Fox
- Seconded by: Helen Taylor

Stuart Paton confirmed the appointments made at the AGM in May, as follows:

- Chair – Stuart Paton
- Secretary – David Fox
- Treasurer – Graham Rees
- Correspondence – Johann Goree

3. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands

at £434.38 The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £3,946.79 (less £500 previously allocated).

Graham will submit annual account to PKC.

Thanks were recorded for John Gray, for his support in auditing the accounts.

A micro-grant bid, for £500 had been received from Servite House in Dunkeld, for barbecue equipment for use in events with residents and local community members. The bid was approved.

A micro-grant bid, for £500 had been received from Royal School of Dunkeld. The intention was to fund purchase of books for each child at the end of school term, within a scheme called 'Book Buddies'. The bid was approved.

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Policing

Sergeant MacNaughton gave advice on door-to-door sales people. Residents should always check that a sales person has identity, as there have been examples across Perthshire of unregistered sales people calling to houses.

Unfortunately no suspects have been identified for recent thefts of charity boxes, bicycles and trailer-ramps in the Dunkeld and Birnam area, however what appeared to be a small spate of thefts, over a short time period has now ceased. Police enquiries are ongoing, however Sergeant MacNaughton advised that residents, visitors and business-owners should not leave anything on show, in their homes or vehicles, which might attract an opportunistic thief. One option for retail businesses to consider, in order to deter a would-be thief, is to leave an empty till drawer open and visible from outside the premises.

Finally, Sgt MacNaughton advised that people should not be concerned about calling 999 if Police presence is needed urgently. Across the media and social media, there have been well-publicised examples of people using the service for wholly inappropriate reasons (obvious to most), however this publicity appears to have created a degree of nervousness in using the 999 service. In light of the distances a local Police patrol may need to travel to an emergency call, the earlier that call is made the better.

b) Environment & Planning

Footpath network - Alistair McLeod, the new local 'Greenspace Ranger' (from the PKC Greenspace Team) gave a presentation on his role and some of the initiatives he is involved in, regarding footpaths.

We have a fabulous network of footpaths in the Dunkeld and Birnam area, and Alistair's role is to support local initiatives to maintain and improve them.

Where PKC may have previously undertaken some footpath maintenance on private land, this is to be ceased. However Alistair and his team are available to support any local groups, who wish to collaborate on footpath maintenance. Support can include, training (strimmers etc.), funding, equipment provision, brokering agreements with landowners etc.

The services of Alistair and his 'Community Greenspace Team' team can be accessed via the PKC call centre or PKC email portal.

Planning Applications – There were no recent planning applications of note for the group to discuss.

c) Community Funding

Griffin Windfarm (Main) Fund – Matthew Gerrie represents the Community Council on this group. He informed the group that a pleasing number of bids had been received for local initiatives.

d) Correspondence/Website

No items of note

e) Community Engagement/Social Media

The 'Community' for our Facebook page is growing and, fast becoming an excellent way for the CC to inform and collaborate with local people and capture their concerns or comments.

The Facebook page is regularly used to post information about local events and any relevant information from the Police bulletins. It will also be a useful communication tool in the event of the activation of an Emergency Coordination Group, where information can be passed quickly and local volunteers and resources brought together.

f) Transport

A9 Dualling – David Levy informed the group about the forthcoming 'Big Decision' event on 23rd June, together with online and postal opportunities for people to vote on the final preferred option for the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing section of the A9.

There was a discussion on options for the ongoing means, by which the Dunkeld & Birnam community could maintain a collaborative approach, between the end of the co-creative process until and throughout the building phase of the new road. No decisions have yet been made, although members agreed that there would be great benefit in there being a 'successor' organisation to the A9 community group. A key role of this group would be to maintain the momentum already gained and sustain links with the business community and Tourist Association.

Members will discuss further at the next meeting.

A9 'Out of Scope' ideas – During the ideas-gathering phase of the co-creative process, many people submitted ideas or concerns which, whilst not within the scope of the A9 work, were captured for further consideration by the Community council. A number of these ideas, including some relating to signage in the village, speeding motorists, and concerns of pedestrians using the Telford Bridge, have been collated and will inform ongoing conversations between Stuart Paton and the PKC Roads Department.

g) Windfarms

No items of note

h) Community Resilience

See above re the opportunities around Social Media and potential use of our Facebook page for Emergency Coordination.

i) Broadband

No items of note

5. A.O.B.

Dangerous stone Wall in Dunkeld

There is growing local concern about the deteriorating condition of a high stone wall, on the North side of the A923 just beyond the entrance to the Dunkeld House Hotel main driveway. For a significant stretch the wall, which is next to a public footpath, is crumbling away and pieces of it have fallen on to the footpath and roadway.

Stuart Paton has visited the site and communicated with PKC. In addition, Councillor Jarvis has asked PKC for urgent action.

At the time of writing, the adjacent footpath has been closed and signage has been erected. Stuart will continue his dialogue with PKC and further updates will be provided in due course.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

Due to holiday absences, the July meeting will not take place. The next meeting is therefore scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 13th August at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.

DRAFT