

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 12th November 2018

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

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

One member of the public (David Bee) was present.

Apologies were received from Helen Taylor and Cllr. Ian James. The Police had also offered apologies

2. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 8th October had been previously distributed to members by email.

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

3. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £580.14 The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £1,798.01

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Environment/Planning

A planning application has been made in respect of repairs to the damaged wall in Dunkeld, however the proposed works appear only to involve reinstatement to original state, rather than any change to the profile or position of the wall.

There were no other planning applications of note.

Nigel Turner spoke about his ongoing correspondence with Certas Energy and PKC Planning, regarding the operating hours, lighting issues

and experience of residents at the petrol station on Perth Road, Birnam. Following recent correspondence, Nigel was pleased to announce that the petrol station lighting is now being switched off when the station closes, however the gantry (price) signage remains on. Nigel remains in contact with Certas to resolve this.

Nigel has also arranged for Stuart Reilly, a representative of Certas Energy, to attend the December D&BCC meeting.

b) Policing

The Police had not provided any information for the meeting.

David Fox mentioned an instance of burglary on Friday 9th November at the PGL Centre in the Dalguise area, where a total of five quad bikes had been stolen. No further information was available at that time, although the Police have requested any information from any witnesses who may have seen any suspicious activity in the area (Quoting Crime Reference CR/027540/18). This request has been circulated on the DBCC Facebook site.

c) Community Funding

Griffin Windfarm (Main) Fund – Matthew Gerrie represents the Community Council on this group. In Matthew's absence there were no items of note.

Griffin Microgrant Fund – No Microgrant bids had been received for review at this meeting. Stuart asked that members seek opportunities to advise local people of the opportunities for Microgrant funding.

d) Community Resilience

David Fox spoke to the group about a recent seminar he had attended, with members of the Emergency Services and Local Authority, to discuss winter readiness. The seminar included presentations from The Met Office, on how weather is forecasted, and weather alerts are categorised. The Police also spoke about their response plans for the A9, in the event of an incident which closes the road. All agencies provided information as to the mechanism for the multi-agency and community coordination of an emergency. It was pointed out that, in a severe weather scenario, emergency services are likely to be deployed over a much wider area, thereby amplifying the importance of quality community coordination and volunteers.

Severe weather events involving flooding, travel disruption and loss of power and other utilities will affect us all, although it can be a particularly difficult time for elderly or vulnerable members of our community, especially those living in remote areas. You may be aware that we have a local Community Emergency Plan, which outlines how Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council would support the Council, Emergency Services and the local community in the event of an emergency (The plan is available to view on The Bridge website). The role would include the coordination of local volunteers and help for those who need it most.

We all know that severe weather is likely to happen over the winter months. The emergency services advise that we each have a 'Home Emergency Plan' which includes some straightforward, common sense actions that will stand us in good stead when severe weather comes our way. Actions include some simple preparations such as ensuring that you have a torch with spare batteries, a First-Aid kit and a supply of food to tide you over when you can't get to the shops. There is an excellent organisation, called Ready Scotland which has a website at <https://www.readyscotland.org/are-you-ready/>. They also have a useful 'app' for those with a smartphone. If your home is in an area which is prone to flooding, you can sign up for free live flood updates and warnings via <https://floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodupdates/> or call the SEPA Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

The real key to resilient communities is the quality of communication within them and the willingness of local people to check on each other and provide practical help where it may be needed. There were many examples of this during the heavy snow in March 2018. You may not be aware however, that SSEN has a 'Priority Services Registration Scheme', which enables them to identify and provide support to vulnerable residents in the event of power loss. The scheme is aimed at residents who are vulnerable by virtue of their age, disability, illness or have children under five years of age. Registration is simple and can be made on behalf of someone by calling 0800 2943259 or online at ssen.co.uk/priority-services.

Quite simply, if we are prepared and informed for an emergency then we stand the best chance at reducing the impact.

e) Correspondence/Website

Helen Taylor recently attended a meeting, arranged by the Neil Gow Memorial Fund, to discuss the potential siting of a memorial statue. Helen will update members at the December meeting and this will of course be reflected in the minutes

f) **Community Engagement/Social Media**

No items of note

g) **Transport**

A9 Dualling – The A9 Community Group has arranged a public drop-in event, which will take place between 10am and 2pm on Saturday 24th November, at the Duchess Anne in Dunkeld. All are invited, where they can view the community's preferred route option, as voted for at the 'Big Decide' in June.

Stuart Paton updated members on the current situation with the A9 plan, which is currently in the hands of Transport Scotland and a decision from the Minister for Transport.

Road Improvements – A number of proposed local road improvements, which had been identified through public consultation during 2017, remain outstanding. Stuart has been in correspondence with PKC, and Cllr. James had also agreed to liaise with PKC to seek a progress update on our behalf. A further update will be provided when more information is available.

Imminent repairs to the A822 from Inver to Trochry have been postponed until the spring, although members were unaware of any information as to why this decision was taken. It was also noted that the public information correspondence to residents had been limited in detail, particularly in respect of arrangements for access to properties during the period of repairs.

Road Safety - Stuart Paton informed the group that he is considering a proposal for a 'Road Safety' sub-group, which could oversee a range of initiatives and maintain a closer and more focused relationship with the community and key partners. For discussion in due course.

Rail Services – The main railway line had been closed for several days recently, however the rail replacement buses and public information announcements appeared to have worked well.

Other – Stuart Paton has a forthcoming meeting with the local Save Our Bus Services (S.O.B.S.) group and will report back in due course.

h) **Windfarms**

No items of note

i) **Broadband**

No items of note, although members reported some recent improvement of 4G and ADSL Broadband services.

5. A.O.B.

Dunkeld Tourist Information Office

The Tourist Information Office in Dunkeld has closed, although it is unclear whether there are any current or future plans for use of the building.

Defibrillators

Graham Rees currently manages the four defibrillators in the Dunkeld and Birnam area and is in the process of arranging the routine replacement of pads for all four. All four remain serviceable.

Graham intends to submit a bid to the Griffin 'Main' fund, to fund the purchase and installation of a further defibrillator in Willowbank.

Strathtay Action Partnership

Stuart Paton and Cllrs. Jarvis and Laing spoke about a recent meeting, of the Strathtay Action Partnership, where the function and remit of the group had been discussed. The partnership exists to provide an improved local 'voice' on decisions regarding service provision, and to provide support to local initiatives, particularly those which seek to combat social isolation. There are some great examples of how community-led initiatives have made a real difference in communities, however it is apparent that there is huge benefit from dedicated local coordination. It was agreed to discuss further at our December meeting.

Retained Firefighters

A conversation took place regarding the method of deployment of Retained Firefighters, given that they will naturally arrive at their muster station at different times. Stuart Paton said he would ask the question.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 10th December at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.