

Edited minutes of the DBCC virtual meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Attendance:

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

**PKC Councillors:** Claire McLaren.

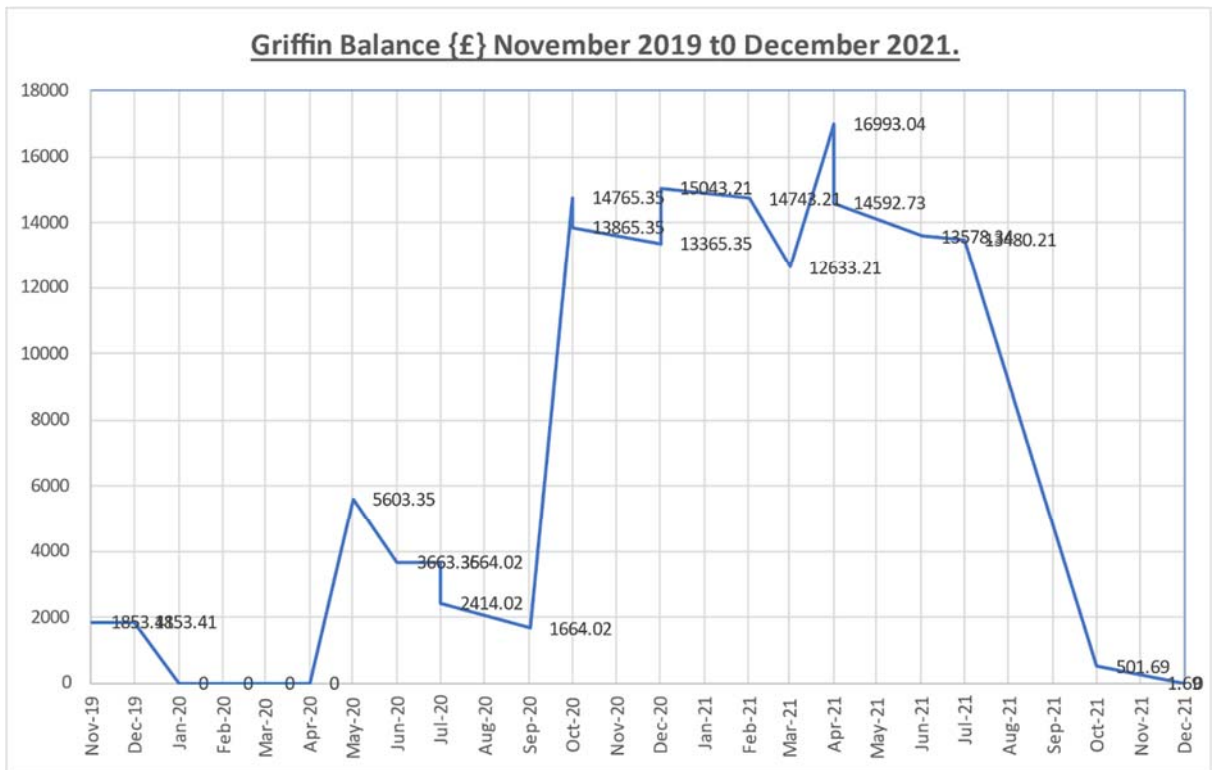
**Members of the Public:** 19 members of the public were present including Mark Richardson {representing Atholl Estates}, Nathaniel Goddard {Heartland} and Paul Cargill {Perthshire Advertiser}.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Grant Laing and Ian James.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022:  
Items covered in agenda. Approved Laura Graham and seconded by Alan Wylie.
2. Extraordinary General Meeting {EGM}:  
The main monthly meeting was preceded by a short EGM to record the election of new community councillors. Councillor Claire McLaren deputized as chair of the EGM in the absence of Grant Laing. The following appointments were confirmed:  
**Lachlan MacEwan** was reappointed as Chairman.  
**Chris Claydon** was reappointed as Secretary and thanked everyone for their support over the year. Proposed by Lachlan MacEwan and seconded by John Wigzell.  
**John Wigzell** was appointed as Treasurer to replace Stewart Pritchard. Proposed by Lachlan MacEwan and seconded by Chris Claydon.
3. Declarations of interest:  
Claire McLaren intimated that she would abstain from the planning applications discussion. It was pointed out later in the meeting by Alasdair Wylie that this was not necessary provided she did not give a personal view of applications to the Public.
4. Treasurer's report & micro grants update:  
The new treasurer explained that there was an ongoing transfer of data and paperwork from Stewart Pritchard to John Wigzell. It was intimated that this should be complete by the next meeting. The current "actual" funds appear to be around £200 higher than stated in the bank balances and this is being investigated by Stewart Pritchard. The bank account holder details also need addressed as currently the holder is G. Rees while his address is given as Trochry and not Butterstone.

