

Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council
Ordinary Meeting – Monday 8th February 2021 – 7pm – by Zoom
MINUTES

Present: Community Council: Stuart Paton, Stewart Pritchard, Andrew Cave, Chris Claydon, Lachlan MacEwan, Laura Graham, Helen Taylor

Councillors: Grant Laing, Anne Jarvis

Members of the Public: Alistair Smith (Heartland), Alec Lee, Paul Cargill (Perthshire Advertiser)

Apologies: - Calum Martin, Caroline Robinson

1) Minutes of the last meeting – approved

2) Matters arising –

- Road safety – will be dealt with later
- Chris posted the two planning applications on Facebook.
- Stuart has contacted Dave Amos re the post box – Stuart will follow up on that
- Posting about the Co-op closure on Facebook was done. Lachlan highlighted that we had not considered the impact on the staff at the Co-op. Lachlan has spoken to one of the Dunkeld staff members who is working up at Pitlochry and others have obviously got some hours of work with the delivery. Andrew raised the issue that it was important that folk are using the delivery service. It was noted that people may be making use of the other local shops in Dunkeld who have stepped up to the plate and expanded their stock to help fill in for the absence of the Co-op and hence there is a balancing act to be had. Helen pointed out that as the Co-op have committed to provide a delivery service for Dunkeld due to their temporary closure it should honour that commitment. **Action Point - Stuart** to pass on the message that the Co-op needs to keep up the delivery regardless of the take up.
- Community Council related groups – short note circulated about that. Laura queried why the zoom invites come from the PH8 group. Stuart explained that the PH8 group purchased a Zoom subscription and that a lot of different community groups are using it. As it costs money and is not being fully used it makes sense for everyone to share it. It was pointed out that on the Community Council meeting agendas the link does not mention the PH8 group. Although there was discussion about whether a separate Community Council Zoom account should be set up it was agreed that this was not a good use of time or money. Helen will continue to ensure that the Agendas include the link only with no mention of the PH8.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's account - £801.87, this includes £100 compensation from the bank due to them messing us about. There is a pending payment of 40.70 for insurance cover.

Grants account: £14,743.21 – this includes SSE Microgrants fund £100, SSE Covid fund £6,161 - the remainder being funds held for or on behalf of other groups incl PH8 Group.

Microgrants - 2020 awards reported and 2021 distribution requested - £4900 due to arrive in next 2-3 weeks.

Stewart still having banking hassles – may end up looking for a different account which would allow for internet banking. We could have a business account which would allow for online banking but this would cost a monthly fee.

3) Planning applications:

20/01822/FLL – Application for a Substation by North end Car Park – related to installation of fast car chargers at the car park.

Laura reported that Claire Rogers – transport and planning – PKC emailed Stuart on 3rd December 2019 – and Stuart replied on the 4th December 2019 about the removal of trees etc. Stuart apologised for not recognising that he should have brought the communication to the notice of the CC. However, the issue has been exacerbated because not all the elements of the proposal appear to require planning permission. Suggestions that there should be some landscaping to mitigate the visual impact. Chris concerned about the siting of the Substation and should we suggest that the substation and fast chargers go elsewhere. Stewart commented that the parking bays have been very tidily put in and there is more green space left than he thought, so there was scope to put in more greening. Laura reported that the residents of Ninian's Court were not best pleased. Andrew in favour of getting good landscaping around it – to set the standard for the future. Lachlan raised the issue that if the In Bloom group were given the responsibility of looking after it this would be a burden and that PKC should be made to be responsible for the landscaping and maintenance. **Action Point - Chris** agreed to draft and send in the CC response, which should highlight the need for appropriate landscaping to mitigate the impact of the new infrastructure.

Staff Accommodation at Dunkeld House – no comm

20/01799/FLL – Application for siting 14 holiday units Dunkeld House.

