

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 11th February 2019

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

Stuart Paton, David Fox, Helen Taylor, Graham Rees, Nigel Turner, Johann Goree, Cllr. Anne Jarvis, Cllr. Grant Laing

Two members of the public, Andrew Cave and Andrew Bayne, were also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ian James and Police Scotland.

2. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 14th January had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Nigel Turner
- Seconded by: Johann Goree

3. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised that the CC account balance stands at £532.22. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £0.31.

Graham confirmed that we should expect this year's Griffin Microgrant top-up in the near future.

New Bank Account Signatories

Due to recent resignations, it has become necessary to review and refresh the authorised signatories for the bank accounts. Graham confirmed that the proposed signatories were happy to perform the function and the other attending members agreed to the nominations.

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Environment/Planning

Planning Applications for Review - There were no relevant planning applications for review, or other current items of note.

Filling Station – Perth Road Birnam - Nigel Turner is monitoring the progress of improvements at the filling station, which have been agreed to by the site operator, CERTAS Energy. Nigel advised that the CERTAS Energy Website will be updated in respect of opening hours and available facilities, following the update of the 'parent company' website.

The 'Walled Garden' A923 Dunkeld – Andrew Bayne spoke to the meeting. Mr. Bayne is a Planning Consultant, who has been engaged by his client, the owner of the 'walled garden' in Dunkeld. On behalf of his client, Mr. Bayne is keen to engage with the Community Council, local resident and visitors, to explore options for the restoration and development of the garden. Balancing the best interests of the community and finding the right scale of development to allow the significant renovation and repairs works to take place is essential. The primary objective of the owner is to sensitively restore a piece of Scottish history and to design the right type of development that will complement and enhance the local setting. Mr. Bayne explained that he is also in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland and other key stakeholders. He clarified that, in the eyes of his client, this initiative would start with a 'fresh look' and that any previous planning submissions in respect of the site, were irrelevant.

Members agreed that the strategy of public engagement and consultation, to advise on the design and development of the site (and associated planning application) was a good idea and they thanked Mr. Bayne for attending.

A number of CC members commented that they weren't aware of the site layout and would welcome an opportunity to visit the site. Mr. Bayne agreed to liaise with the Secretary to arrange.

b) Policing

The Police were not in attendance, however Sergeant MacNaughton had written to the secretary, with regard to two recent crimes in the area. The first was a burglary at a house in Dunkeld, where jewellery had been stolen. The crime was similar to some others across the Perthshire area where entry had been gained through rear patio doors or windows and small items of cash or jewellery taken. There has also been a break-in at the Golf Club in Dunkeld, where the safe and its contents were taken.

Sergeant MacNaughton asked that local people remain vigilant, to any people or vehicles acting suspiciously. People should not hesitate to use the 999 service if the suspicious activity is ongoing and the Police ask that people pay particular attention to vehicle details (e.g. Make, model, colour, registration number, any peculiarities or recognisable features etc.) and descriptions of people who may be involved.

c) Community Funding

Griffin Windfarm (Main) Fund – Helen Taylor reported that there had not been a meeting since she had assumed responsibility on behalf of the CC. There were no other items of note.

Griffin Microgrant Fund – One Microgrant bid had been received and was duly approved.

d) Community Resilience

There were no particular items of note, however Johann Goree informed members about a recent loss of power in the Dalguise are. Local people were without power for c4 hours, however Johann said that SSE were excellent. They were extremely responsive and ensured that people were kept up to date with progress of repairs. They also enquired about any potentially vulnerable people who may need help.

e) Correspondence/Website

Dunkeld Birnam In Bloom have recently written to the CC, to update on progress of their 'Footpath Project', for which they have recently had approval from the Forestry Commission for the management of some trees, adjacent to and causing an obstruction to the footpath near to the south entrance to Birnam village on Perth Road.

f) Community Engagement/Social Media

No items of note

g) Transport

A9 Dualling – Stuart Paton has had a response from Transport Scotland, to his enquiry as to timescales for a decision on the preferred public option. They have assured us that they are currently conducting their own viability assessment and that our chosen option will be submitted to the Transport Minister, together with Transport Scotland's observations, in due course.

A9/A923 Dunkeld junction – Stuart Paton has attempted to engage with BEAR Scotland, regarding local concerns as to the lack of lighting at the junction; however, Stuart has received no response to date, but will continue to attempt to make contact.

Road Improvements/Road Safety – Stuart Paton thanked Cllrs. Jarvis and Laing for their ongoing support, in facilitating contact and response from PKC. Stuart has now received some correspondence from PKC, regarding their planning and prioritisation process for road repair and improvements. They have said that they are looking into improved systems for the prioritisation of works and are unable to provide any clarity as to when our requested works will be completed. Councillor Laing agreed to follow this up, with a further attempt to seek assurances and timescales for road repairs.

A822 Delayed Repairs – Following the recent cancellation of planned repairs to the A822 between Inver and Trochry, no further information has been received from PKC as to their intention to resume the works. Cllr. Laing agreed to follow up.

Glen Quaich Road (Amulree to Kenmore) – Severe weather closure – A

discussion took place about the lack of options to control vehicle access on this route, during severe weather. Whilst there is a 'Road Closed' sign at the Amulree end of the road, the lack of snow-gates or 'hard' road closure was not preventing people from driving along the road, only to become stuck further along the road. When this occurs, local residents are being approached to help stranded motorists, although they don't have the appropriate equipment to help. This was discussed last year, when the Police indicated that they would support a more structured approach to road closures, as they were often being asked to deploy their resources to close the road, and/or support stranded motorists. It was agreed that we would consult the Police once again and that Cllr. Jarvis would make enquiries with PKC, to discuss options to improve the safety of road users, on the road in times of severe weather.

5. A.O.B.

Community Council By-election

Stuart Paton informed members that applications for election to the Community Council, need to be submitted to PKC by 28th February.

If anyone wishes to express interest in joining the Community Council (including as a co-opted member, following the by-election), they should contact the Chair, Stuart Paton, in the first instance, via email at:

dbcc.chair@gmail.com

Of course, any interested person may also attend a future Community Council meeting, to see for themselves how the group operates.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

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