

Minutes of Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council Public Meeting - Monday, 14th August 2023 19:00, Birnam Hotel

1. Attendance

Community Councillors (CC): Lachlan MacEwan (LM), John Wigzell (JW), Roseanna Preston-Jones (RPJ), Alan Wylie (AW)

PKC Councillors: Grant Laing (GL)

NTS: 3 members in attendance

Members of the Community (MOC): 17

Apologies: Laura Graham (CC), Claire McLaren and Ian James (PKC)

2. New Member - **LM** introduced and welcomed the new member of the community council, **Roseanna Preston-Jones**. He went on to thank **Jane Bremner** for her efforts in taking the meeting minutes for the last two occasions.

3. Minutes of the June CC minutes were approved having been proposed by **LM** and seconded by **JW**.

A MOC asked how they could forward any amendments to the draft meeting minutes in the future and asked about the timeframe for a draft to appear on the CC Facebook page. **AW** stated that he would endeavour to post draft minutes on the CC Facebook page within 14 days of the meeting. Any **MOC** present at the meeting could send details to the DBCC correspondence email address dbcc.correspondence@gmail.com for consideration by members of the CC. **A MOC** also queried the notice given for future **CC** public meetings. **AW** stated the CC intention to publicise the meeting agenda, time, and venue on the **CC** Facebook page 14 days prior to the meeting.

4. Declaration of Interest - **LM** asked those present to declare any declaration of interest to any subject to be discussed. No declarations were declared.

5. Treasurers Report - The current CC account balance stands at £259. This is to cover our future expenditure to the end of the calendar year.

- Micro Grant current balance stands at £2,414.16. In the past two months two grants have been awarded. One to The Amulree Village Hall for the purpose of purchasing crockery and white good and the other to the Paths and Swift Boxes

group. The community are invited to apply for micro grants up to £500 for any qualifying project.

6. Planning

A MOC was invited to speak to address the meeting concerns in respect to a planning application for a compost toilet within the Roman Catholic Church grounds. They advised they and other close neighbours intend to object to the proposal on the grounds of it being inappropriate for the area and the closeness to other properties and asked the CC to consider sending a letter to PKC planning officers.

JW advised that he would arrange a meeting with the neighbours to discuss the issue further.

A MOC asked about what detailed specifications are required of a conservation area and in particular an area with historic boundaries. The CC commit to investigating the subject further with the MOC.

LM brought to the attention of the meeting the subject of a planning application from Scottish Water to install a water filling station at the Cross in Dunkeld. It was felt that this was a good idea in principle, but the specific location and style of the installation was not in keeping to the area. He also stated that if such facilities were to be installed, Birnam would also benefit of an installation. **NTS** have submitted an objection to the application. PKC Transport officers have also commented on the application. The **CC** will continue to engage with Scottish Water to bring to their attention the concerns of the community.

A MOC stated they wanted to address their concerns over a rejection to publish what the **CC** deemed biased and undetermined statistics on the topic of a proposed short-term let control zone for Perth & Kinross. The **MOC** proceeded, uninterrupted expressing her extreme anger over the correspondence. She felt the existing **CC** should be dissolved, citing their incompetence. Upon completion of her statement two **MOC** left the meeting without allowing for a CC response. On leaving a **MOC** stated that he had recorded the meeting and inferred he would post it into the public domain via social media.

Another **MOC** spoke concerned also about the email sent by the CC and where he personally denied the associations mentioned within the CC email. Members of the **CC** stated that the email referred to was a confidential communication to ward councillors explaining the reasons for not complying with the initial request, one of whom forwarded to the **MOC** who raised the initial communication to the **CC**. The **MOC** also supported the claim that the **CC** were not representing the entire community. A further **MOC** spoke to state that whilst she did not agree with aspects of the original email sent to the CC, she felt that the CC response was inappropriate

and called for a healthy discussion on the topic amongst the community. The **CC** agreed the need for the subject to be carefully considered by the community and that this has always been their intention on all subjects. The **CC** maintained their belief that the original email received on the 8th of August appeared biased and felt, if they were to comply with the request to publish it in its entirety, it would give the impression that the CC supported a particular view. Mention was also made of the numerous occasions the subject had been highlighted in a variety of ways, including national newspapers.

