

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Annual General Meeting 7:10 pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Birnam Institute

Minutes

**1. Those present:**

David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Graham Rees, Stuart Paton, Lorna Birse-Stewart, Johann Goree, Cllr. Anne Jarvis, Cllr. Ian James, Police Sergeant, Caroline Macnaughton

Apologies were received from Na'an McLure and Cllr Grant Laing

There were also seven members of the public present, including Ian Duncan MSP and Pete Wishart MSP

**2. Agreement of minutes**

The meeting minutes for the last AGM which took place on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Matthew Gerrie
- Seconded by: Lorna Birse-Stewart

**3. Chairperson's report – David Levy (Chair) read the Chairperson's Annual Report**

In the last year, our Community Council has continued to do what we can to face the continuous pressures on our neighbours, our places and our businesses. It can seem a considerable squeeze in which we are caught between the looming effects of dualling the A9 and the ongoing construction and proliferation of towering wind turbines. This squeeze contributes to local economic uncertainty that is, in turn, compounded by national economic uncertainty. Other uncertainties are on the horizon too, such as further Perth and Kinross Council services retreat under waxing budget pressures; and revisions to the train service between Perth and Inverness. We *need* protection for where we live.

Expectations therefore remain high that the Community Council will lead in soliciting or creating the protection we need. This is a considerable burden of expectation on a volunteer organisation outside local government whose sole statutory role is as a consultee on planning

applications. Meeting these high expectations is what we have striven to do this last year; and we've done it by sharing the load between us *and* the community. If, in every case, the community led us, rather than vice versa, that would be a fine outcome. We did it with the A9. Thanks to Stuart Paton's efforts, we were able to channel the widespread concern about Transport Scotland's plans and inadequate consultation into a community group which has ably taken on the leadership of the community in this area. Lorna Birse-Stewart, with David Fox's assistance, developed a local resilience group that has drawn together individuals and organisations to plan for and respond to local emergencies, e.g. flooding. By volunteering their time outside our meetings—often for yet more meetings—my colleagues on the Community Council changed things for the better. Matthew Gerrie's participation in the SSE Griffin fund panel has directed a lot of money to community groups and projects, such as community growing at The Field. David Fox joined the Community Council at the last AGM and became secretary the same day, raising the bar on that job from Day 1. Stuart's shepherding of broadband initiatives and wind farm public inquiries are invaluable; as were Lorna's patient solicitations of local businesses about parking. Thank you to all my colleagues, including Helen Taylor who has improved the profile of our public communications. By sharing the load between us we're doing the most we can with our limited time and energy.

I do not want to give the impression that being on the Community Council is like being under siege, even if sometimes feels like that for the areas we represent. There are positive opportunities too, where we can add to what we share instead of solely conserving it. These opportunities are big *and* small. Graham Rees led us—and continues to do so—in getting publicly-accessible defibrillators and the equally important defibrillator training. The nascent community group for rail travel is working hard to make sure we are not sidetracked from the benefits of the investment in Highland Rail's line to Inverness. We must continue to support them as well as extra-ordinary possibilities to change life here, such as the Sports Hall community-led project. I suggest this should be our future as a Community Council: spreading the efforts, protective and positive, amongst ourselves, and to the community.

I would like to thank again Councillors Grant Laing and Barbara Vaughan for the considerable support they gave us last year. Councillor Vaughan was a great friend to this community and her participation in these meetings will be missed, almost as much as her wisdom regarding the arcane workings of Perth and Kinross Council. Thanks also to those members of the public who have contributed to our meetings and efforts—the more merrier, now and for the future.

David Levy  
Chair, Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council

#### **4. Treasurer's submission of accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

The Treasurer, Graham Rees, will shortly submit the complete accounts for auditing and onward submission to Perth & Kinross Council. At this time, the D&BCC balance is £340.03.

All expenditure over the past twelve months relates to meeting room hire, plus a £12 additional third-party insurance premium for the Community Council notice boards.

#### **5. Demit of current office bearers/election of office bearers**

David Levy explained the process for demit and election of office bearers, following which all office bearers were formally stood down from their posts.

As a member of the community, Mr. Alasdair Wylie assumed the role of Chair for the process of electing office bearers. During the process, the following appointments were made:

1. Chair – Stuart Paton
  - Proposed by Helen Taylor
  - Seconded by Matthew Gerrie
2. Deputy Chair – Lorna Birse-Stewart
  - Proposed by Helen Taylor
  - Seconded by Johann Goree
3. Secretary – David Levy
  - Proposed by Lorna Birse-Stewart
  - Seconded by Graham Rees
4. Treasurer – Graham Rees
  - Proposed by David Levy
  - Seconded by David Fox

Following the election of office bearers, it was agreed that David Levy would continue to perform the role of Chair and David Fox would provide Secretarial support for the purposes of the evening's meetings.

The meeting closed at 7:20 pm.

The next AGM meeting will take place in May 2018, at a time and date to be agreed.