

DUNKELD & BIRNAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting

Monday, 12 February 2018 — 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: Councillor Ian James

Members of the public present: B. Nelson, A. Wylie, E. & N. Douglas, F. & N. Turner, L. Wolfe.

Minutes of prior meeting

These had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.

13 November 2017

Proposed by: LBS

Seconded by: JG

11 December 2017

Proposed by: HT

Seconded by: LBS

Treasurer's report

Graham Rees reported the balances of our accounts.

ACCOUNT

BALANCE

Matters arising and items for discussion

1. A retrospective planning application has been made in respect of the filling station on the forecourt of Young's Garage in Birnam, specifically in relation to the lighting on the canopy. The original hours of operation of the filling station were 0900–1700. These are now 24 hours a day, since the refurbishment works completed in June 2017. The majority of the members of the public present attended to make comment against the planning application—no one had words of support. The nearest neighbours to the forecourt have been awakened 119 times in the last 186 nights. There are no rubbish bins provided as part of the forecourt, nor are there toilets for the public, nor are there signs directing customers to these elsewhere. The result is a daily deposit of rubbish around the garage as well as members of the public relieving themselves around the garage. A home adjacent has found people in their garden and has also been asked by visitors to the forecourt if use can be made of toilets in the home. The unmanned forecourt has also become a meeting place for vehicles in the evenings, bringing traffic to the area when there are no businesses to benefit. The consensus was that the situation was not satisfactory and that the hours of operation should be curtailed (to c. 11 hours); provision of solutions for rubbish and toilets were needed; and the lighting should be dimmed out of hours. There was a great deal of confusion expressed about why this was now coming up for planning consent, since concerned residents had been assured by P&KC in March 2017 that no consent was needed. Councillor Lang who has been assisting (whose efforts were described as “great support”) was also assured by P&KC that no consent was needed. There had been no neighbour notification, though the renovation works required were three months and involved digging out the old underground tanks. Without notification and without a planning application, concerns were raised that all relevant regulations had been observed. Communications directed to the business (Certas Energy) operating the petrol pumps have gone unanswered. DL argued that the company was running the pumps for 24 hours for no other reason that they could, since it was unmanned; also that a change in the *mode of operation* should also require planning consent. HT suggested that planning policies EP5 and PM1A were likely applicable to this application. On the basis of concerns that the consent sought was at odds with these policies, it was agreed to send a letter against the planning application on behalf of the CC. **Action:** HT by 16 Feb.

Policing

There were no crimes to report. There was a winter travel warning and a reminder not to leave valuables visible in cars. Councillor Jarvis asked whether there was a problem with lighting at the Royal School of Dunkeld? No one seemed to think there was.

Environment/Planning

HT noted that the Amulree Hotel works had stopped after planning enforcement activity resulted in the planning permission being declared invalid. The developer of the site is in discussion with P&KC about restoring the prior planning permission.

SP confirmed that the concerns collected in relation to the draft Local Development Plan had been sent to P&KC as part of the consultation on the Plan.

Community Funding/Funds

Microgrants

It was agreed that we would pay microgrants using available funds in the following sequence: first Cafe Scientifique, then the Cubs. An application from Amulree Village Hall for £500 against the cost of £960 for windows was not agreed. There was an additional discussion initiated by Linda Wolfe, who lives near the stairs down alongside the Chemist at the Dunkeld end of the bridge over the Tay. It was noted that the stairs are not in a good state of repair but are much used. Mrs. Wolfe was proposing to volunteer her and her husband's time to improve the state of the railings and the pointing on the stairs. She intended to apply for a microgrant of £204 to cover the costs of materials associated with this. There was some question about who owned the steps, which were believed to be private. It was agreed that the repair was a good idea; that this was a good use for a microgrant; but that consultation ought to be made with the National Trust about repairs and ownership. **Action:** Mrs. Wolfe agreed to contact the NT.

Transport

A9 Dualling

The Co-creative process is now under way and members of the community have now submitted their ideas for consideration. Some of those ideas would be judged out of the scope of the A9 dualling process and these would come to the CC in the first instance for deliberation on further action. Alasdair Wylie spoke to express thanks from the A9 Community Group to the work of DL as liaison to the A9CG and

also for his work within its “core group.” Mr. Wylie asked whether someone else from the CC would like to join the A9CG core group. DL confirmed that he would remain as liaison to the A9CG, but welcomed CC colleagues to join the core group.

Highland Mainline and D&B Station

DL reported there was a public meeting in Pitlochry on March 1st to discuss the new Highland Mainline draft timetable. LBS asked whether the steps at Dunkeld and Birnam station could not be improved, for example with wheeled, lightweight steps seen at other stations. DL agreed to add this to the list of requests to make of Scotrail and Network Rail.

