

Dunblane Community Council

Rachael Muir
Secretary

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
Chair

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Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 3 September, 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), Rachel Nelson, Alan Booth, Anthony Delleur, Jonathan Failes (Vice-Chair), Calum Thomson, Caroline McArthur, Annelise Bakri, Fiona Plumtree, Peter Swindon. By Zoom: Stewart Corbett.

In attendance: PC Siobhan Rennie, PC David Collins, Councillors Alasdair Tollemache and David Wilson, David Whelan, Carol Anderson, John Paton, Jackie Pask, Bridget Clark, Andrew Powell, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary). By Zoom: Councillor Thomas Heald, Mairi Santolini (Parent Council, High School), and residents including Evan Simpson, Mike Brough, Amanda and Peter Hill, Laura Gajree, Hazel Martin and Peter Hill.

1. Apologies: Apologies have been received from Rachael Muir, Karen Jenkins and Councillor Robin Kleinman.

2. Conflicts of interest and Chairman’s remarks

The Chair intimated that, with reference to the proposed development of the Western Arc, she has an interest as she lives nearby.

3. Adoption of minutes of 6 August 2025, and matters arising

These were approved, proposed by Jonathan Failes and seconded by Anthony Delleur.

4. Residents’ Forum

5. Reports

Police Report: See attached.

With reference to two HGV drivers being charged with careless driving on colliding with a bollard at the Kinbuck bridge, Councillor Tollemache gave a full report on the circumstances, which are also included in the Operations

Report (see below) by Terence O'Byrne. The A9 northbound was closed over three nights (25-27 August) with diversions in place through Kinbuck. There were warning signs that HGV vehicles should divert via Lochearnhead but these were ignored by several drivers, causing chaos as they tried to reverse from the bridge. The damage to the bridge also caused the C48 to be temporarily suspended. Councillor Tollemache urged Amey, the Council, Transport Scotland and the Police to work together to ensure this predictable situation did not recur in future when the A9 is blocked, by having personnel in place to turn HGV drivers round before they reached the Kinbuck bridge. He has also written to Mark Russell MSP about this situation and about issues at the Keir roundabout where drivers are losing control and coming off the carriageway. The layout of the lanes and exits was blamed together with a poor road surface, encouraging fast driving. The Chair also highlighted the problem of vehicles, especially longer ones with caravans, travelling north on the A9 and crossing the central reservation to the Shell garage, thus blocking the fast lane. Councillor Tollemache said this has previously been reported to Transport Scotland. A fault with the phasing of the traffic lights at Sunnyside has been mended, but, following a suggestion from Fiona Plumtree that the red light on the B8033 be shielded, Councillor Tollemache agreed to look at this. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Speedwatch With reference to setting up a Speedwatch group (see Minutes August 2025), applicants are waiting to be vetted and trained. David Whelan had submitted a Freedom of Information request and discovered that the Fife scheme is not operating because of delays in the vetting procedure. It is still not known what funding Police Scotland will provide but the Council has offered hi-vis vests and signage. However, the biggest outlay is the purchase of a police-approved camera. David Whelan has the offer of a reconditioned one and is prepared to spend £200 to secure it until such time as the training process is complete. Councillor Tollemache agreed to help him with fund-raising while the Chair suggested that other groups, such as parent councils, schools and Dementia Friendly Dunblane would also be interested in being involved. Stewart Corbett also suggested that the Speedwatch group could apply to the Windfarm Grant committee. David Whelan asked if the public liability insurance required by the Speedwatch group would be covered by the community council's insurance, but this was not felt to be possible. He then asked if the group could indicate that they had the support of the community council as well as the police. Alan Booth felt the best solution is for the Council to instal speed cameras, and also questioned whether having people policing speeding drivers in their own communities was a good idea, as there have been problems with participants in other areas becoming unpopular. However, as this was the only solution immediately available, a majority agreed that the community council would support the Speedwatch initiative.

