

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 11th March 2019

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

Stuart Paton, David Fox, Graham Rees, Nigel Turner, Cllr. Anne Jarvis, Cllr. Grant Laing

Four members of the public, Chris Claydon, Mike Silburn, Kat Brown and Craig Ross, were also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Johann Goree, Helen Taylor, Cllr. Ian James and Police Scotland.

2. Community Council By-election

Stuart Paton informed the meeting that, following recent by-election, the following candidates would be formally elected to Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council with effect from 28th March:

- Nigel Turner
- Chris Claydon
- David Fox

As Nigel and David were already co-opted members, they would remain as such until 28th.

This leaves a further three vacancies to the Community Council.

3. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 11th February had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Nigel Turner
- Seconded by: Stuart Paton

4. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised that the CC account balance stands at £468.57. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £4500.30, following receipt of this year's micro-grant funds.

5. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Environment/Planning

Planning Applications for Review - There were no relevant planning applications for review.

Mills Quarry adjacent to Newtyle Farm, A984 Dunkeld – Chris Claydon referred to a recently-approved planning application for an agricultural access track and associated land-engineering at the quarry site. Work is now underway, however Chris pointed out that the excavation works appear to be digging into an old tunnel on the hillside and there is a local concern that there may be archeological implications. She also raised a concern that it was unclear to local people, as to the proposed expanse and direction of the quarry. Chris agreed to make further enquiries, including with the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. She agreed to come back to a future meeting with an update.

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 has recently spoken with Stuart Reilly, from CERTAS Energy, regarding outstanding items which are:

- Additional signage, informing customers of:
 - The lack of public toilets at the facility and directions to the nearest facilities
 - The fact that the station only has card-only payment
- Installation of suitable waste-bins at the site

Mr. Reilly is awaiting confirmation of brand-signage, prior to installation of both.

b) Policing

The Police were not in attendance, however Sergeant MacNaughton had written to the secretary, with regard to two current issues, affecting the area.

All officers at the local Police office in Pitlochry have been allocated specific primary schools throughout the Highland and Strathtay Wards. They are paying regular visits to the schools, in order to provide added visibility, conduct Police liaison with the pupils, parents and staff and to monitor any traffic/road-safety issues in the vicinity of their respective schools at school drop-off/collection times

There was a burglary at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in February, where the safe was taken; and bears a similar MO to the recent burglary at the Dunkeld Golf Club. Enquiries are ongoing

Police officers continue to conduct speed-checks in Dunkeld, with a particular focus on the 20MPH zone near to the crossing and in the vicinity of the school. Several motorists have been found to be exceeding the speed-limit, worryingly most of the culprits are local people!

c) **Community Funding**

Griffin Windfarm (Main) Fund – There has not been a meeting of the fund panel since Helen Taylor assumed responsibility as the CC representative member. In Helen's absence there were no other items of note.

Griffin Microgrant Fund – No Microgrant bids had been received

d) **Strathtay Action Partnership**

Cllr. Jarvis provided an overview of the work of Action Partnerships, which are made up of elected members, communities, and public services. The Action Partnerships will identify local areas, which would benefit with focused support and additional funding for community initiatives, through locality action plans, with the aim of improving outcomes for the people who live in those areas.

Cllr. Jarvis said that the recent round of bids had been received and a 'sifting' meeting had taken place. The results require ratification at the PKC Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in April, following which they will be publicly available.

e) **Community Resilience**

There were no significant items of note, however David Fox informed members that this year's SSEN Resilient Communities Fund was now open for bids and closes on 23rd May. Bid application forms are available on the SSEN website.

f) **Correspondence/Website**

There were no particular items of note

g) **Community Engagement/Social Media**

David Fox reported that the Dunkeld & Birnam Facebook page has a growing number of members and is an excellent means of communication with those members of the local community who have access to this channel of communication. There were no particular items of note.

h) **Transport**

- i. **A9 Dualling (Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing Section)** – Stuart Paton reported that Transport Scotland and the Contractors Jacobs have arranged Community Engagement event, to be held at the Birnam Institute on 26th and 27th March, between 11am and 9m. All affected local residents have been informed, however all are welcome to drop in to the event during those times.
- ii. **A9 Dualling (Luncarty to Pass of Birnam Section) – Initial (Bankfoot) Community Council Forum** – Nigel Turner reported that he recently attended this meeting, which was held on 19th February in Balfour Beatty's 'Eco-cabin City' to the south of Bankfoot. The meeting was both interesting and positive and stressed Transport Scotland's and Balfour Beatty's commitment to keeping local communities informed during the

construction phase. Establishing a close working relationship with Community Councils from the surrounding areas should facilitate the free flow of information for the duration of the project. It will also help our local community to understand 'best practice' for the A9 Dualling of the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing section.