Road Safety and Parking

LBS noted that the gritting on Brae Street has been improved and that the supply of grit on the Military Road had been increased. It was confirmed that road markings would be restored where new tarmac has been laid. LBS further asked whether moving the yellow grit box from the Drill Hall to near the Chanonry would not make the grit more useful? It was agreed that it would and LBS would endeavour to get the box moved. **Action:** LBS.

Mr. Nelson, a member of the public, asked three questions:

1. Will Perth Road be resurfaced to the T-Junction with the A923? **Action:** GL to investigate.
2. Boy racers are speeding on Perth road, including in the late afternoon near the time of the school run. What can be done? **Action:** DF to forward to police.
3. Parked 18-wheelers create a chicane on Perth Road. Isn't this unsafe? **Action:** DF to forward to the police.

Windfarms

Nothing.

Resilience Preparedness

It was noted that the Fire Service has a community asset register, where people can register assets that can be used in an emergency.

Broadband

SP met with John Swinney in connection with our area and the R100 rural broadband program on which we are depending for improved connection speeds. JG reported that HPCP was retaining control of the internet service that serves Dalguise (among others), but had let three contracts to outsource the operation of the service.

Correspondence/Website

- Annual insurance: additional £13.84 for cover of noticeboards; GR sent a cheque on 5/2/18 and receipt now received
- SusTrans 2018/19 Street Design Programme (per email circulated on 31/1/18)
- TTRO Omnibus orders – PKC free scheme requesting submissions
- Dunkeld & Birnam in Bloom – Liz Ibbetson requesting letter of support for their bid to SSE for funding of improvement work in Birnam. **Action:** DL
- Telephone kiosks:
 - Willowbank – GR has sent the £1 cheque which secures adoption by D&BCC – BT confirm supply of 7 years from date of installation of defibrillator.
 - Inchewan – Declined as new style box, although if plan to use for defibrillator we can make a further bid
 - Amulree – Declined as above, however Isabel Brady in consultation re intended use for defibrillator
- Dunkeld Post Office closure – Pete Wishart informed on 10/1/18 by Post Office of plans for 3-month trial of a mobile Post Office. Alasdair Wylie is correspondence with Ann Petrie and Grant Laing. I have the details of the Post Office National Consultation Team rep from whom I've asked for an update. Public consultation 1/2/18 to 15/3/18 (I'll circulate after meeting and include in Bridge article)
- Friends of Asheville event on 2/2/18 at Royal Dunkeld – thanks from Fiona Ritchie for promotion via Facebook page, as they had a great turnout
- Lord Lieutenant Perth and Kinross requested Royal Garden Party nominations by 2/2/18.
- Facebook enquiry re 'Sophie's Cottage' – Thanks to AJ who helped via her PKC contacts. Nice response from the chap requesting.
- Participatory Budgeting - Highland & Strathgairn – SP spoke to them and attended event
- Annual Policing plan public survey – for Bridge and Website
- Orange Lodge Parade Public Procession Notification for 19/8/18 – communicated by PKC Licensing to Councillors – no further information available
- P&K Community Plan 2017/2017 – Update and briefing provided. No apparent requirements of us re feedback. Includes reference to 'Local Action Partnerships' and 'Participatory budgeting' (See 10)

Community Engagement/Facebook

No news.

Any Other Business

1. The Griffin Enterprise Fund is now fully subscribed with £250k awarded to 45 businesses in the area.
2. The Forestry work on the Little Dunkeld side of the Tay is in progress and there will be community outreach to discuss replanting to commence in Spring 2018.
3. GL described an estate-based initiative to convert a weedy, patch of land to additional parking for residents. Survey to come.
4. AJ advised that a planned bus meeting might be cancelled.
5. Where the B898 suffers from potholes, these should be reported to P&KC for filling. Gritting on the B898 has been very good and much appreciated.
6. The delivery parking at the Co-Op was raised by JG. It was noted that the current arrangement is the result of some careful negotiation and is probably the best we can have.
7. The Glen Quach road to Kenmore is still problematic with vehicles becoming trapped in snow. Having snow gates is a preferred solution, but Kenmore CC is worried about how to co-ordinate their closure. It was suggested to talk to Willie Mahoney at P&KC. **Action:** HT.
8. The list of suggested attendees to the Lord-Lieutenant's Royal Garden Party at Holyrood was collated. David Levy was a unanimous choice (unbeknownst to him). The other suggestions were E. Gray, B. and D. Gerrie and I. Sinclair.

The meeting closed just after 9:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 12th March at the Birnam Institute. Members of the public are most welcome to attend.