

Dunblane Community Council

Alan Booth
Acting Secretary

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
Chair

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Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 5 February 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 (Interim Secretary), Anthony Delleur, Karen Jenkins, Rachel Nelson, Rachael Muir, Annelise Bakri, Calum Thomson, Peter Swindon, Fiona Plumtree.

In attendance: Bridget Clark, Liz-Anne Richards, Carlotta Canavesio, David Whelan, Councillors Alasdair Tollemache, David Wilson and Robin Kleinman, Emma Taylor (Minute Taker). By Zoom: Mairi Santolini (Parent Council, Dunblane High School), Andrew Ross-Oliver (Pupil Council, Dunblane High School), Stuart MacKay (Headteacher, Dunblane High School), Jill MacKay (Head of Arts, Health and Wellbeing, Dunblane High School), Margaret Bragg, Steve Mason, Councillor Thomas Heald; and the following representatives from Vaison-la-Romaine – Jean Charles Raufast, Oliver Blanchoz, Patrick Neyrat and Caroline Keys.

Apologies Apologies have been received from Caroline McArthur and Stewart Corbett.

2. Chair’s Remarks and Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest. All attendees agreed to recording the meeting for minute-taking purposes, which will later be deleted.

3. Adoption of minutes and matters arising

These were approved, proposed by Rachel Nelson and seconded by Annelise Bakri.

4. Presentation from Representatives from Vaison-la-Romaine

Jean-Charles Raufast gave a brief overview of the shared history of Dunblane and Vaison, through the Bishops Chisholm, about whom he has written a book. The town is eager to have a partnership with an English-speaking town and he reported that the Mayor is fully supportive of this initiative.

Vaison and its surrounding villages has a population of about 16,000 and attracts tourists for its wildlife, Roman ruins, vineyards, and cyclists, thanks to the route of the Tour de France passing through the town. It is also known for the flood of 1992 which killed 42 people. It is close to Orange and Avignon train stations and is served by the airports of Nimes and Marseilles. It is famous for its annual dance festival and its choir festival, Choralies, held this year and every three years since 1953.

Olivier Blanchoz spoke about Choralies, the choir festival, which attracts 4,000-5,000 singers from all over the world, bringing amateurs and professionals together for workshops and concerts over eight days in the summer. It is run by 450 volunteers who take care of the logistics and organisation. He encouraged everyone to follow the links on the internet. He invited Dunblane choirs or some members of them to attend and participate. In reply to a question from the Chair asking about accommodation for young people, she was assured that accommodation would be provided with families and they would be well taken care of and supervised.

Patrick Neyrat is Chairman of the Association of Friends of the Cathedral and is keen to restore the historical link with Dunblane. He has been to the Leighton Library and met with representatives there and he mentioned a collection of books near Vaison. There is also a portrait of the last Bishop Chisholm in Vaison.

Jean Charles Raufast also spoke about the possibility of an exchange programme with school pupils, and Stuart MacKay, Headteacher of Dunblane High School, expressed interest in senior pupils being involved. Jill MacKay (Head of Arts, Health and Wellbeing at the High School) was very keen to support this in any way. Caroline Keys, originally from Belfast but now living in Vaison, reported that children and parents in Vaison were interested in promoting the exchange and she was willing to be a point of contact for any parents from Dunblane with concerns and questions. Mairi Santolini from the Parent Council at the High School is going to contact Caroline Keys to exchange ideas between the schools.

Councillor Tollemache said the Council is also willing to help.

The Chair thanked the Vaison representatives for their contribution. She has also contacted other groups in Dunblane who might be interested in such a partnership and exchanges, such as sport, gardening, people involved in the Fling, Open Studios, Rubber Chicken and various music groups. She suggested that instead of looking for one overall co-ordinator, the various interested groups should seek their own co-ordinators to progress links and exchanges with Vaison.

5. Residents' Forum and current topics

Stirling Council Budget Conversation 2025-26 Last year, Stirling Council held an engagement event at the High School to publicise this, but this year everything was online. The community councillors agreed to hold a public

meeting, with Zoom available, to bring together residents and elected members, in the Library at 7 p.m. on 19 February, the week before the Council debates the budget. It was felt that the public did not know enough about the process of setting the budget and it is important to know the deeper impacts of the proposals. It was also agreed that questions should be submitted by email at least 30 minutes before the start of the meeting and made available to elected members. These would be assessed for relevance by a moderator. It would be useful if the Council could provide a summary of the budget process and the basis for the various proposals. Councillor Wilson pointed out that some choices are not within the Council's control and this is poorly understood by the general public. Councillor Tollemache pointed out that the motion, outlining the proposed budget, will not be known by the 19th.

It was agreed that there should be an introduction at the meeting to provide information on the budget process and the pressures on the Council. Everyone should be reminded that there should be no political grandstanding. The meeting needs to be well publicised.

6. Reports

Police Report: The Chair will circulate this.

Councillor Tollemache reported on a traffic accident between a car and cyclist between M&S and the Keir roundabout.

Planning Report: See attached.

