

Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – Monday 10 May 2021 – 7pm – by Zoom

MINUTES

1) Attendance

- a) **Community Council:** Stewart Pritchard, Andrew Cave, Chris Claydon, Lachlan MacEwan, Laura Graham, Calum Martin, Caroline Robinson, Helen Taylor
- b) **Councillors:** Grant Laing, Anne Jarvis,
- c) **Members of the Public:** Cat Gordon PKC, David Stokoe PKC, Brian Rapley Hourglass Scotland, Mary Notman Gien a Haun, Roddy Ross PKC, Alistair Smith (Heartland), Alex Kettles, Mike Wolfe, Helen Patel, Munur Kara, James Jarvis, Drife Cassels.

2) Chairing of the meeting and election of a new Chair of the Community Council

Andrew explained how he had had discussions with PKC about what they were happy to accept in terms of chairing and office bearers. Andrew suggested that there might be merit in having a rotating chair so that no-one was expected to undertake the role for years on end. To that end Andrew said that he would be willing to take on the Chair role for another 4 months with the expectation that Lachlan would take over the role at the end of that time (ie in October 2021) Calum proposed and Laura seconded Andrew for Chair. Andrew intimated that he would like to try to keep the meeting to 2 hours. The meeting agreed that there should be an ambition to have the agenda published at least a week in advance.

3) Minutes of the last meeting – were approved.

4) Managing motorhome overnight parking – Roddy Ross PKC

Roddy explained his role in planning for the management of the increased demand for camping, toilets etc for visitors to Perthshire. Have been focusing on the hotspots elsewhere in PKC. However they are aware of the issues around the increase in the number of campervans, and particularly the issues at the North End car park. They have had a meeting with various interested parties in the last few weeks, and are looking to see how problems can be alleviated. The key issues are around, general noise, anti-social behaviour, disposal of grey water and black waste directly into the drains. First choice would be to exclude campervans but that is not possible due to the car park being used by the buses. There is no overnight parking in the car parks and people can be ticketed for it. Looking to get a bigger parking team to be able to do this. Signage in the car park currently is of limited value. Signage combined with enforcement and directing to other areas is likely to be the most successful. Going to review all the signage, and going to look at directing the campervans to the Stanley Hill section of the car park. The hope is that this will reduce the noise issue, with the trees and soft ground being more sound absorbent. Re lining of the car park and reorganisation to make it flow better is being considered, but this is unlikely to happen soon as it would mean putting the car park out of action for a period to do it. Waste services are looking at installing a disposal point for campervans at the toilet block. Hoping to direct people to alternatives like the Forest and Land Scotland car park at Inver, as FLS are happy for this. The meeting discussed various issues and options around the proposals. Roddy explained that the plans for the

Stanley Hill Car Park would be on a trial basis and could be rescinded if it was causing problems. The local residents would have his number in order that they could get in touch to report issues. Andrew thanked Roddy for coming along and speaking to us.

5) Hourglass Scotland – keeping older people safe – Brian Rapley Hourglass Scotland

Brian gave a very short outline of the work of Hourglass Scotland (which was formerly known as Elder Abuse Scotland) but due to lack of time he had to leave the meeting at 8pm. He explained that they were not only focussing on supporting elderly who had experienced abuse but also on preventing abuse happening. Mary Notman from Gien a Haun explained that the focus is safer aging, and not just elder abuse per se. Such as tackling the issues of scams, getting care, digital access. Andrew agreed that it would be good to organise a special session at another meeting in the future

6) Strathtay Action Partnership – funding and opportunities for working together – Cat Gordon – Community Learning Worker PKC

Cat introduced herself – and David Stokoe – PKC Community Learning officer. The Action Partnerships are about getting communities involved in delivering services alongside the Council. Strathtay Action Partnership covers the Strathtay Council ward – and the Partnership is made up of community members, local councillors and local authority services. The objective is to look at inequalities in the local area and produce an action plan. Priorities are: Poverty (child, food and fuel), Physical and mental wellbeing, Skills and development, Employability, and Digital Communication. Cat outlined the differences between the Action Partnership and Community Councils with Community Councils being more formal, legally constituted – representative body with its own budget. Whereas the Action Partnerships are more of a participative model – with guidance on how to run one rather than being constituted, and with any budget held by the Local Authority. While Community Councils have their statutory planning role and can be involved in issues across the community, the Action Partnerships have a strong focus on inequalities. Action Partnerships have been very successful at reaching the difficult to reach groups, and the Strathtay Action Partnership is finalising their draft Action Plan. Stewart Pritchard is on the Strathtay Action Partnership and will share the draft plan with the rest of the CC for comment in the next few days.

