

Dunblane Community Council

Rachael Rennert
Secretary

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
Chair

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Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 3 December, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Library, Dunblane. This is a “blended” meeting, with some attendees joining by Zoom.

Present: Anna Jarchow-MacDonald (Chair), Alan Booth, Karen Jenkins, Peter Swindon, Annelise Bakri, Anthony Delleur, Caroline McArthur, Jonathan Failes (Vice-Chair), Calum Thomson. By Zoom: Rachel Rennert.

In attendance: Councillors Thomas Heald, David Wilson and Alasdair Tollemache, David Whelan, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary). By Zoom: Peter Hill (Dunblane Western Greenbelt).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Rachel Nelson, Stewart Corbett, Bridget Clark, Councillor Robin Kleinman, Mairi Santolini (Parent Council, Dunblane High School) and the Police.

2. Conflicts of interest and Chair's remarks

There were no stated conflicts of interest. In congratulating Rachael Muir on her recent marriage, it was noted that in future she wants to be referred to by her married name, Rachael Rennert.

3. Adoption of minutes of 5 November 2025

These were approved, proposed by Anna Jarchow-MacDonald and seconded by Karen Jenkins.

4. Reports

Police Report: See attached.

After a number of incidents of shoplifting and broken shop windows, Councillor Tollemache met the police sergeant who reassured him that a person was identified and has since been arrested, which was reported on the police Facebook page. The Chair suggested that the police hold more meetings with the public.

As reported in last month's minutes, the Chair asked the police to notify the community council directly of missing persons, but was informed that, as they could not guarantee to be able to do this consistently, she should look at their Facebook page regularly for notifications.

With reference to the Community Alcohol Partnership, this is a new initiative covering Bridge of Allan and Dunblane to tackle the issue of underage drinking. Councillor Wilson commented that alcohol dependency was often a consequence of struggling with mental health.

Operations Report: See attached.

The Chair thanked Terence O'Byrne for the monthly report.

Kinbuck Bridge Councillor Tollemache has requested a meeting with Transport Scotland, Stirling Council and the Police after the A9 northbound was closed again in November and HGV lorries again tried to cross the bridge, causing traffic chaos. He has requested that the Police has a protocol for preventing lorries from diverting through Kinbuck when the A9 is closed. Two HGV drivers were charged with dangerous driving after damaging the bridge in August, but as this is a road traffic offence and not a criminal offence the Police commented they do not have resources to deal with this. The Chair is going to ask the Police to report on such incidents in their reports in future, thus providing evidence that greater support and resources are needed. **Action: The Chair.**

Skatepark Councillor Tollemache has asked for the drain cover to be screwed down to prevent blockages.

Zebra crossing on Doune Road In noting that this has been delayed until Scottish Gas has completed its work, Councillor Tollemache has asked for a new date when the crossing will be installed.

Traffic activated signs on the Perth Road Councillor Tollemache reported that this has been delayed as the signs had to be re-ordered.

Parking issues on Hillside Avenue Councillor Tollemache has met with the priest and a member of the congregation at the Catholic Church. He reported that the church has notices advising on considerate parking and has asked the Council if it is appropriate for parking to be on both sides of Hillside Avenue.

Double yellow lines, Allanbank Road, Kinbuck Councillor Tollemache has met Council officers there and the Council will publish a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), to which residents can submit objections. If this is not resolved, then it will be decided by the Council Net Zero committee. The Chair suggested that the community council should try and help to resolve this.

Traffic issues In reply to a question from Alan Booth as to why there have been no-parking cones on Braeport for a week, Councillor Tollemache said this was due to ongoing work by Openreach to improve broadband speeds.

Peter Swindon also reported a parking issue opposite the shop at Whitecross, and agreed to send details to Councillor Tollemache. **Action: Peter Swindon.**

Railway journey times to Edinburgh Calum Thomson reported that journey times between Dunblane and Edinburgh are timetabled to increase to 1hr 5mins. When Winchburgh station is opened, this will increase further, thus disincentivising people from using the railway. The Chair asked Calum Thomson to draft something for the community council to send to the Passenger Users Group and agreed to copy in David Prescott. **Action: Calum Thomson and the Chair.**

Glass boxes Councillor Kleinman has sent in a report that many glass boxes, which are no longer required, are waiting at kerbsides to be uplifted by the Council. He has requested that he be notified of any such boxes.