It should be noted that RBS's performance in setting up the on-line banking facility has been very poor. As a result, RBS made a compensatory payment of £100 to the community council. The last year has also seen a large volume of "external" funds transiting the community council account. This has included "Covid" monies and disbursements to various groups such as PH8, the Community Interest Company et al {see below}. This should settle down as we move into the new year.

Finally, there needs to be a formal transfer of signatories at the bank to align the new signatory group, namely MacEwan, Claydon and Wigzell with dual signatures as a prerequisite for disbursing funds.



Only one request for monies was received since the last meeting. However, this was not submitted on the standard form. The council took the view that the application should be turned down on the basis that the monies would not have benefited the community.

5. Any Other Business {AOB}:

**Signage at entrance to village:** John Wigzell has taken this on. To date, the two problematic signs are coming into the village off the A9 and coming into the village at the Blairgowrie Road end. Images have been taken of the signs which are visually very poor. At night the same signs are almost illegible {see Blairgowrie Road approach sign below}.



These are “tourist” as opposed to “traffic management” signs and contact will be made with PKC for replacements.

**Craigvinean Surgery:** It was brought to the attention of the chairman that some members of the public wished to express their thanks for the team at Craigvinean surgery and the pharmacy for the support that they have given to the community during these last few difficult years.

**Houses at Birnam Autopoint:** There was limited discussion around the concept of “Developer’s Funds” and PKC in relation to this project and others around Perthshire. A number of individuals disapproved of these processes and the involvement of PKC.

**Men’s Shed:** It was noted that the Men’s Shed group had requested block bookings for the MUGA.

The Chairman then asked whether there were additional topics they wished to raise under Any Other Business. All replied that their topics were covered in the main agenda.

The Chairman also requested that NTS’ failure to attend without reason was minuted.

6. A9 Update and forecast activities:

Alan Wylie introduced the subject and intimated that 6-8 years had now passed and there appeared to be little confidence that the timeframe or indeed the completion were ever going to happen. This view was supported by a number of individuals and recent press coverage stated that the planned finishing date of 2025 is **“widely seen as unachievable.”** The Scottish Government announced that the orders would now be made for the Killiecrankie section of single carriageway to be dualled {in the process building over much of the historic battle site}.

However, this appears not to take the project very far forward. Four key sections have both planning and legal processes concluded. It is understood that the procurement and construction phases have not been initiated. There is an apparent view that the anti-road Greens are a drag factor.

Given this backdrop, it was suggested that alternative proposals should be adopted in the short term particularly as the Dunkeld and Birnam population was increasing.

The junctions at Bankfoot, Inver and Dalguise were highlighted where lighting is poor, lines are eroded and visibility is particularly bad at night and in inclement weather.

It was pointed out that the “junctions” were discussed under a separate group with Mike Wolfe as vice chairman.

After the active engagement process, it was suggested that Transport Scotland were making final calculations and Michael Matheson would arbitrate on the final view. Claire McLaren made the point that the “North” end of the A9 appeared to be getting more attention and progress. This is supported by recent announcements by Jenny Gilruth to the effect that £95,000 will be spent on further interim safety measures with improved signs and road markings at Ballinluig, Bruar, and Ralia. There is no mention of Dunkeld.

Alan Wylie also highlighted the ramp up in costs as did others.

Pam Green attended a meeting the previous week and a number of ideas were proffered which included:

- Provision of roundabouts at the junctions with lighting and signage.
- Redrafting of lines where it was suggested Transport Scotland appeared to have made errors.
- Around £95k was said to be available however one individual highlighted the fact that a set of traffic lights further up the A9 were costed at £300k. Note: The £95,000 is for safety given the high fatality rate however as highlighted probably not for Dunkeld.
- Apart from known crashes/fatalities, near misses were not assessed or counted and it was suggested this could be undertaken perhaps with fixed cameras.

Nathaniel Goddard also intimated that the Killiecrankie to Glen Garry section had been signed off. However, Alasdair Wylie countered this by stating that this was in fact incorrect. Allegedly, the section from the Jubilee Bridge to Ballinluig was sanctioned 18 months ago

with no progress although there had been a procurement review. During this period there had been a further fatality in September near the bridge.

Finally, Alan Wylie raised the issue of communicating road works/closures. The A826 road {Amulree/Glen Quaich} was recently said to be closed and was open. Conversely the road closed a couple of days later. These situations make it very confusing and difficult for locals.

#### 7. Access to nursery schooling and employment:

Alan Wylie is hosting a Ukrainian family in Amulree and a number of issues have arisen in terms of support from PKC and registration and these are detailed below:

- Proof of identity is a prerequisite for entrance to particular activities. This has proved problematic as PKC appear not to have the language skill sets to translate or interpret the information. This results in delays for both parents and children and with the former also introduces delays for Job Centre interviews and Universal Credit.
- The Ukrainians are exemplary and very keen to engage in society. However, attempts to place one of the children {age ~3½} into nursery or school in Dunkeld have been met with rebuttals. Both Dunkeld school and PKC have intimated that it is not policy to start children in mid-term and they must wait to the January start date. This position appears extremely unreasonable given the trauma suffered already. Claire McLaren will take this up with Grant Laing, the PKC council leader.
- Further to this, transport from Amulree to either Dunkeld or Perth is also a key issue for schooling but also in assisting the parents to enter work or attend interview.
- Chris Claydon suggested it may be useful to detail the experiences of other Ukrainian families and that support from Social Services be considered given the language barrier. It was intimated that this may help with the nursery placement issues.
- A member of the Public proffered the idea of approaching the reception desk at Dunkeld School as a more helpful route and intimated that there were plenty of spaces at the nursery.

