

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 13th February 2017

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Stuart Paton, Graham Rees, Cllr. Barbara Vaughan, Cllr. Grant Laing

There were also two members of the public present – Fia Selmer and Johann Goree

Apologies were received from Na'an McLure and Lorna Birse-Stewart

2. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 9th January had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Helen Taylor
- Seconded by: Stuart Paton

3. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £424.03. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £9.65.

Graham informed members that the 2017/18 micro-grant budget had been requested from SSE and that we await confirmation of this year's award.

Two micro-grant bids had been received. However in the absence of budget allocation and, in respect of one of the bids the requirement for further information, decisions will be deferred to the next meeting.

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Policing

Police Constables Matt McNicholl and Connor Lees attended the

meeting. They informed members about a recently stolen camper van from Inver and they agreed to liaise with BEAR Scotland with regard to an apparently abandoned vehicle in the A9 layby close to Dunkeld. The officers also informed members about the recently launched initiative to inform dog owners about the implications of sheep worrying, further details of which can be found on the Police Scotland website via the following link:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2017/february/sheep-worrying-warning-to-dog-owners>

The two attending officers are primarily patrol/response officers, although they informed members that there are two dedicated community Police officers covering our area, PCs Jamie Elder and Alan Band. The officers will be increasingly visible in and around our area over coming weeks.

In response to concerns raised around speeding motorists in Dunkeld, Police Scotland will continue to conduct speeding enforcement in the area.

Members thanked the Police for their attendance and ongoing support to our community.

b) Roads

David Levy expressed some concerns as to delays in the creation of the proposed 'co-creative' process for A9 dualling; a situation which presents a real risk of losing any current momentum of engagement with affected people. Negotiations continue to define the process, which is intended to enrich community engagement and the subsequent selection of local A9 dualling options. Much work has been done by the A9 working group, including the identification of an independent facilitator to support the negotiation process.

Stuart Paton reminded everyone of the existence of the Birnam to Ballinluig A9 Working Group, which encourages local people or anyone with an interest in doing so to sign up to the working group newsletter by emailing the following:

dunkelda9workinggroup@gmail.com

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

c) Windfarms

The Dulater Hill windfarm Inquiry will take place at the Birnam Institute over four days, in March 2017. The inquiry will include an opportunity for community questions, during a meeting at 7pm on 28th March. Attendance and the pre-submission of public questions will be coordinated through the Lunan Valley Protection Group.

Stuart Paton presented a draft statement, which he has created on behalf of the Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council, for subsequent submission to the inquiry. All members reviewed the statement and agreed it as an accurate and appropriate statement of objection from the group.

d) Correspondence/Website

Community Projects Team – HMP Castle Huntly – The Community Projects Team at HMP Castle Huntly has made contact with Community Councils, to request consideration for community initiatives, in which they may be able to provide labour support (skilled and unskilled). They will consider any tasks, no matter how small (one off or regular commitments) and have requested that their contact details be circulated. All enquiries should be forwarded to:

**Mark Steadman
Community Projects Team
HMP Castle Huntly
Longforgan
DD2 5HL
Tel: 01382 319316**

Royal Garden Party nominations – Each Community Council was recently invited to submit nominations for attendees of the annual Royal Garden Party, at The Palace of Holyroodhouse on 4th July. On behalf of members, Lorna Birse-Stewart has now submitted details of two deserving individuals who, it was agreed, play an active part in and for the community.

Highland & Strathtay Action Partnership Participatory Budgeting – Applications for funding of up to £1,500 are invited from local groups or organisations (including informal groups), who would like to develop activities which address any of the below local priorities:

- Social isolation
- Employment & employability
- Community transport
- Young people
- Rurality

Current round of winning bids are to be announced on 25th March. For more information, or an application form please contact:

communityplanningpartnership@PKC.gov.uk or contact Dunkeld Community Learning on 01738 459701

SSE Endowment Fund – On behalf of SSE, Foundation Scotland has

been asked to coordinate the development of a group, to manage the allocation of Endowment Funding. Accordingly, Community Councils have been asked to consider the nomination of a representative to attend preparatory 'set-up' meetings with Foundation Scotland. Stuart Paton agreed to represent our group and will provide further detail in due course.

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

Request for issues for discussion with MSPs - The office manager for the four Mid Scotland and Fife MSPs has recently contacted all local Community Councils, requesting consideration of any issues, which they may wish to discuss with the MSPs. No items were identified at the meeting, however the opportunity for future direct communication has been acknowledged and considered where appropriate.

e) Community Resilience

David Fox updated members as to the development of our local Emergency Preparedness & Coordination Group, which held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday 8th February.

Lorna Birse-Stewart chaired the meeting, which was well attended by community and key agency representatives. Lorna presented the local plan and a number of discussions took place with regard to how the community and its partners could work effectively together to prepare for and respond to any incident which may benefit from the local support and coordination of volunteers.

John Handling, the chair of the PKC Community & Business Resilience Group (CBRG) was present at the meeting and provided an update on the real benefit to community resilience and wellbeing of local people, that such a group can bring. He used examples of the 2016 Alyth flooding, where community coordination had worked well, thereby ensuring public safety at the earliest opportunity, whilst limiting the amount of damage to property.

A date for the next meeting of the Dunkeld & Birnam Emergency Preparedness and Coordination Group has not yet been confirmed, however it will be announced in due course.

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. Two 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 remains at the stage of invitations to tender. Stuart Paton represents the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree communities on the Lunan Valley broadband group. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of 2018, due to funding deadlines.

The recently installed Dalguise broadband is working well and the community is really pleased with the service.

i) Road Safety and Parking

Lorna Birse-Stewart was absent from the meeting. There were no items of note.

5. A.O.B.

Virgin East Coast rail Inverness to London service

A local group has been established to campaign for the once-daily express service to stop at Dunkeld & Birnam. Members agreed that this would be good for the residents, businesses and visitors to the area. David Levy agreed to draft a letter of support to the group.

Royal School of Dunkeld

An event will take place in June, to mark the 450th anniversary of the school. Details to be communicated in due course.

Save Our Birnam Buses (SOBS)

As previously communicated, this group is campaigning for a single daily bus service to Edinburgh. A number of communities along the A9 corridor are also campaigning for a similar service and the campaigns have now been incorporated into an review by the Scottish Government into its 'long distance bus policy'.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 13th March at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.