PC Collins reported that the policy of Police Scotland is that the enforcing of the 20 mph limit is not routinely enforced unless near schools or accident spots. Councillor Tollemache reported that the Public Safety Committee agreed that fixed speed cameras were the best solution to stop speeding but

the criteria for installing them are very strict, and the chances of their being approved for Dunblane is remote. Councillor Wilson reported that Falkirk Council have their own speed camera, with fines going directly to the local authority.

When Stewart Corbett suggested the use of 'active' speed signage, Alan Booth reported that the Council has already refused these as being too expensive. David Whelan said it took too long for the Council to replace speed signs on Doune Road when the limits were changed or to repair worn out rumble strips. A speed survey in Doune Road undertaken in December 2022 (See Minutes April 2023) found that 15% of traffic was travelling at over 29 mph but, since then, no further monitoring has taken place. The Chair agreed with Peter Swindon's suggestion that the community council help with campaigning and petitioning the Council, for example for the repair of the rumble strips. She agreed to organise a meeting with interested groups, such as parent councils, and residents to raise the matter of road safety, and Safe Routes to schools. **Action: The Chair.**

Councillor Tollemache understood the frustration of David Whelan with the Council, in his attempts over several years to get measures in place to prevent speeding vehicles on Doune Road and reiterated his support for Speedwatch as being the only option available, although not the only option.

Caroline McArthur asked what happened to the data collected by Speedwatch and was informed that the data is sent to the police, and not kept by the Speedwatch group. The police then send out a letter to the driver but no criminal procedures ensue. She felt that data from before and after the setting up of Speedwatch would provide evidence of its effectiveness.

Operations report: See attached.

The Chair thanked Terence O'Byrne for his work in producing the report. She reported she had received an email from Councillor Kleinman about telephone wires round Ochiltree being accidentally cut; this has now been resolved.

Planning report: See attached.

Ledcameroch Bridget Clark added the objection that the proposed house would prevent access to the network of paths there.

Firs of Kinbuck The Chair reported that community councils along the A9 will work together to highlight traffic safety issues.

Cambushinnie substation The Chair intimated that, although this falls within Perth and Kinross Council area, the community council has objected in principle.

Windburn 2 windfarm The Chair reported that the closing date for submissions is 10 September. The Chair highlighted the problem of construction traffic, while Alan Booth said that as the biodiversity of the site

was fairly high disturbance should be minimised. The Chair also queried the need for this windfarm while there is a backlog of grid development and bottlenecks in the local distribution system. She reminded the meeting that the position of the community council to this development focuses on the visibility of the tips of the turbines from various points in Dunblane, and the community benefit which would, therefore, accrue to Dunblane. She also noted the disturbance caused by construction and maintenance traffic while Stewart Corbett raised the potential impact of tourism in the Ochil hills.

Western arc development (See minutes August 2025.) The Chair repeated that, until a planning application has been submitted by Dandara, the community council is unable to comment. Peter Hill gave a brief overview of the campaign 'No to the Western Arc development' and its growing support. The previous evening, a meeting was held in St Mary's hall to discuss the environmental impact of the development proposal and he agreed to send a summary of the meeting to the community council. **Action: Peter Hill.** With reference to the Local Development Plan being formulated by the Council, he said the campaign is focusing on the 'call for ideas' and he is meeting with Council officers on 23 September to find out more about the process, before submitting a response before the closing date of 31 October.

Elected members' reports

Councillor Tollemache reported that, at last, the 40 mph speed limit on the Dunblane to Kinbuck road has taken effect.

Councillor Wilson reported that funding has been withdrawn from walking events, such as the Dementia Friendly Health Walk, organised by Active Stirling in Dunblane, and he is trying to secure money for this. He reported that the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) dispute should be resolved shortly. He is willing to ask the head of the IJB to speak to the community council.

Councillor Heald has dealt with the problem of a delivery company including Dunblane in the more expensive Highland area.