The Chair thanked Terence O'Byrne for the work he has done as planning correspondent, a role he has now stepped down from, this being his final report. She asked for nominations for the vacancy and it was agreed that Callum Thomson will take over this role. Terence O'Byrne has agreed to liaise with him.

With reference to the change of use from salon/retail to a bakery/food and drink at 1-3 High Street, the applicant, Carlotta Canavesio, addressed the meeting, detailing the plans, which can be found on the Council website. She sees herself as getting involved with the community and community events and using local produce as much as possible. The space is quite restricted and a small commercial kitchen will have to be built. There has been one objection to the appearance of the flue to be erected on the side and the architect is also dealing with questions of accessibility. It was agreed that the community council should support this new venture in otherwise empty commercial premises and the Chair agreed to discuss with Terence O'Byrne how to communicate this to the Council planners. **Action: The Chair.**

Operations Report: See attached.

It was agreed that Terence O'Byrne continue producing the Operations Report as an Associate Member of the community council, and there have been no objections to this from the Council.

Blocked paths After Storm Éowyn, reports of trees blocking paths had been dealt with by the Council. Councillor Tollemache will pass on any reports of blocked paths to the Access Officer. Alan Booth also informed him that Dandara has closed a path.

Ramoyle traffic proposals Councillor Tollemache has queried the projected costs of the Council proposals and is awaiting a reply from Council officers.

Kinbuck road The 20 mph restriction has been approved but no decision has yet been reached about the proposed 40 mph restriction.

Zebra crossings on the Doune Road and Old Doune Road These were delayed due to an electricity supply issue, but Councillor Wilson reported that they should be operational by 20 February. A suggestion was made by David Whelan that the police attend when the lollipop crossing patrols are withdrawn, to supervise the changes in parking. Councillor Tollemache agreed to follow this up with the police. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Kinbuck Bridge Councillor Tollemache reported that although repairs will be carried out, if the A9 were to be diverted onto this route again it is likely that damage to the parapet by large vehicles will recur.

Community

Local Place Plan (LPP) Jonathan Failes has stepped back from this and Anthony Delleur is taking over as lead. There has been a delay in getting paperwork signed over the agreed funding for the support available from Imagine If, and the latter has changed the scope of what it can provide to the community council. It is necessary to look at how to realistically achieve a report before the October deadline which reflects the opinion of the community. The results of the survey will be looked at over the next month and it was suggested that three workshops be held based on this:

March - The first will involve different groups in Dunblane to find out what they would like to see more of in the town.

May - The second will involve the wider public.

September - This will be a public meeting to publicise the draft report.

In response to a query from Alan Booth, the Chair agreed to contact funders as an extension will be required because of the delays in the paperwork. The Chair encouraged other community councillors to get involved and get in touch with her and Anthony Delleur. **Action: The Chair.**

Schools The Chair thanked Andrew Ross-Oliver, a pupil representative from the High School, for attending this meeting by Zoom. Mairi Santolini reported that the school is involved with Ecofest which runs from 28 April for two weeks at St Mary's church, building on the school's participation last year. Every school department is developing good sustainability practices. This also includes discussing sustainable routes to school and Andrew Ross-Oliver said he would pass on information gathered from pupils on what they

feel are safe ways to get to school. He was advised not to use the phrase 'safer routes to school' as this is a designated term used by the Council.

The Chair noted that it is hoped pupils will attend future meetings of the community council.

Environment/Sustainability

Community gardens and orchards Alan Booth reported that the charity, Orchard Revival, is interested in supporting Blossom Day, which could also be linked with Ecofest.

Forestry With reference to the forestry planting at Drumbrae by the University of Edinburgh (see Minutes, December 2024), the Chair repeated concerns about fencing and Councillor Tollemache has received a complaint about access to the Dumyat path which he is taking forward. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.** The Chair agreed to contact the community council of Bridge of Allan to discuss this. **Action: The Chair.** She also raised the idea of foraging by primary school children.

Internal

Correspondence Report Alan Booth will circulate this after the meeting.

7. AOCB

Callum Thomson raised concerns that too much time was spent on the presentation from Vaison which could have been better dealt with in a separate meeting, resulting in the late finishing of the meeting.

Appointment of Secretary Councillor Tollemache took over the running of the election of Secretary and asked for nominations.

Rachael Muir was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Alan Booth, and there being no other nominations, was duly elected unanimously by community councillors. As she is at present a co-opted member, she will stand as Interim Secretary until she becomes a full member.

Councillor Tollemache handed the meeting back to the Chair.

Burgh Chambers Because of the late running of the meeting Steve Mason had had to leave before giving his update on the progress of Creative Dunblane, and defibrillators. He circulated a brief report by email later and intends to attend the next meeting of the community council.

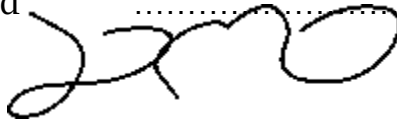
8. Date, time and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Dunblane community council will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 March, 2025, in the Library, Dunblane.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
...27/2/25.....
Chair



Date

Alan Booth
.....
Acting Secretary

Date