

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 12th September 2016

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

David Levy, Lorna Birse-Stewart, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Stuart Paton, Graham Rees, Cllr. Grant Laing

There were also two members of the public present.

Apologies were received from Na'an McLure, Cllr. Barbara Vaughan and Sgt. MacNaughton (Police Scotland).

David Levy informed those present of the sad passing of Councillor Vaughan's husband Robin and, on behalf of the Community Council, wished to express his deepest sympathy, to Barbara and her family.

2. Review of audio recording

A trial of the use of audio recording within Community Council meetings has taken place over the past three months. Audio recording is used for no other purpose than to support the Secretary in the production of minutes, following which the recording is erased.

David Levy invited comment from the group before suggesting that audio recording be used for all CC meetings, prior to further review at the next AGM in May 2017. All of those present were in agreement.

3. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 8th August 2016 had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Stuart Paton
- Seconded by: Graham Rees

4. Reports

a) **Police**

The police were absent, due to resource implications. This is the fourth consecutive meeting without Police attendance; however David Fox maintains contact with Sgt. MacNaughton, to discuss policing issues.

b) **Treasurer**

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £568.03. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £1,032.95 (prior to the below micro-grant award). Additionally, there is a balance of £221.40 remaining from the allocated grant for the provision and installation of defibrillators. This remaining budget will be used to support local training (i.e. room booking etc.).

Graham has made contact with SSE, with regard to future funding allocation and will update as and when he has further information.

Graham reminded members of the planned defibrillator and CPR training sessions, which have been published in The Bridge.

- 2pm - Sunday 9th October at the Birnam Institute
- 7pm - Thursday 27th October at Butterstone Village Hall
- 2pm - Sunday 30th October at the Birnam Institute

One micro-grant application has been made:

- A local initiative has been developed to provide an educational arts production for school children aged 9-12 years. The event, which is planned for 4th October, will take place at the Birnam Institute and organisers request £500 funding to support the initiative, thereby making it a free event for the children. Members were unanimous in their support for the initiative, although wished to ensure that arrangements were already in place with local schools, for children to attend. **Application approved, on the condition that arrangements for the attendance of local schoolchildren were in place.**

5. Matters arising and subject updates

a) **Correspondence/Website**

David Fox confirmed that the Parking Review had been published on The Bridge website, following Lorna Birse-Stewart's article which invited public comment.

David has also been in communication with John Handling, from PKC with regard to the submission of a draft Resilience Plan for the area. He awaits a response and will update members accordingly.

PKC has contacted all Community Councils, to inform them of their intention to publish accounts, following a recent Freedom of Information request. Graham Rees is aware and will support where necessary.

A number of articles and items of correspondence, including the weekly Police bulletin and information as to funding opportunities for a range of

community initiatives, have been forwarded for publishing on the website.

b) Community Resilience

Lorna Birse-Stewart informed the group that, following the submission of the draft 'Local Resilience Plan' to PKC for their comments, it will be her recommendation that the plan be published in time for any onset of adverse weather, as many of the identified risks are increased at such a time. It remains her intention to instigate a local Community Resilience Group, at an appropriate time following publication. Further information will be communicated via The Bridge.

In October, Lorna will attend a conference for Community Resilience leads, following which she will feed back to members.

c) Culture & Events

Na'an McLure was unable to attend. There were no items of note.

d) Policing

David Fox informed the group that the Police have agreed to provide increased visibility, within the area throughout the summer season, where resource availability allows. David maintains contact with the local Police Sergeant, Caroline McNaughton, who has asked that the following be communicated via the Community Council:

- i. On the night before the Dunkeld Highland Games (*Friday 26th August*) there were reports of youths engaged in underage drinking and disorder in Little Dunkeld. Unfortunately, the Police didn't receive any calls during the incident and were only informed after the event. Whilst it remains the intention of the Police to proactively patrol the area on the night prior to the games, they were faced with two serious incidents elsewhere in the County, which drew their patrols away. Residents are requested to ring the Police whilst an incident is happening so that they can task patrols at the earliest opportunity. Sergeant MacNaughton has requested any information as to the identity of the youths, so that she can make follow-up enquiries and deal as necessary.
- ii. There are repeated complaints of littering along the public footpaths in Birnam, where beer cans are being regularly discarded. The Police ask that any information be passed to them.

