

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 8th August 2016

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

David Levy, Na'an McLure, Lorna Birse-Stewart, David Fox, Stuart Paton, Graham Rees, Cllr. Grant Laing

There was one member of the public present.

Apologies were received from Matthew Gerrie, Helen Taylor and Cllr. Barbara Vaughan

2. Agreement of minutes

David Levy opened the meeting and clarified that the planned meeting for 11th July had been cancelled, due to there being insufficient members present to achieve a quorum. The agenda had therefore been transferred to this meeting.

The meeting minutes for 13th June 2016 had been previously distributed by email.

- Proposed by: Lorna Birse-Stewart
- Seconded by: Stuart Paton

3. Reports

a) **Police**

The police did not attend the meeting, due to resource implications. This is the third consecutive meeting without Police attendance, however David Fox maintains contact with Sgt. Caroline McNaughton, to discuss local policing issues.

b) **Treasurer**

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £676.30. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £1,494.95 (sufficient for at least 2 further grants before the end of the calendar year, following the below micro grant approval). Additionally, there is a balance of £221.40 remaining from the allocated grant for the provision and installation of defibrillators. This remaining budget will be used to support local training (i.e. room booking etc.).

Graham clarified that defibrillators had now been installed in the following locations:

- Telephone kiosk in Butterstone.
- Adjacent to Brodie's sawmill in Inver.
- The entrance to the Birnam Institute.
- The 'North car-park' in Dunkeld.

Community defibrillator and CPR training sessions have been arranged as follows:

- 2pm - Sunday 9th October at the Birnam Institute
- 7pm - Thursday 27th October at Butterstone Village Hall
- 2pm - Sunday 30th October at the Birnam Institute

Graham will circulate further details in the next edition of The Bridge.

Graham informed members of one micro-grant application:

- A local initiative, to forge the cultural relationship between Dunkeld and the town of Ashfield, North Carolina USA, has requested micro grant funding to support communication and set-up activities. These will include the hire of the Birnam Institute, refreshments and video conferencing facilities. Ashfield attracts a similar type of visitor to Dunkeld and, similar to our town, has a vibrant local music scene. It was agreed that this initiative is an exciting venture, which could deliver longer-term benefits to local tourism. **Application approved.**

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Road Safety and Parking

Lorna Birse-Stewart presented for discussion, her report on 'Road Safety, Access and Parking for Dunkeld & Birnam'. Lorna has been busy consulting and engaging widely, in order to capture a broad range of views and opinions around these key issues, which have real potential to affect the safety and convenience of anyone who visits, resides or trades in Dunkeld and Birnam. Lorna's subsequent report contains a range of associated recommendations for consideration, including measures taken in other, similar areas of outstanding natural beauty. On behalf of members, David Levy thanked Lorna for her work to date.

All Community Council members were asked to take the report away and fully digest it, before further engaging with local representative groups and key organisations, to seek opinions as to the recommendations made. This process will inform further discussion at the September Community Council meeting, following which it is proposed to place an early item on the agenda of the October meeting

and invite the key organisations and members of the public to take part in a wider discussion.

b) **Correspondence/website**

David Fox informed the group that a number of items of correspondence had been forwarded to the website for publication. These include the regular updates from the Police and information on forthcoming legislation on Air Weapons.

Lorna-Birse Stewart intends to write an article for publication in the September edition of The Bridge. Lorna will take the opportunity to provide an update on the development of our Local Resilience Plan and outline proposals for the implementation of a Local Resilience Group, subordinate to the Community Council.

Correspondence received included the following:

- Invitation to attend the Scottish Resilient Communities Forum in October – Lorna Birse-Stewart agreed to represent.
- Invitation from Mark Ruskell MSP to meet Community Council representatives, regarding A9 development proposals – Stuart Paton confirmed that this had taken place and updates provided through A9 Working Group communication methods.
- PKC consultation with Community Councils, regarding the number of licensed premises within our CC area – no further comment or action necessary.
- A local resident, who is a retired nurse, has expressed an interest in forming a 'First Responder' group in the area – Graham Rees will make contact to discuss.

c) **Community Resilience**

The draft 'Local Resilience Plan' has been forwarded to PKC for their comments. Lorna Birse-Stewart is progressing the development of a Local Resilience Group, which will subsequently report into the Community Council.

d) **Culture & Events**

Na'an McLure has attended a number of local events and her perception is that attendance numbers appear to be reduced this year, compared to previous years.

