

# Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

## Ordinary Meeting

Monday, 12 June 2017 — 7pm at Birnam Institute

## Minutes

### Reports

#### Attendance

Those present: David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Graham Rees, Stuart Paton (chair), Councillor Grant Laing

Apologies: Lorna Birse-Stewart, Johan Goree, Police Sergeant Caroline Macnaughton

Members of the public present: J & D Moran; M. Braney; S. Davey

#### Minutes of prior meeting

These had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.

##### **8 May 2017 Ordinary**

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

Proposed by: GR

Seconded by: MG

##### **8 May 2017 Extraordinary**

Proposed by: GR

Seconded by: MG

#### Treasurer's report

Graham Rees reported the balances of our accounts.

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Primary	£316.03
Griffin Microgrant	£2869.25
Defibrillator	£173.40

## **Matters arising and items for discussion**

Stuart Paton assumed the chair following the AGM.

### **Planning application to convert former Post Office in Dunkeld to Takeaway**

Grant Laing explained that any planning objection for which six objections had been received would automatically be considered by the P&KC Development Management Committee. The Committee is apolitical and a decision can be expected in August or September.

HT reviewed the definition of ‘material considerations’ from the local context that might be the basis for a letter from the CC to P&KC planning. HT presented copies of and read from §§14, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22 of the Local Development Plan as well as parts of the Dunkeld Conservation Area Appraisal.

GR wished for more detail in the application materials.

Members of the public present made the following points:

- do we need more takeaways when we have six from a total of 11 catering establishments?
- does what is proposed add to the character of Dunkeld?
- no adequate solutions are proposed for managing the waste, noise and ventilation issues that a takeaway implies;
- the takeaway would damage the lodging business above the shop space;
- the application has not been completed properly or adequately.

The discussion was then directed toward clarifying these points and which were relevant for a letter from the CC, if any. This culminated in a decision to write a letter of objection based on the first and fourth points above and to express concern regarding the second and fifth points.

**Action:** HT to contact John Russell at P&KC to advise a letter would arrive.

**Action:** DL to draft letter within 21 days.

## Information Boards in St. Ninian's Gardens

D&B in Bloom requested CC support for information boards had been received and discussed in part by email before the meeting. Apparently the CC was required to act as the applicant for planning permission for the information boards. The design of the boards was reviewed. It was agreed that the CC would lend its support, after it was confirmed with Linda Speirs that the CC was required to act as applicant.

## The use of an online tool for CC discussion between meetings

The CC trialled the use of a free online tool, Ryver, for the discussion of planning applications between meetings. Mainly the discussions had centered on whether an application needed discussion and thus whether we should ask P&KC for more time. HT had graciously taken the effort to set up and drive the trial. The question now was whether to continue? After some discussion, it seemed that the pros of continuing were speed and efficiency, while the cost was opacity in our deliberations and a limited public record. This culminated in a decision to stop using Ryver and make limited use of email when urgency required it.

## Correspondence

- P&KC sent a notice of new councillors for our ward.
- John Handling, with whom we correspond on matters of resilience, sent new contact details.
- D&B in Bloom correspondence in relation to the information boards discussed above.
- Mark Ruskil, MSP, sent information regarding 20 mph legislation 📧 LBS
- Fiona Ritchie sent information about an event in which the Dunkeld Friends of Asheville would declare Dunkeld twinned with Asheville on 20 August. This would include an online and in-person celebration with friends from Asheville. 📧 GR
- Graham Cook wrote for support of a first responders organisation. The NHS had not supported it. Would the CC?

**Action:** Stuart Paton to respond to Graham Cook.

- In response to complaints the CC forwarded about cats using the new playground opposite the RSoD as a toilet, P&KC confirmed that they had considered this threat and the mitigations in place were adequate.
  - The letter the CC sent inviting the planning applicant (Mr. Minhas) for the take-away in Dunkeld to this meeting received no reply.
  - P&KC Culture department sent notice of an event, "Perthshire's Rural Past," to be held 16 June, 6pm, at the AK Bell Library in Perth.
  - BBC wrote seeking our permission to film in Dunkeld. We agreed to reply saying we
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had no authority to do so.