A822 Delayed Repairs – Following the recent cancellation of planned repairs to the A822 between Inver and Trochry, Cllr. Laing had agreed to follow up with PKC to establish when the work may be carried out. He confirmed that he had made contact with PKC and that the works will be carried out in Spring (date TBC), following a reassessment of the site.

Glen Quaich Road (Amulree to Kenmore) – Severe weather closure – A discussion had taken place at the last meeting, regarding the lack of options to control vehicle access on this route, during severe weather. Cllr. Jarvis had agreed to make further enquiries. She confirmed that the Kenmore Community has no intention to install snow gates at their end of the road, as there is no obvious impact at that end, however Cllr. Jarvis has agreed to progress with PKC, to explore options for next winter

A9/A923 Dunkeld junction – Stuart Paton is continuing in his attempts to engage with BEAR Scotland, regarding local concerns as to the lack of lighting at the junction.

Road Improvements/Road Safety – Stuart Paton informed members that it was his intention to create a 'Road Safety Sub-Group' of the Community Council, which could really focus on all associated issues on behalf of the CC. However, in light of the recent by-election and new members coming on board, he will leave this until the membership is fully established.

6. A.O.B.

Dog Fouling

Chris Claydon asked about the provision of 'dog-poo' bags, which used to be available from the Tourist Information Office. Cllr. Laing said that the funding had been removed from the Council budget and they would no longer provide the bags. This is an issue, which would undoubtedly attract funding, however it would need someone to coordinate such a scheme, including bids for funding and liaison with local businesses/people to distribute them. Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Dunkeld & Birnam Arboretum

Mike Silburn addressed the meeting with a proposal for the creation of an arboretum, following completion of A9 dualling works. Oak and Willow sapling trees would be bought and nurtured locally, before being transplanted in the new ground, after the roadworks. Mike explained that this would support the reinstatement of the area, by attracting species of local wildlife and plant life back into the area. The initiative would create a real opportunity for community projects, including volunteers and local groups, to plant the trees and help to create the arboretum. Cllr. Laing said that he was confident that the road

contractors would support the initiative and include it within their work to reinstate the area, following the roadworks. Mike has liaised with PKC and various other organisations and is progressing an initial bid, which would support the development of a local charitable organisation to coordinate this work. Members agreed that the initiative was a fantastic idea and that the CC would lend its support where needed and possible.

Telford Bridge Dunkeld

Kat Brown addressed the meeting, with her concerns about the Telford Bridge, which offers very little protection for pedestrians, particularly children, mothers with pushchairs, wheelchair users etc. Kat feels that the safest and most realistic option is the installation of a foot and cycle bridge, next to the Telford Bridge. All those present agreed that this would be an interesting proposal.

Kat also expressed concern about on-street parking in Dunkeld, which also created road-safety concerns for pedestrians. She proposed a full design-review of parking in the area.

Kat agreed to progress both ideas and provide an update to the meeting in due course. Stuart Paton suggested that Kat might wish to become involved in the forthcoming Road Safety Sub-Group, which Kat agreed to do.

Perth Road Birnam – Scottish Water proposed works 27th April

Cllr. Laing informed the meeting of proposed works by Scottish Water, in Perth Road Birnam on 27th April. He will make further enquiries and update at the next meeting.

Walled Garden Dunkeld

David Fox informed the meeting that Andrew Bane (the planning consultant, acting on behalf of the owner of the site) intends to arrange an initial site visit for CC members in the first instance. Details to follow.

Defibrillator Locations

Graham Rees reminded members that the locations of defibrillators in Dunkeld, are available on the PKC website or, in an emergency via 999 (as the emergency control rooms hold these details) – current locations are:

- 1) A923 Dunkeld 'North' Car Park, near to the public toilets
- 2) Dunkeld & Birnam Golf Club, at the rear of the clubhouse
- 3) Birnam Institute, Station Road Birnam, on the outside wall
- 4) A923 Butterstone, on the wall of the telephone exchange

It was raised that the Infinity Blu dentist also has a defibrillator, although likely only available during surgery opening hours.

Graham is also in the process of arranging installation at a further location in Bridge Street, Dunkeld. Further details in due course.

The PKC website has a dedicated defibrillator page which as stated above, has a map of all defibrillator locations. The page also has a link to an online notification form, where business owners etc. can notify PKC of the locations of any other defibrillators (e.g. within local businesses etc.)

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

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

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