Planning Report: See attached.

The Chair reported that a new planning application has been submitted for a greenhouse and shed at Ledcameroch. Commenting on the access track in the plan, Alan Booth said that this should be no wider than the original path. Although managing the woodland around the access track was mentioned, he commented that the maintenance of the rest of the woodland they own and the wall on the Perth Road should be included as a condition of approval.

It was noted that the application for the Cambushinnie substation will be considered by Perth and Kinross Council on 10 December, and the community council has submitted an objection (see minutes August 2025). The expiry date for a decision on the application for Firs of Kinbuck has been extended to the end of January 2026.

As minuted last month, the Chair is going to progress the idea of bringing together a wider group from within the community to look at planning issues. **Action: The Chair.**

Elected members

With reference to the break-ins at shops (see Police Report), Councillor Heald reported that traders would like CCTV in the High Street. However, the Council do not recognise the need for this. He also reported that the parking meter and surface of the Mill Row car park will be repaired shortly.

Councillor Wilson commented that the Scottish Budget will be published on 13 January 2026 after which the Council Budget will be agreed.

He also reported that Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils are exploring the possibility of working more closely together, and this could have consequences for Stirling Council.

5. Community

Speedwatch David Whelan reported that the Speedwatch group is now in a position to apply for funding and he asked that any funds thus accruing be kept, ring-fenced, in the community council's account until it has a bank account in its own name. The Treasurer has no objection, and the Chair has contacted Stephen Bly (Community Council Enquiry Co-ordinator, Stirling Council) for advice. After a discussion, the proposal that, with the proviso that the Council has no objection, the community council's accounts could be used in this way, was put to the vote: six agreed, one objected and one abstained. The Chair agreed to forward this to Stephen Bly. **Action: The Chair.**

Schools Jonathan Failes reported on the recent Careers Fair, which was well attended. He thought that there should be more thought given on how to attract the interest of young people in different careers.

The Safe Routes to School project is progressing and a map has been produced. Councillor Tollemache reported that other schools have restrictions around schools, with dropping-off points further away, together with safe routes for pupils to walk to school.

The next community council meeting is to be held at the High School on 4 February 2026, and the Chair is going to liaise with the Rights Respecting School group and with the Leadership Academy. The school is also focussing on sustainability. Annelise Bakri suggested inviting sixth year pupils to the meeting while the Chair suggested extending the invitation to primary schools, perhaps including primary seven pupils.

Annelise Bakri reported that the school does not have the resources to engage directly in pursuing exchanges with Vaison-la-Romaine (see Minutes February 2025). However, the Chair felt that other youth groups, such as sports clubs, the Rubber Chicken Theatre group or the Scouts, might be interested.

Peter Swindon flagged up that the PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) scheme has changed which might be an issue if accompanying children not your own to events.

Community Action Plan (CAP) The Chair reported that, as part of the funding grant received from the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) by the community council to support the formulation of the Local Place Plan (LPP), the final report was evaluated and it was agreed that the funds were used appropriately. The CLLD suggested further projects which might attract funding: a bike repair station; a light and sculpture park along the

river, and paths to the primary school. Council Wilson commented that the Council has allocated funds in its budget for core paths.

Calum Thomson, with reference to The Bank, queried what constitutes a community group and Councillor Tollemache reported that as it now has members, it is a recognisable community group.

When Peter Swindon reported that the steps on the chute in the Laighhills need repaired, Councillor Wilson agreed to pursue this. **Action: Councillor Wilson.**

Sports clubs meeting The Chair agreed to organise a meeting of youth groups at the end of January 2026, to discuss topics such as the proposed exchanges with Vaison-la-Romaine or the use of the Laighhills pavilion. Peter Swindon agreed to be involved. **Action: The Chair.**

Laighhills pavilion Anthony Delleur reported on the progress of formulating a viable plan for the building. Sports clubs are being contacted to gauge how and if they would use the changing rooms; otherwise other options will be pursued.