Information can be passed to the Police through their single non-emergency number on **101**, or should the caller wish to remain anonymous, via '**Crimestoppers**' on **0800 555 111**.

e) Roads

Stuart Paton introduced Alasdair Wylie, the Chair of the A9 Working Group. Mr. Wylie firstly wished to reiterate the facility for anyone to sign

up for the A9 Working Group newsletter, by emailing the below:

dunkelda9workinggroup@gmail.com

The newsletter provides regular progress updates and detailed information on the work of the A9 working group.

On 2nd September, representatives of the A9 working group met with Transport for Scotland, where a proposal for a new 'Co-creative communications' process was discussed. If approved, the process will enhance collaborative understanding, capture local knowledge and concerns and significantly improve the planning process. A decision on this proposal is awaited and will be communicated in due course.

On Thursday 15th September, a public meeting is to take place, to share the results of the recent online survey.

On Wednesday 28th September, the next meeting of the A9 working group will take place, at the Little Dunkeld Kirk. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

David Levy wished to formally record the recognition of CC members and express his sincere thanks to Alasdair and his colleagues on the A9 working group, for their hard work, determination and achievements to date. The group has worked tirelessly to support, inform and involve local people in the preparations for A9 dualling. The group has engaged the support of politicians and worked closely with Transport for Scotland, the A9 contractors and a range of other key organisations. Through proactive community engagement, the A9 working group has managed to illicit over 450 responses to its online community survey and, if approved, their proposal for a Co-creative communication process will be a unique step for Scotland and will undoubtedly deliver the best possible outcome for our local communities. Those present expressed their support for David's comments.

f) Environment/Planning

There were no new planning applications. Helen Taylor reviewed the recently approved planning applications. There were no issues of note.

g) Windfarms

Stuart Paton provided an update on the forthcoming public inquiry into the proposed 'Crossburns' windfarm construction, following which all members agreed that the position of Dunkeld & Birnam CC, in its opposition to the Crossburns development, should remain. Alan Wylie has kindly agreed to represent the group at a site visit on 13th September, prior to the commencement of the public inquiry in the autumn. At that inquiry, the Community Council will have an opportunity to present a written submission and make a five-minute verbal presentation.

A public inquiry is expected to take place, regarding the proposed 'Dullater' windfarm construction. No dates are available as yet.

h) Broadband

Graham Rees reported that work remains ongoing to progress the development of a suitable Broadband option within the Lunan Valley area.

Stuart Paton informed the group of ongoing engagement with Community Broadband Scotland, through which an option of including the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree area into the Lunan Valley project has been discussed.

David Levy informed the group that, whilst some work has been undertaken to provide fibre enabled broadband in the Dunkeld area (including the upgrading of infrastructure), this service is not yet fully enabled; despite a stated intention (in September 2015) to provide fibre-enabled Broadband services to the Dunkeld area within five months. David has made several unsuccessful attempts to clarify the situation with Openreach, but now intends to write to Ofcom to express his concerns.

The group discussed their dissatisfaction at the obvious 'disconnect' across areas, in respect of the provision of Broadband services. Any developments are being locally managed, usually within a very limited geographic area and across a range of service providers. This situation has been escalated previously and the Community Council will continue to express its views in this regard at every opportunity.

i) Road Safety and Parking

Lorna Birse-Stewart updated the group on the progress of community consultation with regard to her recently published report on 'Road Safety, Access and Parking for Dunkeld & Birnam'. Lorna has received a large number of responses, since the paper was made available on The Bridge, resulting in a broad range of views and opinions.

The group discussed its next steps and agreed to continue to capture local views to the report until 1st October. Following this, the most common concerns and a range of prioritised and achievable options will be identified and further communicated for comment, prior to any submission by the CC.

6. A.O.B.

Royal School of Dunkeld

Stuart Paton informed the group of the recent redeployment of the Head Teacher, with very little notice. The group agreed that the lack of relevant notice of this decision, created an unnecessary demand on the remaining staff, with an undoubted consequence on teacher

availability. David Levy will write to PKC on behalf of the CC, to express its concerns.

Friends of Asheville North Carolina

At the August meeting of the CC, a micro-grant was awarded in support of a local initiative, to forge the cultural relationship between Dunkeld and the town of Asheville, North Carolina USA. On Wednesday 26th October, a presentation by the 'Friends of Asheville' will take place at the Birnam Institute. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm and all are invited to attend.

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

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

DRAFT