

Dunblane Community Council

Rachael Muir
Secretary

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
Chair

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Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 4 June, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Library, Dunblane. This is a “blended” meeting, with some attendees joining by Zoom.

Present: Ana Jarchow-MacDonald (Chair), Rachael Muir (Secretary), Jonathan Failes (Vice-Chair), Alan Booth, Peter Swindon, Jonthan Delleur, Karen Jenkins. By Zoom: Stewart Corbett (Treasurer).

In attendance: Councillors Alasdair Tollemache, David Wilson and Thomas Heald, Steve Mason, Mairi Santolini (Parent Council, High School), Caroline McArthur, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Rachel Nelson, Calum Thomson, Annelise Bakri, Councillor Robin Kleinman and the Police.

2. Conflicts of interest

There were no stated conflicts of interest.

3. Adoption of minutes of 7 May 2025 and matters arising

The minutes were approved, proposed by the Chair and seconded by Alan Booth.

The Chair will arrange a meeting with Ailsa Gray to discuss traffic accident rates on the A9.

4. Residents' Forum and current topics

High Street closure Notice has been given that the High Street is going to be closed from 16 to 27 June to facilitate public utility works. Councillor Tollemache has spoken to every trader but they have not received advance warning and he foresaw difficulties with deliveries to the shops. He stressed that the fault is with the utility company, not the Council, and he is querying whether the closure has to last for so long. The Councillors are working together to find a solution and he will keep the Chair updated. The Chair

suggested that maintenance works in the town could be flagged up on dunblane.info, so that the utility company could tap into local knowledge in advance to prevent unnecessary work or long disruptions. Councillor Wilson proposed writing to the Scottish Government asking that utility companies inform community councils of any planned works. Alan Booth stressed that the cobbled surface be reinstated on completion of the works.

5. Reports

Police Report: See attached.

The Chair has asked the Police to attend a community council meeting to discuss the enforcement of the 20 mph speed limit. Alan Booth also pointed out the importance of finding out the total number of traffic accidents, not just those recorded as traffic offences. An occasional assessment of the type and number of crimes would also be useful. The Chair suggested that if the timing of council meetings makes it difficult for police officers to attend, then a separate meeting with them could be arranged to discuss the reports.

Councillor Tollemache reported that the first steps in setting up a Speedwatch group in Dunblane have been taken. Potential sites are going to be looked at next week and he asked for suggestions to be sent to him. There are strict criteria of what this entails. The equipment has to be calibrated, three people will be on duty together, and the data is then taken back to the police who will contact drivers. There is no legal basis behind this and no criminal procedures will ensue. Volunteers will be trained and insured. Funds are being raised and the Chair noted that a wider fund raising programme in Dunblane would increase awareness. Some community councillors were critical that the police were not dealing with speeding themselves, but Councillor Tollemache reported that there was a lack of capacity in the police force to carry this out.

Questions were asked about installing speed cameras and Councillor Tollemache suggested that the community council contact the Safety Camera Partnership, and submit a request for cameras in Dunblane. He noted that a recent speed survey undertaken on the Doune Road found speeding but not at a high enough incidence to trigger camera installation.

Planning Report : See attached.

Ledcameroch The Chair is going to send an overview of planning policies next week to look at the application in the light of the new information about policies that was learned at the training meeting with Sharon Marklow from the Council. **Action: The Chair.**

Bakery in the High Street This is going ahead and Councillor Tollemache has made contact with the planning manager and the owner.

Old Churches House With reference to this building being converted to three houses, Councillor Wilson pointed out the difficulty of charging electric cars outside such properties or flats. Potential parking restrictions will be

clarified by him and Councillor Tollemache. **Action: Councillors Wilson and Tollemache.**

Operations Report: See attached.

Ramoyle New road markings are in place but there is some confusion, and Councillor Tollemache is going to discuss this further with the Roads Manager.

Councillor Tollemache reported that the cobbles have been reinstated on the High Street/Beech Road.

One-day closure of Claredon Place in the summer There are concerns about traffic management and Councillor Tollemache confirmed this is investigated.

Elected members' reports Councillor Wilson reported that, with reference to the difficulties facing the Integration Joint Board (IJB), there will be a meeting at the end of June to discuss its future and its possible break-up. He is also raising the issue of the lack of facilities and the delays in diagnosis for neuro-diverse children, with the prospect of future behavioural problems impacting society. Forth Valley Health Board has launched a survey to ask for people's views and he encouraged everyone to participate in this. Karen Jenkins agreed to publicise this on the community council's Facebook page. **Action: Karen Jenkins.** When he reported on the need for new Council housing in Dunblane and Bridge of Allan, Alan Booth informed him that the land at the end of Whitecross Avenue should have reverted to Stirling Council on completion of the Barbush development. He agreed to send details to Councillor Wilson. **Action: Alan Booth.**

Councillor Wilson has applied for Bridge of Allan and Dunblane to get a community bank hub, which would take over a property, and where all the branches would be represented. He will send an update next week. **Action: Councillor Wilson.**

Councillor Tollemache reported that new signs publicising Dunblane as the home of the Murray brothers will be erected by the end of July.