#### 8. Stronger Community Representation:

This is an ongoing issue not just for DBCC but for most communities in the PKC domain and further discussion was held by the councilors at the end of the meeting. Stewart Pritchard had been the link to the "Stronger Communities" group. Chris will inform Stronger Communities of our current reduced numbers and suggested that perhaps a member of the PH8 group may be able to become involved.

#### 10. Community Action Plan & Development Trust update:

Lachlan MacEwan intimated that the process of approaching OSCR was ongoing in the drive to get SCIO status. When the trust is eventually formed, five individuals have put their names forward to date as trustees. Further to this, a housing group has been set up and a provisional article is being prepared by them for the January edition of The Bridge highlighting the shortage of affordable housing.

During the discussion, it emerged that PKC had sanctioned 119 houses out of 1500 in North Perthshire. Views of disappointment were expressed as to the apparent bias to the North and the fact that the Dunkeld area hadn't been consulted. Claire McLaren intimated that this perhaps resulted in the fact that land had been identified in Aberfeldy and Pitlochry

#### 11. Roads, Traffic & Parking update:

Alan Wylie gave a brief recap on the issues and referenced the Walking Meeting and the individual elements in the report. Requests were made vis-à-vis distribution of the report to everyone and this will be carried out.

## 12. Planning application 22/01706:

### **Erection of a dwelling house-former water reservoir.**

This is the third application on this site since 2016 and it was noted that the current application is a composite of two applications, namely 2016 and 2022.

The applicant was present and was able to answer questions put to him regarding the application.

Alan Wylie highlighted the apparent material breaches of the PKC local plan and stated that the Eco-house had moved 50 metres on the same site.

Chris felt that the scale, height and position of the house was inappropriate for the area and highlighted the fact that the original planning application was to convert the water reservoir, rather than build a completely new structure - she asked the applicant their reason for not pursuing this original and approved option, the applicant intimated that the water tank was a nightmare and uninhabitable.

Chris pointed out that no objections had been submitted on the PKC planning portal this time, as opposed to the large number that had been submitted for the previous application.

The 2020 application had proposed the removal of the public footpath - a member of the public pointed out that the new application retained the path for the public albeit with gates at either end.

John Wigzell raised concerns around the apparent breach of planning relating to fulfilment of suspensive conditions under the 2016 application and highlighted that the current application does not meet the requirements of the suspensive conditions in the 2016 application.

Two community councillors expressed concerns around the positioning of the proposed new home.

Several members of the public present, which included supporters of the applicant, expressed their support for the new application, commenting on the green credentials of the proposed home, the lengths that the applicants had gone to improve the biodiversity of the area, their determination to mitigate any impact on the ancient woodland, and the desperate need for additional housing in Dunkeld.

The Community Council and members of the public were all in agreement that it would be good to see the site developed to accommodate a family home.

The Community Council will discuss further and will decide whether they wish to submit a comment to PKC regarding the new application.

## 14. Comments on planning applications 22/01654 and 22/01652:

### **{Mills Contractors Ltd.} Extraction and Crushing of Slate at Newtyle Quarry to 2030.**

A great deal of time was spent discussing this application which is due to close for comment on 1<sup>st</sup>.December 2022. Residents of Deans Park in particular proffered views on the issues with this quarrying activity. One resident intimated that the applicant had gone far beyond the permissions granted on a number of fronts. All the residents supported these allegations

and these fell into some broadly defined categories shown below. Supporting comments also came from residents at Eastwood and Birnam.

Summary of key concerns:

- Health & Safety: Crushing operations are a well-known source of microscopic dust particles and as such expose the public and operators to issues such as silicosis, asthma et al. Normally, fine mists/sprays are used to dampen and control migration of the dust.
- Road safety: There are allegedly a miscellany of road traffic issues with Mills lorries. These include speeding, cutting across bends, dust and debris et al.
- Drainage: It is alleged that the dust and debris from the site is blocking drains.

Further to this, it appears that no neighbour notification from PKC Planning was received. If this is the case, then there has been a material breach of planning.

This is currently being investigated and the Community Council has already requested an extension in writing to the comment period to assess and resolve these key issues along with any apparent breaches of suspensive conditions.

#### 15. Griffin Micro accounts:

Nothing to report.

**Minutes approved by:**

**Minutes seconded by:**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **J.M. Wigzell {Treasurer DBCC}.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_