

Draft minutes of the rescheduled Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th of March 2023 – 7pm by zoom

DBCC would like to thank everyone for their understanding around the need to reschedule the CC meeting at such short notice and give their apologies to those who were unable to attend.

Note: The meeting was due to be held on the Monday but technical issues with the Zoom account resulted in the rescheduling of the meeting.

Attendance:

Community Councillors: Lachlan MacEwan, Alan Wylie, Laura Graham, John Wigzell, Chris Claydon

PKC Councillors: Grant Laing, Claire McLaren

Mark Richardson (Atholl Estates)

Paul Cargill (press)

Members of the public: 25

Apologies: Cara Stewart NTS (unable to attend due to rescheduling)

1. **Introduction by chair:**

Alan noted the absence of Ian James and advised that press was present.

2. **December minutes:**

The minutes of the December meeting were proposed by Lachlan and approved by Laura.

Some members of the public wanted to discuss the minutes from previous meetings at this point, and some opinions were expressed but Alan Wylie asked to move on, given the full agenda ahead, and said that there would be an opportunity for the minutes and the concerns of those members of the public to be raised later in the meeting during AOB

3. **Declaration of interest** – none.

A member of the public made the CC aware that they felt there had been a conflict of interest that took place during the November meeting between a CC member and a planning application which they felt had been ignored and which consequently was not picked up on in the November minutes and in the comment submitted to PKC from the Community Council.

4. **Treasurer's report & micro grants update**

John did not have the figures to hand, they are attached below:

Microgrants: Pam Green/roundabouts, Karys Watt/Trad music & Art exhibition signage.

5. **NTS Update – Cara Stewart:**

Apologies received from Cara Stewart who was unable to make this rescheduled meeting.

Cara had forwarded an update to Chris which Chris read out:

Tenancies

New tenant moved into Lower CC

Vacant properties are 23 Cathedral Street and 15 High Street - some repair work is required at 15 High Street - we intend to relet that in April time. 23 Cathedral Street requires excessive repair work and will be the summer months before it is ready for relet. We will send you the link to these properties when they are advertised on S1 Homes so you can share.

Number 23, 9, 13 and 11 Cathedral Street along with 12 High Street are part of a repair and upgrade project this year on the back of the inspections carried out by us last year. AKP (based in Glasgow) won the tender for this work and will begin in the coming weeks. There will be a skip placed in Cathedral street for these works for 8 weeks which tenants have been made aware of and we wanted to make you aware of too should anyone else in the community be interested.

Dunkeld

Stanley Hill park has had a lot of work done recently as we create a wildlife area for both adults and children, Our rangers and conservation volunteers have been busy creating this and hopefully will encourage people to see what sort of things they can do to encourage wildlife into their gardens. We are hoping to include a willow tunnel, bird feeders, habitat piles etc with interpretation for it too. We have been working with Linda Speirs and Michael Silburn on this also who have kindly offered some bulbs for us to plant in the area too.

Talking of Michael Silburn, we will now present the new path proposal to our next Executive Committee meeting which is on 29 March. Assuming it is approved, we will then be in position to ask solicitors to draft the lease and Michael Silburn will continue to work away at securing grant funding for his project.

We will be installing CCTV at the office externally, we are currently discussing options with our data protection officer regards GDPR and Jamie Torrance from PKC regards planning permission. I will update you at the next meeting on this should it get the go ahead.

We are recruiting just now for a 30 hour per week Estate worker who can help with our maintenance of all areas, this is a seasonal position until October. We are hopeful we will receive funding for a ranger through Nature Scot also for the season as we have had over the last couple of years.

Hermitage

After a lot of work in Ossian Hall over the winter we are saddened to have to close the doors again due to people breaking the glass doors to the balcony. We hope to have this fixed in a couple of weeks but this will remain closed to the public due to it being a health and safety risk.

Story, the contractors who worked on the inner viaduct last year, have been in touch to say it is likely they will try to complete the work this year. Potentially we will lose a third of our car park from the 6th of May to the 8th of September again.

The Easter Trail returns this year on the 8th and 9th of April. There will be an Easter egg trail, face painting, guess the rabbits name and a golden eggs to find all for chocolatey prizes.