Community

Local Place Plan (LPP) The format of the LPP has still be to be decided. It was noted that the support from Imagine If has been very helpful. With reference to the Laighhills pavilion, people want this resolved, especially in view of the lack of toilet facilities in the Laighhills. The Chair indicated that the next step is a session with Imagine If to decide on the priorities for the LPP. A further session with Imagine If will be to learn about further ways to engage with the wider community. She will send out a preliminary report. **Action: The Chair.** If the LPP states a clear vision of what funding is needed for in Dunblane, then it is easier to be successful in funding applications.

Schools Mairi Santolini reported on the outstanding success of the High School Lego robotics team, which is the only Scottish team to go forward to the next stage of the Lego League World Robotics International competition in Massachusetts. They have raised the necessary funding themselves, and she thanked everyone for their support. The Chair suggested that, with teams from the other schools in Stirling region, one of the regional competitions could be held in Dunblane in the future, and Mairi Santolini agreed to discuss with Mr McKenzie at the High School the possibility of organising regional events. Peter Swindon suggested this could be rolled out to primary schools as well.

The Chair noted the development of Dunblane as a creative hub and this would be an innovative way of including young people.

Dunblane Development Trust (DDT) Stewart Corbett reported that the DDT is looking to appoint a new lead for the Windfarm Fund committee and he encouraged everyone to consider becoming a member. The funds to be disbursed by this committee will be increased by funds from the Giving Tree shop in the High Street. The DDT is also looking for new trustees for the Giving Tree and for the DDT itself. When he invited the community council to nominate a trustee, it was agreed to propose Anthony Delleur. Stewart Corbett will be in touch with him. **Action: Stewart Corbett.**

Environment/Sustainability

High School Garden The Chair reported that the garden will be open to the community on 20 June from noon to 4 p.m. and Mairi Santolini commended all the work undertaken with the pupils by Annelise Bakri and other volunteers. The Chair reported that there is an increased interest in including ecology in the curriculum in Scotland.

Dogs There have been reports of dogs not under control and the Chair said a community-wide conversation on dogs and green spaces would be helpful in increasing understanding and reported that a dog owner group is forming in Dunblane.

Litter Councillor Wilson raised the problem of litter, with cans being shredded by Council grass cutters and causing injury. Councillor Tollemache stressed that litter should be lifted before grass cutting, although he commended the Council policy of not lifting cut grass until the autumn in order to increase biodiversity.

However, heavy tractors had been used to lift the grass, causing damage to wet ground. Councillors Wilson and Tollemache agreed there is a need for a whole park strategy. There is a litter picking group in Dunblane and Stirling, and individuals who clear litter in the Laighhills. Contact has been made with the Council requesting better litter-picking tools, bags and hi-vis vests but no progress has been made so far. **Action: The Chair.**

Forestry Part of the Drumbrae woodland being created by the University of Edinburgh is a community woodland, Cocksburn Woods. The Chair and Alan Booth are going to attend a meeting to discuss how the community makes use of this.

Internal

Communication The Secretary is working on setting up a OneDrive storage folder for community council documents.

Treasurer's Report: See attached. The Treasurer is querying the £4 per month bank charge.

6. AOCB

Cultural map The Secretary reported that a trader in the town is looking for support to publish a cultural map of Dunblane, highlighting the cultural assets of the town. A funding application has a deadline later this week. It was suggested that the map include shops and cafés but it was felt that this map, to have longevity, should concentrate on cultural aspects only. The community council is in support of this and the Chair will send a letter of support. **Action: The Chair.**

Social media When Councillor Wilson reported that Dunblane social media posts hateful comments anonymously, Councillor Tollemache agreed to contact the administrators to discuss this.

Braemar playpark The Councillors are trying to get clarification over the funding of the new equipment (see Minutes, May 2025). The Chair reported that there are wild orchids seeding themselves at the playpark. A new Biodiversity Officer has been appointed by the Council and Councillor Tollemache agreed to invite him to speak to the community council. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

High Street traders When Caroline McArthur asked if there is a traders' group so they could be represented at meetings, she was informed that there is not one at present.

New member It was agreed that, having fulfilled the qualification of attending three meetings as a co-opted member, full membership be offered to Caroline McArthur, which she accepted. More co-opted members can now be appointed although it was agreed not to advertise at present. There is an open invitation for High School students to attend community council meetings.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dunblane community council will take place on Wednesday, 6 August, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Library, Dunblane.

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald Date
Chair

Rachael Muir Date
Secretary