

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Birnam Institute

Minutes

**1. Those present:**

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

Two members of the public, Jess Pepper and John Gilruth were also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Graham Rees, Matthew Gerrie, Cllr. Ian James and Police Scotland.

**2. Agreement of minutes**

The meeting minutes for 10<sup>th</sup> December had been previously distributed to members by email.

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

**3. Treasurer's report**

Graham Rees had emailed the Secretary to advise that the CC account balance stands at £532.22. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £0.31.

Graham has applied for a top-up for the Micro Grant funds and anticipates further allocation for 2019 in the near future. Until that money is received, the recipients of any grants awarded will be advised that approval is subject to our receipt of those funds.

Graham has applied to the main Griffin Fund for a grant to cover the costs of purchasing and installing a defibrillator in the Willowbank telephone box. He awaits a decision.

**4. Matters arising and subject updates**

**a) Filling Station – Perth Road Birnam**

Following the attendance at our last meeting, of Stuart Reilly from CERTAS Energy, Nigel Turner reported that the illuminated pole/gantry sign now switches

off when the filling station closes. A number of other matters, agreed to by Mr. Reilly (per previous minutes), remain outstanding. Nigel will continue to follow up with CERTAS and will report back as necessary.

**b) Policing**

The Police were not in attendance, however there were no issues of note from the weekly Commander's Bulletins to report.

Speeding on the Telford Bridge continues to be a cause of concern. The Police do conduct enforcement activities when they are able to do so, and Stuart Paton has made enquiries with PKC, in order to establish when the most recent speeding survey was conducted and whether there are any intentions to improve road design/markings, to reduce speeding.

**c) Environment/Planning**

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

**d) Community Funding**

**Griffin Windfarm (Main) Fund** – In Matthew Gerrie's absence there were no particular items of note.

**Griffin Microgrant Fund** – No Microgrant bids had been received

**Business Funding Programmes** - Johann Goree mentioned the recent introduction of the new 'Rural Perth and Kinross Micro Enterprise Fund'. The fund is managed by PKC and has been designed to assist rural businesses and other organisations looking to undertake viable growth projects, and individuals looking to set up a business. The recipient must be able to demonstrate that any proposed project is essential to ongoing business growth, and that it will have a positive economic impact on the local area. Potentially viable projects include the purchase of capital equipment, product or market development and commercial property acquisition or improvement. Grants of between £1,500 and £5,000 are available and the scheme is open to businesses/organisations that are based outside the three Perth city council wards.

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/14696/Business-advice-and-funding>

**e) Community Resilience**

Jess Pepper and John Gilruth spoke to the meeting, about their proposal for an initiative to increase the number of local volunteers, who would be willing to be called upon in the event of an emergency, where elderly or vulnerable members of the community needed additional support (e.g. severe weather events etc.).

Members agreed that the initiative was a positive and worthwhile proposal and agreed to support it where possible (e.g. Microgrant funding, communications

support etc.).

Stuart Paton commented on the work, carried out by Johann Goree and David Fox, at a strategic level; including maintaining links with PKC and Emergency Services. This level of strategic preparation will be a great support to our Emergency Coordination of local volunteers, in the event of activation.

f) **Correspondence/Website**

There were no particular items of note

g) **Community Engagement/Social Media**

No items of note

h) **Transport**

**A9 Dualling** – Stuart Paton expressed concern that there has been no update or correspondence whatsoever, from Transport Scotland, since the locally-selected A9 dualling option had been submitted. Stuart will liaise with the Chair of the A9 Community Group, to discuss possible further engagement options with Transport Scotland. Stuart also commented that we are still awaiting a response from BEAR/Transport Scotland on mitigation measures on the existing A9 junction. The report went from BEAR to TS mid-December with no direct input from the local community. Stuart will follow up.

**Road Improvements/Road Safety** – Councillor Jarvis has corresponded with PKC to enquire about the lack of response to our request for local road improvements. They had initially responded without providing any information on timetables for completion of the work. Stuart Paton will liaise further with PKC. He thanked both Cllrs. Jarvis and Laing for their support.

**Rail Services** – David Levy reported that all national rail timetables reviews have been delayed. We will provide a further update when we learn more. LNER have committed to the London train stopping at Dunkeld probably from late 2019. Interim measures will be required, given the challenges for passengers in boarding/alighting, due to platform height.

i) **Windfarms**

No items of note – for removal from future agendas. Updates when relevant.

j) **Broadband**

No items of note – for removal from future agendas. Updates when relevant.

## 5. A.O.B.

### **Community Council Resignations/by-election**

Stuart Paton informed members that David Levy and Matthew Gerrie had given their notice of resignation from the Community Council. Stuart wished to record his sincere thanks and best wishes to both, who have worked hard and contributed a great deal to their local communities, as long-standing members of the Community Council. All those present supported Stuart's comments.

Helen Taylor kindly agreed to take on Matthew's role on the Griffin Fund Panel.

The resignations will automatically trigger a Community Council by-election, which will be managed by PKC.

If anyone wishes to express interest in joining the Community Council, 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.

### **Strathtay Community Action Partnership**

Stuart Paton informed members that 'Fiona Ritchie will continue to act as the Dunkeld and Birnam area representative on the Strathtay Community Action Partnership. In particular, in the short term, to deal with the ongoing allocation of the Community Investment Fund. Stuart will meet with Fiona after this process is complete to discuss potential membership of the CAP going forward'.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

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