

DUNKELD & BIRNAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting

Monday, 13 November 2017 — 7pm at Birnam Institute

Minutes

Reports

Attendance

Those present: David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Johan Goree, Stuart Paton (chair), Lorna Birse-Stewart, Graham Rees, Councillor Grant Laing, Councillor Anne Jarvis,

Apologies: David Fox, Councillor Ian James

Members of the public present: P. Kelly and four members of the public; also Matt Young from the Forestry Commission

Minutes of prior meeting

These had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.

11 September 2017

Amendments: The Enterprise Fund information was sent and should be included; Broadband R100 information from G. Rees should be added.

Proposed by: HT

Seconded by: MG

Treasurer's report

Graham Rees reported the balances of our accounts.

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
Primary	£616.08
Griffin Microgrant	£1870.48

Thanks to D. Gray for auditing the accounts.

Matters arising and items for discussion

1. Matt Young explained the reasons for felling the trees between the A9 and the Tay opposite the land lying between Dunkeld Cathedral and the Dunkeld House Hotel. These reasons are unrelated to plans for dualling the A9. The trees in the area are Norway spruce planted in 1964 which are coming to the ends of their natural, safe lives. Their population had also been thinned by wind storms in recent years. Therefore it was likely that they would begin to fall naturally. An SSE power line which runs through the trees would be vulnerable to a tree fall. In addition, an old and significant gas main runs through the forest with many trees having roots too close to the gas main. A fallen tree could rupture the gas main. Removing the trees was necessary for these reasons. Moreover, the tree removal was so difficult that the Forestry would not make a profit on the timber. The Forestry had sought to inform and consult the community with notices in the Bridge and a meeting, though the latter was poorly attended. The plan was to re-plant the area in Spring with primarily hardwoods (c. 85%). The location is not one for harvest, so the planting was for the creation of a “forever forest” that could be a good barrier between Dunkeld and the A9. Matt Young was seeking help to create a group through which the community could influence and be informed about the planting plans. It was agreed that the Community Council would help by notifying a nucleus of local people with relevant interest in the woods. **Action:** DL. A question was also raised about the status of the fallen path from Hermitage car park above Inver. The path is too damaged and will not be replaced; alternative ideas are under discussion.
2. SP reported on the meeting of the Deer Management Forum. There was agreement at the Forum and among interested parties that the numbers of deer would need considerable reduction. The current numbers culled would need an increase of as much as 100 per cent. The Scottish Government had identified this requirement as well because, among other reasons, of road safety since there had been an increase in the number of road traffic accidents involving deer. The Deer Group is seeking input on the effects of deer on the local area, e.g. walls, fences, gardens, traffic. **Action:** SP.
3. GR sought the agreement of the CC about how to fill out various sections of a form related to the insurance provided for the CC by Perth and Kinross Council. This related to public events and similar. The contents of the sections were agreed without dissent and the form will be returned to PKC.

Policing

No discussion.

Environment/Planning

A discussion was held in relation to the planning application made for the erection of a block of eight flats on the site of the former Birnam Autopoint. Members of the public expressed concerns relating to the impact on the light for neighbours of the development; the height of the proposed building; the impact on traffic of a large building close to the road with cars coming in and out of a passage from the rear of the property; and the adverse effect on drainage in relation to the Inchewan Burn. There was also a concern expressed that the likely prices of the flats were too expensive to meet the local demand for affordable, family housing.

The developer explained that the plans had been in long development (c. 8 months) and had been drawn up in close consultation with the PKC planning department. The developer highlighted some of the advanced features of the development such as provision for discreet rubbish storage and the possibility of electric car charging points for the rear car park. The developer estimated that building would take 18 months. He was careful to note that the building would not technically be three storeys, though it has two floors above the ground floor. He also insisted that the structure was comparable in height to the house known as Ladylands which is the next nearest residential property. If the building were to lose a storey, it would comprise six rather than eight flats and might not be commercially viable.

The members of the CC gave their views in turn and a common theme was a concern about the height of the structure and the difficulties already associated with that stretch of road. It was agreed to send a letter objecting to the height of the proposed building; expressing concern about road safety; and highlighting the need for vigilance about drainage. **Action:** SP.

Community Funding/Funds

Microgrants

The following grants were agreed subject to the availability of funds now or in the new year

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
Football nets/goalposts	£500
Shinty club equipment	£495

Transport*A9 Dualling*

DL reported on the latest developments in the A9 Community Group's efforts to work with Transport Scotland on a co-creative process for creating a preferred route option with participation by the community. These have moved quickly in late September and October, with weekly meetings making steady progress. DL expressed optimism that the process would begin in January and finish by June 2018. DL believed the community had everything to play for since the process would be the first of its kind in the UK when a strategic road authority had agreed to co-develop a road design for consideration by the relevant government minister.

DL proposed that the CC should convene a public meeting on 8 January 2018, 19:30 to discuss the latest on the A9 including the co-creative process. This was agreed. **Action:** DL to book the Birnam Institute main room and to take steps to publicise the meeting in the Bridge and with the assistance of the A9 Community Group.

Highland Mainline and D&B Station

DL reported that the CC and some other members of the public had been invited to a meeting on 30 November where Scotrail and Tactran would present a draft timetable for Spring 2019. This was a welcome development, because there is considerable time remaining for the timetable to be influenced by the community. DL could not attend and proposed sending some interested members of the public who had been at prior meetings with Scotrail and John Swinney. This was agreed.

Road Safety and Parking

There has been no further progress from PKC on our requests. Cllr. James was not present to report on his agreed action to raise the matter with the relevant parts of PKC. It was agreed that Lorna Birse-Stewart would write to our three councillors to press for a meaningful, active response from P&KC council. **Action:** LBS.

Windfarms

Nothing, see correspondence.

Resilience Preparedness

Nothing.

Broadband

The Lunan Valley Broadband Group has gone dormant with the hopes for broadband transferred to the government R100 Project. It was agreed the chair would write to John Swinney in connection with R100. **Action:** SP.

Correspondence/Website

- We received notice that the Crossburns windfarm development was refused consent by the Scottish Government.
- A doctoral student seeks a contact to discuss local heritage. Contact details circulated.
- Tactran regional forum invitation, actioned as noted above.
- PKC local development plan consultation window of nine weeks notified.
- Alcohol license extension application for Dunkeld House Hotel. No comment.
- PKC has proposed amendments to car parking prices in the PKC area. Prices are going up, including in the Dunkeld car parks. Circulated to LBS and SP.
- Letters in relation to the Perth Road planning application discussed above. These were noted in the discussion.
- Police weekly crime sheets were received. These had little of import to our area.

Community Engagement/Facebook

Our Facebook page has c. 50 likes and we have had two positive letters about its creation.

Any Other Business

1. The question of whether to have a CC meeting in December was discussed. It was agreed to meet on 11 December.
2. The question was raised whether we should continue to meet on the second Monday of the month in 2018. It was agreed to continue until at least June.
3. Defibrillator training would resume on 26 November at 14:00.
4. Cllr. Jarvis asked about whether the war memorial should be moved so as to be more accessible. LBS reported on previous consultations—especially with families whose relatives are there named—in relation to this suggestion. It was agreed not to move it but to improve the path to the memorial, which has been done and maintained.
5. Cllr. Jarvis asked for suggestions about a suitable site for a Niel Gow memorial.
6. Cllr. Jarvis noted that British Telecom works near Borelick would limit traffic to 30mph for a week beginning 13 November.

The meeting closed just after 9 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 11th December at the Birnam Institute. Members of the public are most welcome to attend.