## **Griffin and Calliacher Endowment and Enterprise Funds**

MG & SP attended a meeting to discuss a new fund that is an offshoot of the existing Griffin Windfarm Community Benefit Fund run by SSE. SSE is releasing £250,000 for management by Foundation Scotland to build an endowment from which annuities will continue to benefit communities after the end of the main benefit fund. Additional funds will be contributed to the endowment fund during the life of the main benefit fund. The meeting discussed the terms of reference for this new endowment fund.

In addition, the Griffin and Calliacher Enterprise fund was discussed at the meeting. This will be a new fund to which local business can apply, with a link to GrowBiz.

A report on the Griffin main benefit fund deliberations was also made by MG who attended the most recent panel meeting. He reported that funds had been awarded for the RSoD 450th celebration; while applications from the Tennis Club and Corbenic had each been deferred for further discussion and details.

## **Policing**

DF reported that there were no reported issues locally. Police Scotland had put out a general advisory about bogus officials. Everyone should ask for identification and verify the identification by phone if uncertain. In addition, the Police had sent sixty stickers to help prevent “doorstep crime”. It was agreed these would be placed in the PO.

## **Roads**

DL reported that no progress was forthcoming from Daryl Mckeown at P&KC.

**Action:** DL to chase Daryl by email.

DL reported on further developments in relation to the A9 and the A9 Community Group. The Community Group had its AGM which resulted in some new officers. Discussions with Transport Scotland were again moving forward. A recent visit by Cabinet Secretary Keith Brown had won more support for the co-creative process that the Community Group has sought. Transport Scotland was actively seeking to design and start the process. In addition, the Community Group had begun a program of events in June to discuss issues of importance in relation to the A9.

HT reported that work on dualling the Luncarty to Pass of Birnam section of the A9, imme-

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diately to our south, was scheduled for Spring 2018.

## **Windfarms**

SP reported no new developments.

## **Resilience Preparedness**

DF reported that another meeting involving local volunteers was needed to make further progress.

## **Deer Management Forum**

HT reported that the Deer Management Forum—a local group comprising people with a working interest in managing the deer population—was seeking support from the CC. The minutes of their most recent meeting had been sent. We agreed to give whatever support was appropriate.

## **Broadband**

GR reported that the Lunan Valley Community Broadband Project (which includes Strathbraan) was in a continuous cycle of consideration of proposals by bidders for the contract to supply broadband to the areas covered by the project.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Keys for CC Noticeboards**

The Dalguise noticeboard has been put up, around which there was some celebration. The keys to the noticeboard were transferred from MG to DL for transfer to JG. The keys for Butterstone's noticeboard are held by GR; for Inver by MG; and the keys for the Birnam noticeboard are at the Birnam PO.

### **Trains and train station**

DL reported on a meeting he and Michael Anderson had with John Swinney, MSP and representatives from Virgin East Coast. The purpose of the meeting was to appeal to Virgin EC to begin stopping at Dunkeld and Birnam station on all its north- and southbound trains. The

meeting was cordial and productive and John Swinney promised to set up a meeting for further discussions later in the Summer.

In addition, DL reported on another meeting of local residents (and Lachlan Macewen as representative of the Highland Rail Partnership) to discuss the implications of the new May 2019 rail timetable which is expected to make changes to the service at D&B station. These changes could be positive, such as faster services, or negative, such as fewer services. Concerns have been raised about the 0830 service, but these concerns are not well-founded. This group will continue to work on making sure our needs are considered in the development of the new timetable.

### **RSoD 450 and visit by HRH Prince Edward**

It was noted that the Duke of Wessex will visit Dunkeld as part of the celebrations of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Royal School of Dunkeld on 27 June.

### **No meeting on July 10th**

It was agreed the CC would not meet in July on the 10th, nor was there a meeting scheduled for August. The next ordinary meeting will be September 11th.

### **Online outreach**

The idea of reaching more of the community with CC solicitations and information by using online communications media was suggested by HT and DF. DL raised a concern about the accessibility of Facebook to non-members of Facebook, e.g. Google does not index its content. After a discussion in which it was agreed that more use of online media would be a good thing, it was agreed to develop some plans.

**Action:** JG, HT, DF to discuss and develop additional plans.

The meeting closed just after 9 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 11th September at the Birnam Institute. Members of the public are most welcome to attend.