A brief discussion followed regarding the NTS' plans to install CCTV. There was some uncertainty about the location of the CCTV, one member of the public thought that it was to perhaps help with the problem of dog fouling in Shiochie's Hill (Stanley Hill). A very short discussion followed, between the member of the public and Chris, Chris felt that this was perhaps an extreme method of managing

the issue, the member of the public did not – Councillor Grant Laing also questioned the installation of CCTV.

6. **Haughend:** Atholl

Mark Richardson attended and gave a brief update to the Community Council about their progress to date and the recent meeting held with the PH8 Housing group on the 28th of February.

There was some discussion around scale and transport, Mark will attend the next CC meeting in April and will have a fuller report to share with us at that time.

7. **Community Action Plan & Development Trust update:**

Lachlan intimated in early stages with AGM due soon.

8. **Walking Meeting:**

The Walking Meeting took place on the 24th of February and was co-chaired by Graeme Cook and Lachlan MacEwan.

Graeme supplied the meeting with an update, included below:

- *The walking meeting on 24 February was very well attended by members of the community and we were delighted to have John Swinney MSP, our three local councillors - Grant Laing, Claire McLaren and Ian James, plus officials from Traffic and Transport, and Greenspace from PKC in attendance.*
- *The meeting took the same format as that held exactly one year earlier - this time picking up on the areas PKC had promised action on last year - and following a route from North Car Park, round the square, over the Bridge and finishing off at Chattan Tea Room*
- *A huge thank you to Kelly and the team for such a warm welcome.*
- *During the meeting there were many discussions around how we can help PKC prioritise particular measures in our community, but there were three specific areas agreed as 'no brainers' **by PKC**. These were:*
 - *The Zebra crossing must be replaced with a more effective traffic management and pedestrian crossing system - one which physically slows traffic down too*
 - *The junction at the school must be rectified to allow traffic management, slowing traffic down on Perth Road, and giving a safe pedestrian access across Perth Road*
 - *20mph remains a policy ambition for PKC - but they are waiting to see whether urban 20mph will be rolled out nationally - this could be something DBCC could write to the Scottish Government on, asking for an update - or this issue could hang.*
- *There were many other issues discussed - as was the case last year, an update report will be produced - a draft of which will be shared with those at the meeting who gave details - to ensure it is a fair and accurate representation. This will then be sent to PKC and Mr Swinney*
- *A short summary will be prepared for The Bridge.*
- *it is worth reminding that the report from last year is on the Bridge website.*

- *The meeting was felt to be positive and productive, and moved some issues on - and in particular was helpful in identifying two areas of work (plus the 20mph issue) which can be worked on right away.*
- *There were other separate conversations - we know that individual council officers have agreed to talk further about locations of dropped kerbs and so on around our settlements.*
- *in addition there are ongoing conversations about moving work on related to paths in our community - involving Stewart and Jane Pritchard, and council officials.*
- *One immediate impact was council officials asking for DBCC input into where speed monitoring strips should go - this allowed the issues of speeding through outlying settlements, and other key sites to be worked on right away - the contracts for this work have now been let.*
- *DBCC would ask that everyone puts a note in their diary for another update meeting - 23 February 2024*

Going forward, Graeme hopes that the DBCC or the Development Trust could begin to own this area of work (how we move around and between our settlements) in order that we can begin to access the many millions of pounds organisations such as Sustrans have available for such activity.

9. **Short term lets:**

Claire McLaren claimed a conflict of interest but decided to stay.

The village was said to be losing its soul. All applications are subject to public comment and the CC are wondering whether they should have a default position of opposing all short-term lets given the devastating impact they are having on communities. It was agreed it would be sensible to talk first with other CCs and PKC.

10. **Newtyle Update:**

22/01654/FLL | Extraction of waste slate (for a temporary period) | Waste Slate Tip Dunkeld (pkc.gov.uk)

Grant Laing intimated the decision could still go either way.