7) Treasurer's Report –

Treasurer's account

Bank balance £761.26

Outstanding payments -£57.56

Available funds £703.70

Grants account

Bank balance £ 14,592.73

Outstanding payments -£1,014.39

Other commitments -£385

Available funds £13,193.34

This includes

Microgrants £4,500

SSE Covid funds £6,161

8) Planning applications:

- a) 21/00624/FLL | Siting of container unit for use as hot food takeaway and formation of decking for a temporary period | Dunkeld And Birnam Railway Station Birnam - <https://planningapps.pkc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QRGE9GMK0BQ00>

The meeting heard the following key concerns expressed about the application – inappropriate visually beside the listed building, could preclude other uses of the Station building, lack of facilities (toilets for anyone staff or any visitors), taking up car parking spaces, increase in traffic – entering and exiting on the A9 – would add to the hazards on the A9 at this location, there are very good cafes in Station Road, Birnam already. The car park at the station is very busy as the station is very popular – competition for parking with sustainable travellers. Concerned about conflict of users if travellers off the A9 accessing the facility conflicting with the train users. The Hermitage was suggested as an alternative location. Laura explained that the previous renters of the Station building were required to have appointment only business, due she thought to the traffic/access from the A9. Meeting agreed to object to the proposal. Helen will draft an objection covering the material considerations listed above and including the established principle of not having services on the A9, and circulate it to the CC prior to submitting it before the closing date on the 28th May.

- 9) **Road Safety issues – updates** Still waiting for progress to actually happen on the various D and B issues, including the crossing by the School. The Newton Bridge closure – the tendering process is underway and PKC are working towards the June date for the works to take place.

Calum has some guidance on the siting of the 'Officer Karens' – Calum and Laura still to get together to decide on locations – using the risk assessment. Andrew asked about if we need a D and B CC branded risk assessment document. But Grant Laing assured us that we just need to have it in a sensible place. No progress on the speed monitoring equipment coming to Dunkeld and Birnam. Grant recommended that we write to Willie Mahoney about this. (Action Point Andrew) Grant has been out with an officer to look at the road markings around the village – notably the double yellow lines – so hopes to have more news on that at the next meeting.

Andrew reported about the work done by Pam Green re the Dunkeld and Birnam Junctions, re the concerns about the additional traffic and speeds and safety. Pam has put a letter together to various bodies and parliamentarians. It is a good time to push on with this now.

Chris mentioned that someone had told her that there used to be a weight limit on the bridge – maybe that could be investigated. Lachlan recalled that there had been a weight limit but following engineering surveying the weight limit was lifted.

Caroline asked about the road safety issues around the Bridge. Andrew said that we are waiting for the PKC team to initiate their own investigation/review.

Grant was asked about the resident's parking which we had discussed at the previous meeting. Grant reported that there had not been huge enthusiasm within PKC. Grant will send to Andrew the correspondence he has had and we can then try to press them further.

Lachlan highlighted that the Community Action Plan is to identify issues and that may spur groups to emerge to address these issues.

10) Police update (emailed from PC Band).

Over the past month, with the easing of COVID restrictions, there has been an obvious increase in the numbers of persons visiting the Dunkeld and Birnam area and other parts of Highland Perthshire. This is clearly visible with the amount of traffic on the roads and busy beauty spot car parks.

