

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council – Minutes – October 2022

Attendance Lachlan MacEwan, Stewart Pritchard, Laura Graham, Calum Martin, Alan Wylie, Grant Laing, Ian James, Claire McLaren.

Peter Shannon on behalf of Verdant Leisure

Eilidh Henderson on behalf of Atholl Estates

Apologies – Chris Claydon

Members of the public attending - 4

Annual General Meeting

Lachlan opened by stating that following advice from PKC the intention was to elect office bearers at the meeting on the 14th November once the newly elected community council members were in place.

Lachlan passed the chair to Grant Laing in order that as an elected representative he formally call the next meeting as an EGM for the inception of the new Community Council and election of office bearers.

Minutes of last AGM Approved (proposed Calum, seconded Stewart)

Chair report

It's been a difficult year, Lachlan would like to thank the Community Councillors for their support and help in making some difficult decisions. Some trying situations were encountered and resolved as best as we were able.

Treasurer's report

Stewart sent out a financial report on our operational account for the year.

This has to be formally audited and reported to PKC in order for the operating fund for the Community Council to be topped up for next year. The accounts have been audited by Frank Gamble for which the meeting recorded its thanks.

Opening balance was £750 211.42

After £211.42 top up from PKC

Closing balance was £245.90 after taking account of creditors from the year before

Therefore spend for the year was £669.31

The expenditure was on three main items: Zoom subscription, Website administration/fees and Public Liability insurance.

Now the financial report needs to be signed by the Chair and submitted to PKC in order for the top up to be made for next year.

Stewart also explained that the Community Council is only reimbursed for what it spends in a year up to a maximum of £750. It doesn't receive £750 each year regardless.

Treasurer's Report Approved (proposed Alan, seconded Laura)

Ordinary Meeting

Lachlan began the ordinary meeting by offering an apology to everyone for last month's meeting not happening, we encountered logistical issues with the Zoom account.

Minutes of last meeting Approved (proposed Laura, seconded Alan)

Declaration of interest – Lachlan is involved in the PH8 Steering group. Ian James sits on the PKC Planning Committee. Claire McLaren sits on the PKC Planning Committee.

Treasurer's report & micro grants update

Operational account - £217.12

Grants account - £8082.26

Awards have recently been made to Dunkeld & Birnam Men's Shed and Butterstone/WI

Community council was holding funds for PH8 but now all been transferred to PH8

Micro Grant funds £2531 available.

Covid recovery funds £4740 available.

Question from a member of the public about council grant awards to PH8, do we know where it went. Some appeared to end up in areas outside Dunkeld and Birnam.

Only money the Community Council received on behalf of PH8 from PKC was £300 received from PKC/Strathtay for hot meals which was immediately passed on. No other money for PH8 has come to us from PKC.

A concern was expressed that PH8 didn't have a bank account and was banking with the Community Council and the Community Interest Company.

Any money PH8 now receive is for them. The only money the Community Council have received on PH8 behalf is from the crowdfunder, the Covid response funding and the £300 hot meals grant.

Stuart will prepare a handover note for the next Treasurer and will be available to field any queries.

Grant, on behalf of the elected members, thanked Stewart for his time as Treasurer and noted he has added a lot to the Community Council.

Lachlan agreed, and thanked him for his contribution.

5. AOB

- Signage at entrances to the villages
- Car charging points at North End Car Park
- Broadband

NTS update

A comprehensive update was received from the NTS. This will be published along with the November minutes. Regarding the Community Council involvement with the NTS an email was received reversing their decision to evict tenants on the Cross.

Grant stated it should never had reached this stage. NTS had previously promised transparency and better attendance at Community Council meeting. Which didn't happen.

A member of the public spoke up in defence of the NTS to say that they were assisting with a solution for a local business who is searching for new premises. And were cooperating with an idea for an accessible path between the Cross and the North Car park.

Lachlan stated that we need to work with the NTS and work to build bridges. He will also continue to invite NTS to Community Council meetings and stated we all need to try and move forward.