Councillor Laing explained the purpose of the consultation process and stated that it was a start of a process and that no decision had been taken. He defended the PKC decision to release the consultation ahead of figures coming in September as they agreed enough was known to start garnishing information from the public. He proposed a public meeting should be arranged where there would be plenty of opportunity for the community to help shape the policy. He went on to say one reason for the need to look at planning controls on the subject was the reduction of school enrolment in the area. He stated that planning officers had already engaged with several interested local and national parties, along with the MOC who had written to the CC. He went on to state his understanding of why the CC had interpreted the email sent by the MOC as potentially biased.

LM called the meeting to order and proposed to move on to the next subject on the agenda.

7. NTS Update - Representatives provided an update of activities.

Dunkeld - New local tenants have moved into Cathedral Street.

A further 2 bedroomed property in the same street will be let soon and any interest from the local community will be welcomed.

Annual roof maintenance to all NTS properties will begin over the next few weeks.

NTS have submitted an objection to the proposed water filling station.

NTS took part in the Living History event held from 29th July. Entertainment was provided to children by viewing replica weapons, uniforms, and period crafts.

NTS propose to join the Birnam Highland Games and host a stand at the event.

Hermitage - 25,000 visitors in July. By the end of October, 52 weddings will have taken place.

8. Development Trust Update - A public meeting will be held on 25th September at Birnam Arts at 19:00 to discuss the way forward.

9. Housing Action Group - Eric Bremner stated that Craig Ross had tendered his resignation due to an increase in work commitments and stressed his thanks to Craig for his work. Eric has become the interim chair until such time as an election can be held. He stated the HAG was awaiting the results of PKC's assessment of several sites within the D&B local development plan and hoped to share positive news at the next HAG meeting on 22nd August. The intention is to share the information with the whole community and expected the undivided support of the community council.

10. A9 Action Group / Junctions Action Group - LM advised that the previous Transport Minister had promised to take action to improve matters during a meeting with residents only to resign from his post the following day. Discussions focused on the need for roundabouts at our junctions with the A9 and the installation of cameras to gauge the dangers in trying to access to and from the A9.

Conversations with **SGN** continue about new crossings and access to their current work.

11. Roads / Parking Update - AW read out the contents of an email received by the CC relating to parking in the area with the purpose of improving the overall situation. The CC will post details of the proposal onto the CC Facebook page and invite comments from the community. It's felt that this will be an opportunity to run alongside the efforts during the walking meeting in February this year.

- **AW** commented on the decision by PKC to suspend the temporary 20mph speed limits at various locations in Perthshire, including Butterstone and to place a 30mph limit through the area. The reason given was due to non-compliance by motorists to the lower limit. **AW** informed the meeting he had already communicated with PKC about their desire to reduce non-compliance rather than seeking to reduce speeds. **AW** stated that it was common knowledge that speed signs themselves were rarely effective and there was a need to install traffic calming measures in areas prone to speeding.

- **A MOC** in Amulree asked about what she could do to seek recompense for damage caused to a stone wall on her property running adjacent to the A822. It's thought that the road narrows in a section by her property and damage to the wall is a frequent occurrence.

A member of the **CC** will arrange for the measuring of the road width and report the findings to PKC Road officers.

- **LM** mentioned that members of the CC had been invited to a meeting with John Swinney on 29th August to discuss improvements for the Dunkeld & Birnam Railway Station. Also present will be representatives from ScotRail and Network Rail. We hope that the discussion will focus on safety issues relating to the platform and the station building.

- **LM** informed the meeting of his intention to arrange a meeting with the community in the Dalguise area who will likely have problems accessing the A9 during SGN's work on laying the new gas pipeline in the area. It's hoped that traffic lights can be installed for the duration of the works to ease local traffic. The likely venue will be Dalguise Village Hall.

12. Police Update - No issues reported in our area in the 2 months since our last meeting.

13. AOB - Amulree Hotel Presentation

The Agent for the hotel development provided a visual presentation to work on the development and explained the intentions of bringing business and tourists to the area. More detailed plans are available to review on boards outside the Amulree Hotel. The presentation was well received and MOC offered their hope for success.

14. Micro Grants - One application from the MUGA for Badmington equipment was approved.

The next community council meeting will take place at the Birnam Hotel on 9th October 2023 at 19:00