

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 10th April 2017

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Graham Rees, Cllr. Barbara Vaughan

There was also one member of the public present – Johann Goree

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

2. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 13th March had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Graham Rees
- Seconded by: Matthew Gerrie

3. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £364.03. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £3,509.65.

Three micro-grant bids had been received. All were discussed and, whilst it was unanimously agreed that they all represented worthwhile initiatives, two were declined on the basis that they failed to provide evidence of 'community benefit'. A bid in support of the pre-school 'Safe Start' initiative was supported for which a grant of £400 was awarded.

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Policing

David Fox informed the group that he monitors the weekly Police report

and that there had been no incidents of note within our area, within the previous month.

Police officers have been seen, conducting speeding deterrent/enforcement activities in the Bridge Street area of Dunkeld. This had been identified as an issue of concern for local residents and business owners. Members are grateful to Police Scotland for its support in tackling this locally identified issue. David will liaise with Sgt. McNaughton and ask for any information on outcomes, following Police activity.

b) Roads

In respect of A9 dualling, work remains ongoing to define the 'co-creation' process, which is intended to enrich community engagement and the subsequent selection of local A9 dualling options for Dunkeld and Birnam.

As previously communicated, options for the Birnam to Ballinluig stretch have been identified and communicated.

Further information is also available in The Bridge and on its website.

c) Windfarms

The Dulater Hill windfarm Inquiry took place at the Birnam Institute over four days, in late March 2017. The inquiry provided an opportunity for community questions and Community Council submissions.

On behalf of Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council, Stuart Paton had submitted a statement to the inquiry.

Stuart will provide a comprehensive update at the next CC meeting.

d) Correspondence/Website

Proposed 24 hour fuelling facility in Birnam

A local resident has emailed Cllr. Laing (copying in the CC Secretary) with regard to a proposal to install a 24-hour filling station at Young's Garage. Whilst Grant will naturally wish to correspond directly with the author, it is apparent that the facility will involve self-service pumps and that the garage will otherwise be closed.

PKC Gritting Survey

David Fox reported that he had responded to a PKC survey on road gritting throughout winter 2016/17. Whilst members believed that gritting had largely been effective and timely, it had been acknowledged that the winter had been comparatively mild. It had also been noted that the Brae Street area (between Bridge Street and Boat Road) was not being gritted routinely. This has been fed back to PKC and the situation will be monitored.

Dulater Hill windfarm share ownership scheme

David Fox reported that he had been contacted by a representative of 'ecotricity', which is offering share opportunities for the proposed windfarm development. David has since responded on behalf of the CC, pointing out that, as representatives of our local community, the CC intends to continue its support for the group, which opposes the development and has also recently submitted a formal objection during the inquiry. As such, David indicated that the Dunkeld & Birnam CC does not wish to correspond further on the matter.

Scottish Government parking review

The Scottish Government is conducting an online survey on parking. The survey, which closes on 30th June 2017 is open to all interested parties and is available via the following link:

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/road-policy/improving-parking-in-scotland/>

The link provides a further link to a consultation paper and an opportunity to ask questions prior to submitting a response.

Lorna Birse-Stewart has agreed to respond on behalf of the CC.

SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2017

The aforementioned fund is available to non-profit organisations, community groups and charities, working in the SSEN distribution area. The fund supports local projects that:

- 1) Protect the welfare of vulnerable community members through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.
- 2) Enhance community facilities, services and communication specifically to support the local response in the event of a significant emergency event.

It is the intention of the Dunkeld & Birnam Emergency Preparedness and Coordination Group (D&BEP&CG) to submit a bid in support of the recently published plan.

A number of articles and items of correspondence have been forwarded for publishing on the website.

e) Community Resilience

Lorna Birse-Stewart informed members that the date for the next meeting of the local preparedness and coordination group (D&BEP&CG) would be announced in The Bridge (magazine and website) shortly.

David Fox informed members that he had recently attended a meeting of the 'Gien a Haund' group, in Dunkeld. The group supports the welfare and resilience of the elderly and its members are keen to maintain close ties to the preparedness and coordination group, particularly in respect of supporting vulnerable or potentially vulnerable members of our community in the event of an emergency. Lorna Birse-Stewart and David Fox have both spoken with the chair of the 'Gien a Haund' group and invited representation at the wider group.

f) **Culture & Events**

Na'an McLure could not attend. There were no items of note.

g) **Environment/Planning**

Helen Taylor had reviewed the recent planning applications. A total of six such applications were discussed, for which it was agreed that the CC would make no comment. There were no other issues of note.

h) **Broadband**

The Lunan Valley broadband project, incorporating the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree has received a number of tender applications, which are in the process of being reviewed. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of 2018, due to funding deadlines.

Stuart Paton represents the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree communities on the Lunan Valley broadband group, which intends to hold a public meeting in October – date to be arranged.

i) **Road Safety and Parking**

As previously communicated, David Levy wrote to PKC some weeks ago, in order to feed back the results of the CC Parking Review conducted by Lorna Birse-Stewart. Unfortunately, despite making follow-up requests, David has not received a response from PKC. He will continue to chase up a response and update members accordingly.

5. A.O.B.

Councillor Barbara Vaughan

Cllr. Vaughan informed members that this would be her last meeting. On behalf of members, David Levy expressed his sincere thanks to Barbara for her support to the Community Council and the Dunkeld & Birnam community for many years. Barbara will be sorely missed from our group and we wish her well.

Mr. Alan Wylie – A vote of thanks

As a past member of the Community Council, Alan Wylie recently

represented the CC and the local community, at the Crossburns Windfarm Inquiry. Alan's involvement included the preparation and presentation of a submission to the inquiry, objecting to the windfarm, several site-visits and of course, attendance at the protracted inquiry. David Levy asked members to agree a vote of thanks to Alan for his hard work and support. Agreement was unanimous.

Feedback on Micro-grant bids

It had previously been agreed to ask for feedback from successful micro-grant applicants, as to the impact, outcomes and benefits, which micro-grant funding had supported. However such feedback has been sporadic and all agreed that it would be of real benefit to reinvigorate this process, so that the CC could feed back to the community accordingly. Graham Rees will endeavor to include this request when corresponding with successful micro-grant applicants.

David Levy outlined the benefits of micro-grant funding to the community orchard, which received funding last year. Funding supported the erection of deer/rabbit proof protection and a programme of tree surgery; all of which has really helped to improve the crop and community interest in the orchard. David also added that the orchard is an excellent means of engaging new residents and children into a mutually beneficial community activity.

Defibrillator training

Graham Rees informed members that there would be further training in the use of the community defibrillators in the autumn. Dates to be announced via The Bridge.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 8th May at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.