

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 10th October 2016

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

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

There was also one member of the public present.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Barbara Vaughan, Stuart Paton and Lorna Birse-Stewart.

2. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 12th September 2016 had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Graham Rees
- Seconded by: Helen Taylor

3. Reports

a) **Police**

The police were absent. This is the fifth consecutive meeting without Police attendance. David Fox will write to the Police requesting, where possible, written updates in the absence (or potential absence) of representation at meetings.

b) **Treasurer**

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £520.03. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £532.95 (prior to the award of a £200 micro-grant as below). Additionally, there is a balance of £221.40 remaining from the allocated grant for the provision and installation of defibrillators. This remaining budget will be used to support local training (i.e. room booking etc.).

Graham has made contact with SSE, to request consideration of additional micro-grant funding, but has had no response to date. Graham will update as and when he has further information.

Graham reminded members of the remaining defibrillator and CPR training sessions, which have been published in The Bridge.

- 7pm - Thursday 27th October at Butterstone Village Hall
- 2pm - Sunday 30th October at the Birnam Institute

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Roads

A9 Bus Services - Ms. Pamela Green, a member of the public and coordinator of the 'Save our Birnam Buses' campaign, addressed the meeting, regarding cuts to the A9 CityLink/Intercity bus services.

Ms. Green and her group is seeking support for a forthcoming petition to the Scottish Parliament, as to the removal, in November 2015, of the 'CityLink/Intercity' bus service. As it stands, the remaining bus services (provided by a different bus company) has a very limited timetable which does not, for instance, provide the ability for return travel to Edinburgh in the same day.

The campaign group, which has received a great deal of local support, has attempted unsuccessfully to engage with CityLink/Intercity.

The group recently met with John Swinney MSP, who advised that it may wish to consider a petition to the Scottish Parliament. It is now the intention of the group to engage with all potentially affected communities along the A9 Perth to Inverness route, so that a petition can be submitted, *'Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to include the provision of intercity bus services to small communities along key transport arteries, such as the A9, in the refreshed 2017 National Transport Strategy to ensure these communities do not become isolated as a result of cutbacks by commercial operators'*.

Ms. Green acknowledged that commercial decisions may of course lead to a reduced timetable if services are under-used. However, the campaign group strongly believes that the provision of a single 'southbound' early morning service, followed by an evening return bus, is a reasonable request and that the service would be well used.

CC Members were unanimous in their support for the campaign, particularly in light of the consequential impact on remote communities. Members agreed unanimously to approve a micro-grant, to support campaign activities (meeting facilities, leaflets etc.).

A micro-grant of £200 was agreed, conditional to the receipt of a completed bid document.

David Levy thanked Ms. Green on behalf of members.

The A9 'Save our Birnam Buses' campaign can be contacted via Email at: pammgreen@btinternet.com

A9 Dualling – David Levy informed members that the recent online survey, regarding proposed A9 dualling, had received over 450 responses. The survey results were presented to the community, at a meeting in September and submitted to Transport for Scotland (TFS). At a subsequent meeting, between the A9 Working Group and TFS, a fresh approach to community consultation and the selection of options, was discussed. It is anticipated that this approach will be adopted, following strategic consideration.

- b) **Windfarms** – It is the intention of the CC to submit a letter of objection to the Crossburns windfarm. The letter is in the process of being written, following which it will be submitted to the inquiry.

In respect of the proposed ‘Dullater’ windfarm inquiry, Stuart Paton will represent our CC on the community group and will oversee our subsequent submission to the inquiry.

- c) **Correspondence/Website**

David Fox informed the meeting of a forthcoming Education Governance Review, to be conducted by the Scottish Government. A local preparatory meeting is being held at the North Inch Community Campus on Tuesday 15th November. The meeting is an open meeting and Stuart Paton has agreed to represent the CC at the meeting. Details have been circulated on The Bridge website.

A number of articles and items of correspondence, including the weekly Police bulletin, have been forwarded for publishing on the website.

- d) **Community Resilience**

David Fox informed the group that our ‘Local Resilience Plan’ will be published in the near future. There is also an intention to launch a local Community Resilience Group at a future date to be defined. Further updates and details will be provided via The Bridge in due course.

An invitation has been received, for CC representation at a PKC Community Resilience Workshop in November. Appropriate attendance will be arranged.

- e) **Culture & Events**

Na’an McLure was unable to attend. There were no items of note.

- f) **Policing**

David Fox informed the group of a recent incident in Amulree, where a man was seen paying particular attention to local premises. When challenged by a resident, he made an excuse and drove away in what transpired to be a stolen car from the Broughty Ferry area. The Police were informed, although no further information has been received.

A resident of Amulree has reported increasing local concerns as to speeding motorists through the village (A822). The Police have agreed to give the area passing attention, however the erection of warning

signage, as to concealed entrances may also be a worthwhile step in raising the awareness of motorists, as to the dangers of speeding through the area.

The weekly Police 'Commander's Bulletin' is routinely forwarded for publication on The Bridge website. There have been no other local incidents of note, mentioned on the bulletin.

All residents are advised to report any ongoing suspicious activity to the Police using the emergency 999 number. Any non-urgent information can be passed to the Police through their single non-emergency number on **101**, or should the caller wish to remain anonymous, via '**Crimestoppers**' on **0800 555 111**.

g) Environment/Planning

There were no new planning applications. Helen Taylor reviewed the recently approved planning applications. There were no issues of note.

A recently-refused development, near to Scotston on the A826, has been appealed by the original applicant. Whilst the CC was consulted during the original planning application process, no observations were made. As such the CC has not been formally consulted for the appeal, however we will continue to monitor the application and consider our position should there be any fundamental amendment to the application.

h) Broadband

Graham Rees reported that work remains ongoing to progress the development of a suitable Broadband option within the Lunan Valley area, which will now incorporate the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree area. Graham indicated that there is an expectation that the project would be completed by the end of 2018, due to funding restrictions.

David Levy informed the group of an ongoing PGL development in the Dalguise area, which should see some consequential benefit in Broadband services for the community, once completed.

i) Road Safety and Parking

Lorna Birse-Stewart was unable to attend the meeting. However in her absence, David Levy asked all members to consider the latest iteration of her report on 'Road Safety, Access and Parking for Dunkeld & Birnam', so that a thorough discussion could be conducted at the next meeting, where it is anticipated that a number of achievable, prioritised options will be identified.

Cllr. Laing raised the issue of the need for replacement of the 'Cathedral' direction sign, at the junction of Bridge Street and Brae Street. Grant will progress via PKC.

5. A.O.B.

Highland & Strathtay Community Action Partnership

David Levy informed the group of his recent meeting with Bill Nicholl, the chair of the Highland & Strathtay Community Action Partnership, which had approached the CC, seeking representation on their group. David has arranged for a local representative to attend the first meeting of that group and hopes to announce their membership in due course.

Griffin & Calliachar Enterprise Fund

David Levy informed the group of a request for the views of members as to the funding mechanism for a portion of the Griffin & Calliachar funding (entitled 'Enterprise Fund'). Two options were presented. The first involved the sharing of funds across all ten Perth & Kinross CC areas. The second involved the retention of funding arrangements, within the current five areas (including Dunkeld & Birnam). Members voted for the retention of the current funding arrangement, on the grounds that it represented those CC areas most affected by windfarm developments (i.e. roads, visual impact etc.). David Levy will feed back accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 14th November at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.