

Dunblane Community Council

Rachael Muir
Secretary

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
Chair

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Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 5 March, 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), Rachael Muir (Secretary), Karen Jenkins, Annelise Bakri, Peter Swindon, Jonthan Failes. By Zoom: Alan Booth.

In attendance: Councillors Alasdair Tollemache, Robin Kleinman and David Wilson, Steve Mason, Liz-Anne Richard, Catherine McKay, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary), and residents including: Irene Milne, Christine MacLean, Colin MacKenzie and Lyn Mathieson. By Zoom: Councillor Thomas Heald, Imaan Betteridge and Angus Cockayne from the High School and other residents.

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Calum Thomson, Rachel Nelson, Caroline McArthur, Fiona Plumtree and Bridget Clark.

2. Conflicts of interest and Chair’s Remarks There are no conflicts of interest. The Chair intimated that two High School pupils are attending by Zoom to give a presentation to the community council on The Rights Respecting Schools award scheme.

3. Adoption of minutes of 5 February 2025 and matters arising

These were approved, proposed by Karen Jenkins and seconded by Peter Swindon.

4. Residents’ Forum and current topics

Update on 2025-26 Council budget Although not many people attended the public meeting organised by the community council on 19 February, the Chair felt that it had been useful in bringing community councillors, elected members and the public together. The Budget has now been decided and publicised, with council tax rising by 8.8%. However, certain services, such as support for mental health of young people, have been retained. Councillor

Wilson raised concerns that the overspend on the healthcare system, part of the Council expenditure, was not publicised.

Start-up Dunblane visit report Karen Jenkins reported on a visit she, Peter Swindon, and the Chair made to Start-up Stirling and the discussion they had with its co-ordinator. People have to be referred to the service for an initial period of three weeks. During this period, they are given support to help them improve their situation; they have to interact with this otherwise they will lose services. As some find it difficult to transition to the next step, there is now a café they can attend which provides continuing support, including the attendance of a trained psychologist. Some may go into temporary accommodation and require household goods and bedding. Many families with children rely on the Start-up foodbank.

Start-up Stirling is run almost entirely by volunteers and it was suggested that community councillors could help, especially at Christmas. It also needs more donations of food and money. The Chair felt that there should be more done to raise awareness and the work of Start-up Stirling could be publicised at The Fling and Blossom Day. Councillor Tollemache reminded the meeting that, during lock-down, help was given in Bridge of Allan to those who had slipped through the safety net, and pointed out that it can be difficult to find out who needs help in Dunblane.

The Chair said that the visit with the co-ordinator had been very useful and they were keen to work with community councils.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award The Chair welcomed Imaan Betteridge and Angus Cockayne, school captains, to the meeting to speak on the High School's aim to achieve the silver award of The Rights Respecting Schools, having been awarded the bronze award last year. This initiative is run by UNICEF and more information can be found on its website. The school is concentrating on five rights: the right of a child to know children's rights; to education; not to face discrimination; to respect children's views; and to relaxation and rest. There will be an accreditation visit in April after which they hope to be awarded the silver award. When the Chair asked if they were linking in with other schools, they confirmed they were in communication with the other secondary schools in the region, but not with primary schools. With reference to the Council budget, the Chair pointed out that impact assessments measured against the list of the rights of the child have been informative. Imaan Betteridge reported that they were unaware of the budget proposals until they had conversations with community council members, which they felt were useful. The Chair thanked Annelise Bakri and Jonathan Failes for going into the school and connecting with the young people. She also thanked the pupils for attending and invited them to return.

Burgh Chambers and Creative Dunblane update Steve Mason gave a brief report on the progress so far in negotiating a lease from Stirling Council; this should be finalised by 1 April. It is hoped to expand the co-working spaces

to accommodate 23 people, who might otherwise be isolated working at home. The provision of a community room is also part of the plans. Funding from various sources has been awarded and Steve Mason highlighted the £15,000 received as a Stirling Council's Premises Improvement Grant to tackle the problem of dampness. He said the use of the building will develop with time, bringing people to work together.

In response to questions, Steve Mason said that, because it is listed, any work on the outside of the building is very restricted. After the lease is agreed, more information will be provided on the website. The Digital Makerspace is a separate organisation.

The Chair said the building is now a welcoming space in the middle of the community, which has taken a lot of effort and care. The existence of this community initiative was noted when the community council applied for funding for workshops for the Local Place Plan, and the community council should consider how it can continue its support.

Path closure near the Dandara Wallace View development Colin MacKenzie spoke on behalf of residents who are unhappy that access to an established, well used path to Wanderwrang Wood has been obstructed by the closure of an existing path at the development. This had not been in the final plans for the site and the construction of a fence to block the gate happened after complaints from some of the new residents. Walkers now have to use a muddy, unsafe path among tree roots, which cyclists are unable to use at all. He has provided sketches of two possible solutions and has sent details to the Council. He asked the community council to approach Dandara Developments to support the plan for a safe path to Wanderwrang Woods.

