

DUNKELD & BIRNAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting

Monday, 11 September 2017 – 7pm at Birnam Institute

Minutes

Reports

Attendance

Those present: David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, PC Steve Band, Stuart Paton (chair), Councillor Ian James

Apologies: Lorna Birse-Stewart, Graham Rees, Johan Goree, Councillor Anne Jarvis, Councillor Grant Laing

Members of the public present: C. Claydon

Minutes of prior meeting

These had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.

12 June 2017

Amendments: Ian Duncan is an MEP, not MSP; Pete Wishart was (and again is) an MP; both were candidates for Parliament.

Proposed by: DF

Seconded by: MG

Treasurer's report

Graham Rees reported the balances of our accounts.

Account	Balance
Primary	£280.03
Griffin Microgrant	£2869.65

SP had signed the audited accounts which had been forwarded to P&KC.

Matters arising and items for discussion

1. It was noted that Councillor Ian James is on the P&KC Development Management Committee and is Vice-Chair of the Licencing Committee; and that Councillor Grant Lain is on the Scrutiny Committee.

2. C. Claydon raised her concerns regarding the blue plaques that have been put up around the community to mark sites of interest. Among the concerns were:
 - There was no consultation on the number, locations or texts of the plaques. The last notice was 9/2015 and now there are 34 in place.
 - Ms. Claydon can see seven plaques from her front door, so she should have been among those to receive neighbour notification letters. The National Trust (Ben Notley) did not send these.
 - There are too many plaques. London with a population of c. 9.78m has c. 900 plaques, while Dunkeld and Birnam, with a population of c. 1400, have 34. The same density in London would require c. 700,000 plaques. “Dunkeld is a village, not a museum.”
 - The signs are the same shade of blue used by English Heritage which Ms. Claydon felt was culturally insensitive to Scottish heritage.

Ideally, Ms. Claydon would like the signs to come down. Failing that, she urges that the number be reduced (for example eliminating those for “Crossroads” and St. Ninian’s Gardens) and that mistakes and misinformation be corrected.

DL acknowledged that there had not been a consultation on colour, content or number.

SP made the point that the plaques had gone through the planning system. The CC agreed to raise the concerns with Dave Roberts in the first instance as representative of the organisations who developed the plaques scheme. **Action:** SP.

Policing

PC Steve Band confirmed that there was a new policing strategy in place in the last few months. The beat of which he is a part extends to Kinloch Rannoch not far from Fort William. He and his colleagues had been at a number of events recently, especially those involving schools. The CC area remains a low crime area. A quad bike was stolen in August and there has been some incidence of deer poaching. Both parking machines in the local car parks were broken into. Some fishing gear was stolen while someone was fishing. Police are interested in a dark green Ford

Focus. Police advised to be wary of currency frauds with some fraudulent notes in circulation recently. This is in addition to standing advice concerning bogus callers. In addition, the Police Commander's Brief will soon be placed online.

The CC recorded a vote of thanks to the police for their support during the Dunkeld and Birnam Highland Games.

Community Funding/Funds

Microgrants

An application for a basketball hoop for installation at the tennis courts was submitted by the Recreation Club. HT and SP recused themselves from debate on the microgrant application because as members of the Recreation Club they had a conflict of interest. This meant the CC was not quorate and consideration of the grant was moved to email subsequent to the meeting, though initial responses were positive.

DL indicated that a member of the public had asked about the possibility of a microgrant for new goals at the football grounds in Dunkeld. The CC agreed that such an application would be greeted favourably.

Griffin Windfarm Fund

MG reported that a large application for resurfacing the tennis courts in Dunkeld had been considered. There was a tentatively positive response, but further information was required concerning the timescale and matched funding.

MG also reported on the new Enterprise Fund which would be available for businesses, rather than limited to those projects for community benefit. Grants of £1k, £5k and £10k would be available. More information available here:

<https://growbiz.co.uk/griffin-calliachar-enterprisefund>

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 slowly over

the Summer as there was some dispute about how best to facilitate the design and delivery of the co-creative process. However, all the augurs were good that the design of the process would begin in earnest later in September. The best thinking was that the process would begin in January 2018 and finish by June 2018.

DL proposed that if sufficient progress is made in the design of the co-creative process such that we can be confident it will happen with a definite schedule, the CC should convene a public meeting in January 2018 to discuss the latest on the A9 including the co-creative process. This was agreed. **Action:** DL to develop this possibility as the liaison between the A9 CG and the CC.

Highland Mainline and D&B Station

DL attended a meeting convened by John Swinney with the two main rail operators (Scotrail and Virgin East Coast) on the Highland Mainline as well as representatives from Tactran, Transport Scotland and P&KC. The principal subject was the new schedule of services for 2019 based around new, faster rolling stock. The community made clear that a loss of services would be intolerable and ideally some gaps in service could be filled. Scotrail who are leading the development of the new timetable indicated that a) the 0830 service was secure; b) the new trains were faster in some ways, slower in others; c) achieving faster journey times to Inverness was challenging; and d) that gains in journey time were likely to occur between Perth and Edinburgh/Glasgow. The community urged that a good, wide consultation was made directly with local communities as well as through Tactran and the Community Rail Partnership.

Road Safety and Parking

Councillor James described a P&KC proposal to make all Council car parks free for the first 15 minutes. It was noted that there had been no follow-up on our proposals for revisions to parking in Dunkeld nor to traffic surveys, as put to Daryl McKeown. Councillor James offered to investigate. **Action:** Cllr. James.

It was noted that the junction of the A9, A822 and B923 would have roadworks from 24–26 October 7pm to 7am.

Windfarms

Nothing.

Environment/Planning

HT reported that a letter of objection to the mobile crusher planning application had been accepted by P&KC. Also, the application to convert the site of the old Post Office in Dunkeld into a food take-away had been rejected.

Resilience Preparedness

DF reported that there would be a Scottish Resilient Communities meeting on 27 October.

Broadband

GR sent a note “The Government’s proposal for R100 is changing the outlook for broadband in this area and this may change our [Lunan Valley Broadband] focus.”

Correspondence/Website

Nothing.

Community Engagement/Facebook

DF reported that the Community Council had revamped its Facebook page to make it more accessible, including to those who do not use Facebook. The URL for the page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/DandBCC/>

The twitter handle is @DandBCC with a suggested hashtag of #DandBCC – See our tweets at this page:

<https://twitter.com/DandBCC>

Members of the CC were encouraged to like or follow these social media vectors.

Any Other Business

RSoD 450 and visit by HRH Prince Edward

It was noted that the celebrations of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Royal School of Dunkeld on 27 June went very well despite inclement weather. Thanks were recorded to P&KC for their support.

Sports Centre

It was noted that the Recreation Club was taking forward plans to develop an indoor sports centre on land surrounding the current club house.

Deer Management Forum

SP attended the most recent meeting of this group and agreed that the CC would continue to offer support to the group as appropriate.

Long-term forest planning

SP reported that he sent feedback to a request from the Forestry Commission in relation to their long-term plans for forests in the area.

Resurfacing of the A923

Plans to re-surface the A923 road to Blairgowrie were known to be afoot, but the precise dates were not forthcoming. Councillor James agreed to seek accurate information regarding the schedule and scope of these works. **Action:** Cllr. James.

The meeting closed just after 9 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 9th October at the Birnam Institute. Members of the public are most welcome to attend.