Agreed that we should ask for an extension on this consultation so that we can post it on Facebook page and discuss at the next meeting. **Action Point – Helen to request an extension.**

4) Road Safety Sub Group update – Andrew gave an update - Meeting was held last Tuesday – Zoom call with PKC – (Thanks to Anne Jarvis for attending the meeting) We sent across the short list of themes for discussion, Bridge, 20mph zone extension, parking and road layout etc. Also discussed the Royal School of Dunkeld as a traffic hot spot, around pick-up times. Through the course of the meeting the discussion also included footpaths and cycle paths. A lot of enthusiasm from PKC. They sent round some proposals for ideas for solutions,

which might be feasible. So, a good start was made, to try to find what might be feasible. A number of different issues were discussed –

- Parking enforcement – discussed what might be feasible. Thinly stretched just now – bulk of human resources are going to Covid just now. But there was appetite for a site visit to discuss the parking issues. Requirements for better enforcement, behavioural change in the community but also possibly infrastructure at the junction by the Coop/Deli. These issues will be explored by an onsite meeting, however not sure if this can be done at the moment – so will need to wait until the Covid situation improves.
- To be clear that we are not at the stage of judging solutions. For example – the Bridge – PKC are going to explore the feasibility of traffic lights with the widening of a pavement on one side. Council proposes to do some work on modelling to see what might work. But there needs to be a full and thorough process before any solution is chosen.
- Extension to 20pmh zone – some research of other areas has shown that the effectiveness of 20mph zones varies. But again, lends itself to a feasibility study to explore where a 20mph zone extension would be most useful. Boat Road is an obvious one.
- School – some blue sky ideas from the council – however probably needs some really full consultation with people before coming up with any solutions. The concept of having a new road across the field opposite the school is not acceptable to anyone.

Chris raised concerns about a survey which had been done by a parent from the school. She was concerned that the survey carried out was just done by a small group of people and had concerns that it was designed with disproportionate emphasis on safety on the bridge. Chris felt that the data from the survey should not be used. Chris requested a copy of the survey mentioned by John Gilruth and the collated responses from the 2016 survey carried out by Lorna Birse Stewart for the Community Council. Stuart doesn't have the former but will get hold of it, he does have Lorna's report; he will pass both on.

Chris also not happy with a suggestion which Stuart made about a dropping off point/parking place on the pavement at the Cross for the Archive/Charity shop and Duchess Anne.

Andrew commented that there needs to be more thinking done.

Grant Laing commented that it is great that the meeting with the Road Safety team at the Council has been had. This team is under pressure – it is important for us to come together and agree on what is possible to move forward on.

Any solution is going to be about weighing up trade-offs. PKC recognise that they need to gain community support for any solutions. The initial kick off meeting is just to demonstrate that there is interest in finding solutions; PKC will take it away and think about things. Traffic enforcement and the ramp idea will lend itself to a face to face meeting, which will happen in due course. 20pmh zone also one for the professionals, so they need to come back with an initial feasibility study. Schools, more structured discussion with the stakeholders.

Once we have all this data, then we will have to have a more substantive discussion.

Stuart floated the idea about whether proposing for the Dalguise road should not be made a Walking and Cycling route. Lachlan commented that the compliance with the speed limit through Inchmagranachan is poor so the effectiveness of making the whole of the B898 from the A827 to the A9 a 40mph zone would depend on the enforcement.

Pop up police officers – Calum has them and it has not yet been decided about where they could be put up. **Action point Laura/Calum** to put together a plan for setting them up in different places.

5) Police update:

CALLS

Since the last Community Council Meeting on 11/01/2021, police have responded to numerous calls the majority of which have been road traffic related and general assistance to the public.

CRIMES

No crimes of note have been reported in the area. One person has been charged in relation to road traffic offences - No Insurance and No MOT.

COVID

Covid compliance in general is excellent. Concerns have been raised regarding outdoor recreational activities and people travelling to the Dunkeld area for walking and mountain biking.