There is an increase of Wild campers, not so much in the Dunkeld and Birnam area but evident on Lochs Tummel and Rannoch. Whilst the majority act responsibly, there is still a small minority that do not. As you are no doubt aware partnership working is in place between P&K, Tayside Fire and Rescue, Forestry and Land Scotland and Loch Rannoch Fishing Warden. From a policing point, at weekends, patrols are carried out to engage with campers in the first instance to hopefully prevent any irresponsible actions - "dirty camping". Where engagement fails and offences are committed and there is evidence to support, then Fixed Penalty Tickets are issued or if not appropriate, reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Whether in the future, there is an increase of wild camping in the Dunkeld and Birnam area remains to be seen.

CRIMES

1 male was arrested for a series of abusive behaviour calls.

1 person reported for Road Traffic Offence

1 Theft of a Pedal Cycle from Willowbank, Birnam. Between 1130 -1630 hrs Friday 30/04/2021. Bike is described as a Red Ghost Gents Mountain bike, White shocks, disc brakes, black seat. Crime Ref. CR/12726/21. Anyone with any information please call 101 and quote stated crime number.

OTHER INCIDENTS

Police attended numerous calls in the past month ranging from alleged Wildlife Crime Offences, Concern for Persons Calls, Road Traffic Incidents and Assist other Agency type calls.

Police were receiving numerous calls regards abusive behaviour from a local resident. This individual was traced, arrested and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Lachlan highlighted that the police speed monitoring recently was done in the wrong place and at the wrong time. Particularly concerned about the Bridge and the Boat Road – particularly at school time. Alex agreed that the Mills lorries were particular culprits in terms of speed.

There followed a discussion about the 'construction of a farm track' associated with Newtyle Quarry which appeared to be actually an excuse for using it as a dumping ground for waste from all sorts of places. Both Alex Kettles and Mike Wolfe were extremely concerned about this activity which appeared to be outwith the terms of the planning conditions (in several respects). Grant said that he would raise this not just with the enforcement officer but with the Chief Executive at his regular meeting next Monday. Mike Wolfe agreed to draft a letter which the CC could then crib from to submit the CC's own representation on the issue.

11) Bridge correspondent for the May issue - Lachlan– deadline 14th May – email copy to the-bridge@hillrobertson.co.uk

12) AOB

- **Forestry Proposal – North Logiealmond** – Helen to email Neil McFarlane about getting notified about this and other Forestry Proposals
- **Affordable Housing** - to be discussed at a future meeting.
- **Correspondence – PKC Planning consultation on Ancillary and Annexe Accommodation Guidance** - <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/communities/ancillary-accommodation-supplementary-guidance/> - It was agreed that we did not have anything particular to input to this.
- **Neil Gow Festival Society Committee** – Pete Clark has enquired if any CC member would like to join the committee - Chris is going to speak to Pete Clark and see what is involved.
- Draft of Strathtay Action Planning Action plan has been received by Stewart. He will circulate it to the CC for any comments.
- Request for a hand rail at St Ninians – Chris to find out who owns it so we can access it. Grant will liaise with Chris on that.
- Request that members share or like or comment on Facebook to promote the posts.
- Alistair Heartland – set up a new Sports email so keen to make contact with sports teams. Also keen to ensure that the mobile Covid testing facilities are known about.
- Lachlan – raised a number of issues about footpaths/bridges and sewage spillage. Stewart to assist Lachlan with tackling this.
- Mike Wolfe asked about the Atholl Estate and the land at Haughend. Caroline explained their attendance at the February meeting and that we have not heard anything further from them. SG guidance is that they should do fuller community consultation, and we are keen to encourage that.

End of main meeting

13) Griffin Grants –

- a) **Micro grants** – Logboat application received from the Young Archaeologist Club which seems to be based at the Crannog at Kemore – Helen to liaise with the other

CCs to see what they are thinking of this application and go back to the applicant to request more info.

- b) Griffin Main fund – panel vacancy** – One application received and three more application forms requested. Chris to repost on Facebook – closing date 11th June.

Next meeting: - Monday 14th June 2021 – 7pm probably by Zoom – email Dbcc.correspondence@gmail.com to register for attendance
Members of the public are most welcome to attend