Calum Thompson asked Councillor Heald, in the light of an article he had written criticising the route of the proposed walking, wheeling and cycling route between Stirling and Bridge of Allan, whether he would also object to the suggested route between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane (See Minutes April 2025). However, Councillor Heald, pointed out that his comments about the proposals around Keir Street in Bridge of Allan were not relevant to the second phase of the route to Dunblane, and he would not comment on this until he had seen the designs. When Alan Booth queried the delay in publicising the latter, Bridget Clark reported that consultation will take place but other priorities have taken precedence. Councillor Tollemache suggested the community council ask the Council for an update.

Community

Local Place Plan (LPP) The Chair reported that everyone in the community is invited to a drop-in session at the Library on 9 September and that the draft

Local Place Plan will be circulated before then. She is asking for feedback with comments being incorporated into the final draft version by 16 September. This will then be distributed more widely to Councillors, neighbouring community councils and stakeholders. Feedback on this will be incorporated into the final version to be submitted to Stirling Council by 31 October. Initial results from the survey indicate a lack of support for large-scale developments, especially in the Green Belt and the need for greater transport accessibility. Peter Hill informed the meeting that the Green Belt in Scotland is currently up for review in Local Development Plans and Stirling Council will have to take this into consideration.

Community Action Plan (CAP) The calendar including community council's events is available on the dunblane.info page. At present, Dunblane does not have a CAP. The Chair hopes to organise specific meetings with specific groups within Dunblane to focus on specific topics and to that end, a questionnaire will be put out to publicise this. For example, she reported that funding for food banks has been cut and she has already met with the Council team which deals with food security. She hoped that this could be the subject of one of these meetings. She noted that when the Cathedral had started providing lunches, they were not as popular as expected; perhaps to do with difficulties of transport or delivery. She is going to put other topics into the diary, such as food growing, accessibility, or issues affecting the different sports clubs. The first of these focussed initiatives will be Apple Day on 12 September (see below) and it is hoped to find more people interested in maintaining the community orchards.

Schools Jonathan Failes reported on the High School's community day on 28 August. He has been invited to participate in the school's Leadership Academy and has invited members of the Rotary Club to provide mentoring. The Chair reported that it had been a very useful day with community groups represented. She had discussed the Local Place Plan and how High School pupils and teachers could work together with the community council. Mairi Santolini thanked the Chair and Jonathan Failes for their input.

Dunblane Development Trust (DDT) Stewart Corbett reported that funding to improve the Braeport Centre, by installing accessible toilets, is being sought. The date for applications for the Windfarm grants and small grants funds will close soon and new trustees are needed. With reference to the Laighhills pavilion, the DDT is drawing up a business plan and looking at funding. It is involving local sports bodies to see if they would use the facilities.

Environment/Sustainability

Apple Day The Chair reported that apple picking day will be on 10 September, with Apple Day taking place on 12 September. This will involve pupils from the primary schools and the High School juicing apples at the High School, with everyone welcome from 3 p.m. People are encouraged to bring their own apples. A questionnaire will be distributed about food growing. DCC also is supporting the allotments as they aim to rebuild the

summerhouse there. The Chair supports the idea of a community kitchen; for example, a professional chef could be invited for a community chutney making event, making use of the available apples.

Laighhills When Alan Booth reported that Stewart Corbett has asked for support to set up a Friends of the Laighhills group, the community council agreed to support this initiative.

Internal

Correspondence, communications A problem persists in shared document storage but will be resolved shortly.

Treasurer's Report: See attached.

6. AOCB

Councillor Tollemache agreed to send Alan Booth contact details of Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE) with regards to help with funding.

Action: Councillor Tollemache. It was agreed that the community council will support the DDT's funding application for Changing Places toilet facilities.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dunblane community council will be held on Wednesday, 1 October, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Library, Dunblane.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald Date ...25.9.25...
Chair

Jonathan Failes Date
.....
Vice-Chair