There are exemptions for sport, exercise and outdoor recreation allowing travel within and up to 5 miles from the boundary your local authority area as long as you start and finish at the same place, and abide by the rules on meeting other households. The Scottish Government recommend that you travel no further than you need to reach to a safe, non-crowded place to exercise in a socially distanced way.

Police, where resources allow, are patrolling beauty spots and parking areas used by hillwalkers and mountain bikers. The majority we engage with are following the rules and guidance but some are testing this.

OTHER MATTERS

Road Safety -The recent weather has made driving conditions difficult. Drivers should always consider is my journey necessary? Do I feel confident in my ability to drive in the conditions? Is my vehicle equipped to drive in the conditions - tyres and tyre pressures correct (preferably snow tyres fitted), all lights working, sufficient fuel, coolant and power steering fluid? Do I have a snow shuffle, ice scraper and possibly a bag of grit. Do I have appropriate clothing, footwear, a blanket, food and water in case of emergency? Is my mobile phone fully charged?

Sergeant Caroline Macnaughton, after 10 years in the Pitlochry Section, is moving on to pastures new. We wish her well. She will be replaced on 15/02/2021, by Sergeant James Langdon. Community Police Officers Steve Band and Jamie Elder remain in post.

6) Bridge correspondent for the April issue (copy deadline 19th March) and rota for the year ahead.

Chris has volunteered to do the April issue

7) AOB

- Community Action Partnership met last week – various documents are being prepared for the announcement for the Community Action Grant Scheme – grants for the purposes of addressing inequality. The inequalities in our area are ‘hard to spot’ as in a rural area they are quite scattered. Stewart will pass on stuff to Chris for Facebook. Potential for a tie up with the PH8 community planning project. **Action Point - Chris** to post up on Facebook.
- Paths group- Stewart spoke to Robin Lofthouse of Forestry. He was nervous at the bridges in the Hermitage.
- Lachlan – Garth Ponsonby has been raising the issue regarding the station and the platform. We are happy for this to be progressed by Garth and will put the CC weight behind his efforts. The CC (Lachlan) will respond to Garth.
- Lachlan raised the issue of circulating emails to everyone on all things. Stuart explained that he tries to do this but sometimes he makes a judicious decision as to when something is of relevance to everyone. Stuart said that he was happy for someone to take over the handling of the correspondence for the CC.
- Re the dog issue which was reported to the CC recently. It was agreed that Chris will post stuff on Facebook and will write about it in the Bridge column in April. **Action Point - Chris**
- Chris – Community noticeboards – sent out requests for quotes for noticeboards, but has not had any back. Will seek more.
- Community archive – PKC have said that they are not going to pursue the requirement for the advertising permission, rather wait for the Archive to apply. Chris suggested that we should write to the trustees. Stuart said that the Trustees are aware of the discussions and are supportive of the archive’s stance.
- Laura – Gladstone Terrace and St Mary’s Road – bins not emptied for over 2 weeks – re road not being adopted by the Council. Grant Laing – long standing issue – yes, it is an unadopted road – hence the Council will not clear it and therefore leads to problems re access and refuse collection. If someone’s bin is not emptied they should phone the number and report a missed collection, they will then get an incident number and it will be chased up. Grant explained that it is unlikely that the road will be adopted as it is not up to the required standard required by the Council. Suggestion that we could post on the Facebook page about any bins disruption.
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End of main meeting

8) Griffin Grants

- a) **Micro grants** – No Micro Grant applications received

- b) **Griffin Endowment Fund** – Only comment that Stewart made not being taken forward is the issue about 5% of members re an EGM as this is written in company law and therefore we cannot change this.
All other community councils have agreed so we just need to agree which of the Dunkeld people will be the ‘subscriber’ for the new panel.

**Next meeting: - Monday 8th March 2021 – 7pm probably by Zoom – email Dbcc.correspondence@gmail.com to register for attendance
Members of the public are most welcome to attend**

DRAFT