11. **Siting of container for use as a hot food takeaway:**

23/00167/FLL | Siting of container unit for use as hot food takeaway and formation of decking (for a temporary period) | Land 25 Metres South West Of Public Convenience Atholl Street Dunkeld (pkc.gov.uk)

The planning application was discussed with some members of the public present expressing support for the venture. Chris was aware of the feelings of some of the residents of St Ninians and had said to them that she would pass on their concerns which she also shared.

Although Chris appreciated that the Craft Diner was an extremely popular business, she was concerned about the impact of further disruption to the residents of St Ninians who get little peace as it is – she expressed concern for their mental health. She also expressed serious concerns around the proposed location which is registered on Historic Environment Scotland's Inventory of Gardens & Designed Landscapes and is supposed to be protected from development.

She shared concerns around the detrimental impact on the appearance and character of the area and the nearby scheduled monuments and listed buildings.

Laura also expressed similar concerns around the location and told the meeting that visitors frequently park all over the green landscape as it is – she was worried that one takeaway would lead to another – where would it stop? She too is worried about the impact of such an establishment on the residents.

One member of the public said that they felt torn as they absolutely wanted to support the business but could also see that there were some issues with the new location.

The applicant was present and was able to answer questions put to him by those present.

The Community council were asked what their plan of action was regarding the planning application and Chris said that it warranted further discussion between the Community Councillors – this was questioned, with some people present wishing the CC to make a decision about their course of action but Chris reassured them that this was common practice and that the CC have a whole host of issues to consider when deciding whether or not to comment on planning applications.

12. Erigmore planning application:

22/02194/FLL | Change of use of agricultural land to form extension to existing leisure park, formation of internal access, parking, hardstanding and landscaping works | Land 200 Metres North East Of Erigmore Caravan Site St Mary's Road Birnam (pkc.gov.uk)

Issues identified were old Gas works, traffic, flooding and habitat regulations, etc. A Public meeting was set up with fliers.

A member of the public mentioned issues such as points of process, pre-determination, planning statement for 157-278 units, business plan, catering in-house, out with settlement area, accidents analysis, etc.

13. A.O.B.

Chris said that a member of the public had been in touch and wanted to raise a formal objection, to be minuted, that, in their opinion, the meeting had not been called with sufficient notice and hence could not be considered a formal meeting of the Community Council.

Alan thanked Chris for the information and said that the meeting was a formal meeting, despite the objection.

•Refugee hosting – Alan

Alan spoke of how rewarding the experience of hosting refugees was and expressed gratitude to PKC and others for their support – Alan's Ukrainian family now have their own home. A member of the public echoed Alan's feelings having just supported their Ukrainian family to also move into their own home.

Additional CC members required

Laura made a plea for members of the community to come and join the Community Council

•War memorial repairs – Lachlan

Lachlan reported that there was damage to one plaque on the War memorial which requires maintenance.

•Public toilets in Birnam

Chris had been made aware that the lack of public toilets in Birnam was posing a real problem and mentioned that previously the Birnam Institute had been available for visitors to the village to use but that this was apparently no longer the case, she asked whether there was any chance that the public toilets in Birnam could be reopened – Councillors Grant Laing and Claire McLaren informed the meeting that this was highly unlikely given that PKC are currently in the process of closing toilets. Grant Laing discussed the comfort scheme that the Birnam Institute had previously hosted. If they were no longer able to do this then there would be no reason why another business in Birnam couldn't take over this role.

Action: Chris to contact PKC and clarify who, if anyone, currently hosts the comfort scheme

•Community Council November and December minutes

Some members of the public had specifically come along to this meeting to discuss their dissatisfaction regarding the November and December minutes which they felt did not fairly reflect the two meetings and their frustration at the Community Council's refusal to amend those minutes. There was a lengthy discussion between community Councillors and members of the public with some members of the public and Councillors Laing and McLaren also expressing concern around this same subject and concern around the negative impact this was having on the reputation of the CC.

Chris said that she agreed that the minutes should be amended.

The Community Council will discuss the topic further between themselves and will let those present know the outcome of their discussion, they will also add their own planning guidelines to the Bridge website, once they have been updated, so that they are available for all to view.

- A member of the public discussed reengagement over the state of the station.
- Continuation of the cleansing arrangements in Dunkeld was confirmed by GL.

End of Main meeting

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th April 2023

Griffin Grants