Erigmore – brief outline and opportunity for questions

Peter Shannon, who advises Verdant Leisure on the proposed extension of Erigmore gave an overview of the proposals and consultation work done to date, including in person events on the 1st and 29th September. Approximately 50 people attended these events giving a mix of views. The consultation period closed on the 7th October. The consultation responses were used and are being used to revise the proposals. Peter also gave a short slide presentation on the proposals. They anticipate submitting a planning application in late October.

A member of the community asked about the implication for waste and fresh water. The effluent treatment plant during storms discharges sewage into the Tay. Has any work been done on primary and secondary treatment. Or is it going to be treated locally at each unit. Peter replied that they are working through the drafts of flood risk and drainage assessment to inform the overall design. Currently envisage connecting into the existing foul water system which the current site connects to. The current site has consent to connect 300 units. There are currently 150 units on the which connect into the system. As part of due diligence and in response to concerns raised they have engaged with Scottish Water and are working to understand what the implications are for the finalised scheme. Currently awaiting comments from Scottish Water.

A member of the public responded that the general perception was that there wasn't enough capacity and that it would be useful if Scottish Water spoke to the community council. Particularly given other developments proposed for the area. Peter replied that their final proposal will take account of comments from Scottish Water.

Stewart commented that it would be useful to get Scottish Water if only to test whether they are taking account of Erigmore's 300 consents.

Stewart also asked if Nature Scotland had been consulted. Yes, the site is covered with a number of designations and they have consulted with them and other bodies.

Peter stated their plan has been adapted in response to some of these consultations.

Grant asked, what is the current designation in the Local Development Plan of the ground covered by the proposal. He also asked what was the percentage increase in the number of units proposed at Erigmore. Finally, he asked what consideration has been given to the impact on the infrastructure of Dunkeld and Birnam by the proposal.

Peter replied that all this information will be available in the planning application once finalised. But the existing site has licensing for 300 units and currently has 150 units. This proposal would increase the overall number by roughly 50%. He accepted there will be an increase in the number of visitors and an increase in traffic. Plus, an increase in the number of visitors using local services and businesses. They have carried out some traffic surveys over the summer to better understand the impact of increased traffic. It's within their interest to make sure the infrastructure will be able to cope with any increase in visitors. This will be covered in the final planning application. Peter stated the land is currently designated in planning terms as technically countryside. There is a policy in the current Local Plan which supports holiday and visitor economy and an exception policy to support extension to existing leisure parks.

A member of the public stated that this proposal is going to fundamentally change the nature of the landscape and the local community and from this perspective is a totally disproportionate development to what we have and it's already an overcrowded village. In terms of the existing planning constraints they would question whether they are being adhered to or followed within the existing park. They are not keen on the proposal at all and keen to understand what the Community Council can do to oppose it.

Stewart stated that as well as being designated a countryside in the Local Plan the land is in the middle of the National Scenic Area.

Lachlan stated that the Community Council cannot make any comment about the development until such time as the Planning applications have been submitted. At that point the Community Council will consider the application and agree, oppose or comment.

Claire updated the meeting that the last main PKC Council meeting agreed that in the future if a Community Council objects to a planning application it will automatically come to the Planning Committee. But that the Erigmore application due to its size will be considered by the Committee regardless.

Lachlan welcomed the change as often members of the community who wish to object feel they cannot but they can now contact the Community Council.

Lachlan thanked Peter for coming along to the meeting and presenting the current proposals to the meeting and answering the question raised on the night.

Community Action Plan & Development Trust update

Lachlan updated that the Development Trust has submitted its application to OSCR to be accepted as a charity, once approval has been granted the Trust can begin work across all the themes arising from the Community Action Plan.

Traffic calming

Alan spoke about the road issues in Amulree and the need for traffic calming measures. There road is becoming more popular with all types of road users and there have been a number of accidents and near misses. The speed signage is consistently being ignored and previous signage on the road has never been replaced following resurfacing works a few year ago. He asked what can be done to calm the traffic. He acknowledged that these issues are faced by most areas.