Councillor Tollemache has met with the Council's Access Officer and Dandara to find a solution. The suggestion that a new path is constructed between the existing stone wall and the new fence, without encroaching on the new planting, together with the construction of a small picket fence to deter walkers from taking shortcuts too close to the new houses was discussed by the community council. The Chair said the next step would be to discuss this with Dandara.

Residents of the new development close to the path have felt that their privacy has often not been respected and they have felt threatened. Photos and negative comments have been posted on Facebook until they were deleted. This has been upsetting for new residents making their homes in Dunblane. The community council expects everyone in the community to treat others with respect and this behaviour was condemned.

The Chair summarised that it is important to find a solution for safe access for everyone to Wanderwrang Woods and to that end discussions should be ongoing with the Council's Access Officer and Dandara

5. Reports

Police report: The Chair will circulate this. With reference to the accident involving a cyclist Councillor Tollemache reported last month, because there were no broken bones, it is not reported as an accident in the police report. He agreed to follow this up with the Public Safety Committee regarding the guidance given to the Police. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Planning report: This will be circulated.

It was agreed that any important planning issue would have its own short tracker to follow its progress.

With reference to the planning application for a bakery/food and drink premises at 1 High Street, the Chair has contacted the planning department to express support for this, as agreed at last month's meeting of the council.

Bridget Clark has sent an email to notify the community council of an application for a low carbon refuelling hub at Balhaldie.

Operations Report: See attached.

Kinbuck Bridge repair Councillor Tollemache reported that the bridge is due to be repaired at the end of April. He noted, however, that the bridge is regularly damaged by traffic, especially when the A9 is closed.

Ramoyle traffic proposals Councillor Tollemache reported that the costs for this work are estimated as well above the original £35,000. Budgets are very tight. Officers are working on the proposals to be in budget.

Winter gritting Councillor Tollemache confirmed the change of priority for gritting for the first section of Barbusch would remain a priority 1 while Braemar Avenue would change to a priority 2. The Council website has still to be updated.

Claredon Place utility works Utility works were carried out by BT but the traffic management with two sets of traffic lights at a weekend was chaotic.

Telegraph poles Terence O'Byrne emailed a list of new telegraph poles being erected in Dunblane. It was stressed that there should be greater information given to the public about the works, even though BT and Virgin might be working together on this. Councillor Wilson said that BT is upgrading its infrastructure which might require new telegraph poles and reminded the meeting of the analogue switch-off in the near future.

Community

Local Place Plan (LPP) The Chair reported that Imagine If is to support the running of two workshops funded by Community Led Local Development (CLLD) grants.

Schools Peter Swindon reported that the Primary School will be holding its fete this year and Councillor Tollemache agreed to send him details of a contact from the Fling for information about raffle tickets.

Dunblane Development Trust (DDT) The Chair will have a meeting with the new Chair of the DDT, Stewart Corbett.

Connected Communities Report The Chair attended a meeting of Chairs of community councils at which she has been asked, with two others, to discuss communication between the Council and the wider community with a view to suggest improvements. Councillor David Wilson felt that the Council budget proposals should have been publicised earlier, and Councillor Alisdair Tollemache said it is vital for the community to know and discuss the work and financing of the Integration Joint Board. The Chair agreed she would raise this at the next meeting of the Connected Communities group. A schedule of discussion topics has been agreed including land ownership, paths and access, and volunteering. A meeting will be held between Stirling Council officers and Bridge of Allan and Dunblane community councils to discuss the Council's Common Good Fund.

Environment/Sustainability

Community gardens and orchards Annelise Bakri is going to give an update at the next meeting. **Action: Annelise Bakri.** Blossom Day is planned for May.

Forestry Councillor Tollemache has requested a response about access (see Minutes 5 February 2025).

Internal

Treasurer's Report: To be circulated.

Correspondence and Communication A meeting will be organised before the next meeting of the community council between the Chair, the Secretary and Jonathan Failes to discuss this. The Secretary suggested dedicated email addresses for the councillors to leave a clear trail so that not all the information is not in one place. She is also going to set up a WhatsApp group for quick communication. The Chair said the community council should consider about how it presents itself to the community and how to let residents know about what the community council does.

6. AOCB

Councillor Tollemache reported on the planned cycle track between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane, which has now been designated Phase 2 of the work, Phase 1 being between Causewayhead and Bridge of Allan. He has asked Council officers to give more information to the community council.

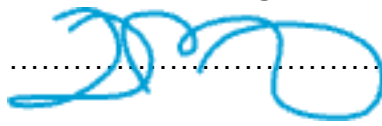
Councillor Wilson informed the meeting that, with the closure of the Bandeath Dog Shelter, the Dog Warden will send all unchipped dogs to Edinburgh.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dunblane community council will take place on Wednesday, 2 April, 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. 26.3.25
Chair



Rachael Muir Date
Secretary