Dunblane Development Trust (DDT) The Extravaganza was very popular this year, although there were complaints about the food outlets causing traffic congestion. Jonathan Failes suggested greater collaboration with the High School next year. The new bakery at 1 High Street was unable to participate, as not given enough notice was given. Jonathan Failes suggested that a better organised time-line would be beneficial.

6. Environment/Sustainability

Community gardens Annelise Bakri reported on the Christmas party to be held at the garden at the High School on 12 December from 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and she requested that this be publicised on Facebook.

The Chair pointed out the initiative and awards of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Healthy Planet, Healthy People, which are given to projects to promote the health of individuals through healthy environments and to enable access to healthy foods. She suggested that the community council looked at how to distribute local food, first of all with small pilot schemes and then assessing the feedback from them - what people would prefer and how many people would use the facility. Funding for renting premises and help with school gardens would be required.

Greenspaces

Drumbrae After the meeting last month in Bridge of Allan, it was agreed that Rachael Rennert will invite Julie Wilson (Community Ranger on Edinburgh University's Drumbrae estate) to the next meeting in February. **Action: Rachael Rennert.** However, Calum Thomson was critical of the University's scheme of sequestering carbon by planting trees, an example of

what he termed greenwashing. He pointed out the uncertainty of what will happen at the end of the trees' life.

Kippendavie Forest Plan The Chair and Bridget Clark were able to walk round the area and pointed out that the bridge which used to form a link to Drumbrae and Lossburn Reservoir has been removed. Pheasants are also raised on an area which is fenced off with warning notices not to walk there. Bridget Clark has provided a map of rights of way, and the Chair felt there was a need to look at walkways and access.

Laighhills The Nature Restoration Officer, Zoe Niven, at the Council has committed to removing the dead trees in the Laighhills along with the redundant plastic tree tubes and bracken. It is planned to plant more trees in more suitable areas in the Laighhills.

Scouring burn and paddling pool Alan Booth contacted the Forth Rivers Trust and is meeting with them to look at the scouring burn upstream with a view to rewild, planting trees and taking out small scrapes. There is also a plan to divert the water from the spring to the old course of the Scouring Burn. No objections were raised to work on the paddling pool as long as it is done at the correct time. Alan Booth will circulate a date for this meeting to community councillors. **Action: Alan Booth.**

Sports pitches The cricket pitch is to be returfed. The Chair has met with Scott Bottomley from Dunblane Soccer Club. The Council has reviewed all pitches in their area. To address the requirements of the level of matches they play, the Soccer Club requires AstroTurf pitches and adequate parking. There is a need to renew the Astro Turf at the High School, given its age. The Chair pointed out the popularity of the Soccer Club and the issue of the changing rooms and toilets in the Laighhills.

7. Internal

Treasurer's Report: This has been delayed.

8. AOCB

The Chair intimated that she is due to stand down as Chair at the next AGM in June. It was agreed that she will contact Stephen Bly to get clarification about co-opting members onto the community council. **Action: The Chair.**

The Chair attended a meeting of the Informed Communities group of Chairs of community councils and reported on the presentation from the Resettlement Team on the settlement schemes in the area and the positive feedback from refugees settling here, and local communities. The Council is also reviewing its sports strategy.

Caroline McArthur agreed to keep an eye on Facebook posts when Karen Jenkins is away. **Action: Caroline McArthur.** She is also liaising with church groups in Dunblane.

The Chair met with a member of Poverty Alliance Scotland to discuss food provision and accessibility locally. It was agreed to ask the Council for data about the need in Dunblane, although it is recognised that many people will not come forward for help even when they need it. The Chair has been in contact with Dementia Friendly Dunblane to include them in this discussion, together with the High School and the churches. Councillor Wilson reported that the Scottish Government is shifting social care funding towards local authorities with greater poverty and deprivation, using socioeconomic factors, which could have a negative impact for areas like Stirling, and mean resources will be stretched even further.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dunblane community council will be held on Wednesday, 4 February, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the High School.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald..... Date ...13/12/25.....
Chair 

Rachael Rennert Date
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Secretary