The Dunkeld & Birnam Highland Games are to be held on Saturday 27th August, at the Games Park, Little Dunkeld. The event has been well publicised and attendance is expected to be typically high.

e) **Policing**

David Fox informed the group that he has maintained contact with the local Police Sergeant, Caroline McNaughton. Following a previous request, Caroline has arranged for extra attention in and around the Dunkeld and Birnam areas, with regard to Road Safety. Members

reported seeing more evidence of police in the area, however it was agreed that the Police will naturally deploy their finite resources to areas of prioritised concern. Thankfully, Dunkeld and Birnam enjoys a low rate of crime and disorder, however Caroline has agreed to support increased Police visibility throughout the summer season, where resource availability allows.

David will engage with the Police, regarding Lorna Birse-Stewart's report (per 4a above) and will seek the views of the Police regarding draft recommendations within that report.

f) **Roads**

Stuart Paton introduced Mike Wolfe, the Secretary of the A9 Working Group. On 26th June, a meeting took place between the group and Transport for Scotland, where it was agreed to reconsider the mechanism and scope of community consultation, which has been limited to date. Engagement has also taken place with Planning Aid Scotland.

A 3-month online 'Community Opinion' survey is underway, to capture the views of local people and visitors. The survey closes at the end of August and, to date 234 responses have been received. This has demonstrated the benefit of this method of survey, although Mike and Stuart were keen to recognise that everyone may not have access to internet/email facilities, in which case the details of public consultations/meetings will continue to be advertised within The Bridge.

For those with internet/email access, further information and sign-up to the A9 Working Group newsletter can be arranged by sending an email to the following address:

dunkelda9workinggroup@gmail.com

Additionally, the online 'Community Opinion' survey can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/a9dualling>

Forthcoming A9 meeting/updates include:

- i. The next meeting of the A9 Community Group (to which all are invited), is to be held at 7:30pm on Thursday 25th August at the Little Dunkeld Kirk.
- ii. A community meeting is to be held on Thursday 15th September, in order to provide an update on local consultation. Venue to be confirmed and publicised in The Bridge.

David Levy asked that his thanks, on behalf of members, to Mike Wolfe, Stuart Paton and all others involved in the A9 Working Group, be recorded in the minutes.

g) **Broadband/HPCP**

Helen Taylor attended the most recent meeting of HPCP. No issues of note at this stage.

With regard to the Butterstone area, Graham Rees reported that work remains ongoing to progress the development of a suitable Broadband option.

Stuart Paton informed the group of ongoing engagement with Community Broadband Scotland, to find a suitable Broadband solution for Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree.

David Levy informed the group of his recent correspondence with Openreach, following their stated intention (in September 2015) to provide fibre-enabled Broadband services to the Dunkeld area within five months. David awaits a response and will update accordingly when he has more information.

h) **Environment/Planning**

David Levy presented four current planning applications, for discussion by the group. No comments were made.

i) **Windfarms**

The public inquiry into the proposed 'Crossburns' windfarm construction is due to commence in the autumn. The Community Council is represented at the inquiry and further information will be communicated in due course.

A public inquiry is to take place, regarding the proposed 'Dullater' windfarm construction. No dates are available as yet.

5. A.O.B.

Litter Picking

Grant Laing informed members of a recently conducted litter-picking event, organised by local 'Mountain-bikers' in and around the Dunkeld area. The group managed to fill a total of 16 bin bags with rubbish! Cllr. Laing asked that his sincere thanks, to those who organised and took part in the event, be recorded in the minutes. This was echoed by all members present – Thankyou and well done!

There is a stretch of road between the old A9 towards the Polney Sawmill, which would benefit from litter-picking. David Levy agreed to submit a bid to the Community payback team, via PKC, for support with this.

Future Meetings

The timetable of future meetings was discussed. The following dates have been agreed up to the end of 2016:

- Monday 12th September
- Monday 10th October
- Monday 14th November
- Monday 12th December

All meetings will be held at the Birnam Institute and will commence at 7pm.

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

The meeting closed at 21:15.