Ian completely agreed about the issues but stated throughout PKC there are currently over 800 traffic measure waiting to be put place at an estimated cost of £15.5 million with only approx. £3 million currently in the budget. He stated that in his own area speeding is equally as bad. All that can be done is an elected member can ask for a proposed measure be added to the list for assessment.

Laura stated that a pillar at the end of the bridge was hit by a lorry and one of the local businesses contacted the Community Council for cones to put round it as it was unsafe. Are there resources the Community Council be given to respond to situations like this as well as situations where the A9 is closed and there is a diversion through the village.

Grant agreed that these are issues faced by every community and that some of the existing signage measures no longer work to slow folk down. The only measures which he feels may work are road calming changes to roads such as chicanes, rumble strips or tables.

Alan pointed out that a lot of these measures are in areas where there are pavements but the road in Amulree don't even have pavements so is more dangerous.

A member of the public pointed out the extent of speeding during the school run and the impact of the Heart 200 on traffic volume and speed and agreed that physical changes to the roads would be more effective.

Laura asked if figures are available about the number of tickets issued by Police Scotland when monitoring in the area as it appears from the North Car Park that not many are issued when vehicles are stopped.

Roads, traffic & Parking update

Lachlan stated that he has a meeting coming up with John Swinney, the Junction Group and the A9 group. In addition to the issue of the junctions while we await a decision on dualling, one of the other pressing issues to discuss is the lack of a system in place for proper diversions when there are issues on the A9.

Laura stated that there used to be an action plan for when serious issues occurred in the Community. Alan wondered if this should come under the heading of the Community Resilience Plan. Alan also asked about the response from PKC to the report arising from the community walk round. The various issues seems so big that maybe we should be broken up in to more manageable tasks.

Lachlan stated that the intention is to update the Resilience Plan. Grant stated that the Community Council took on the Resilience Plan in 2015. Grant also stated that the response to these issues such as the walk round are too slow and that officials need to be pressed to respond quicker.

There was a discussion about the provision of snow clearing equipment for Amulree and area. It has been ordered from Tayside Contracts but no date is available from Tayside Contracts for delivery. Grant is happy to chase.

Planning

Ian and Claire recused themselves from the meeting as they both serve on the Planning Committee and Ian serves on the Licensing Board.

22/01371/FLL | Change of use and alterations to storage building to form micro gin distillery | The Industrial Shed St Ninian's Wynd Dunkeld (pkc.gov.uk)

The meeting then discussed the application. There were concerns about noise and potential additional traffic plus whether changing the building to have a matt black frontage would have an effect on the surrounding area.

A member of the public noted that the area was a quiet area and wondered whether there would be tour groups or wedding parties attending the premises.

The meeting decided not to object to the application.

Police Update

No material update for the meeting

Bridge Rota

Lachlan will speak to the Bridge about amending the rota in response to the recent elections.

AOB

- Signage at entrances to the villages

A member of the public had previously cleaned the signs and stated it wasn't dirty but had degraded. And was happy to try and arrange for replacements.

Another member of the public had also previously volunteered to design new signs.

It was proposed that the signs be replaced with the same design.

Lachlan asked that the people who originally provided the signs be approached.

- Car charging points at North End Car Park

A member of the public asked that the new charging points at the North Car Park be changed to a mixture of fast and rapid chargers. Lachlan explained that consultation had happened two years ago but one of the main issues was the absence of charging points in Birnam.

Grant explained that there have been a number of issues which have delayed installation.

The member of the public was concerned that having only rapid chargers would be fine for people travelling through the village. There are people who live in the village and don't have access to a charger and would benefit from access to a longer charge which a fast charger would provide. It would be good to provide a choice for locals and visitors.

Lachlan stated that if additional chargers were planned for the area then Birnam and other areas should be considered.

- Broadband

Lachlan had spoken to Claire and if you could get a certain number of households (30) to sign up then there could be improvements carried out by BT.

- Haughend

Eilidh Henderson update the meeting on behalf of Atholl Estates about the plans for the community consultation exercise for the proposed development at Haughend. She said they were keen for suggestions for locations to hold events.

Date of next meeting – 14th November 2022