

Dunblane Community Council

Rachael Muir
Secretary

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Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 5 November, 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, Stewart Corbett (Treasurer), Caroline McArthur, Jonathan Failes (Vice-Chair), Fiona Plumtree. By Zoom: Rachael Muir (Secretary).

In attendance: Councillor David Wilson, Liz-Anne Richards, Bridget Clark, Steve Mason, David Whelan, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary). By Zoom: Councillors Robin Kleinman and Alasdair Tollemache, Mairi Santolini (Parent Council, Dunblane High School), Peter Hill (Dunblane Western Greenbelt).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from the Police, Councillor Thomas Heald, Calum Thomson, Rachel Nelson, Peter Swindon, Annelise Bakri and Anthony Delleur.

2. Conflicts of interest and Chair's remarks

There were no stated conflicts of interest.

3. Adoption of minutes of 1 October 2025

Under the Police Report, Bridget Clark made the correction that there had not been an accident on the Glen Road but she was highlighting the danger of the possibility of one. With this correction, the minutes were approved, proposed by Karen Jenkins and seconded by Alan Booth.

4. Reports

Police Report: See attached.

With reference to a high-risk person reported missing, the Chair will request that the Police notify any future incidents of this sort to the community council for wider circulation to the wider public. **Action: The Chair.**

Speedwatch David Whelan reported that the group is applying for funding of equipment and the required insurances. The vetting forms have been submitted to the Police but they have been too busy to deal with them immediately. Councillor Tollemache has contacted the Police and he suggested a meeting with David Whelan, and Stewart Corbett to discuss this. The Chair is keen to involve the schools in Dunblane once the vetting process and liability insurance have been sorted out; David Whelan reported that a poster competition for school children on road safety is planned. Mairi Santolini commented that the Sustainable Routes Group at the High School would want to be involved as well.

Operations Report: See attached.

Kinbuck Bridge damage As the repair requires lime mortar to be used, this cannot be done during cold weather and will, therefore, be delayed until next year.

A9 closures There will be roadworks on the A9 southbound at Dunblane from 10 November to 5 December, with two overnight closures on 10 and 21 November when traffic will be diverted through Dunblane to the Keir roundabout. David Whelan pointed out that road works will also be taking place on Doune Road over this period. After the chaos in August when the A9 was closed, the necessity of discussions in advance with Amey, Transport Scotland and the Police to avoid such disruption was emphasised. Councillor Tollemache reported that the Council is contacting Amey and Transport Scotland. Alan Booth reminded the meeting that increased traffic through Dunblane because of diversions causes damage to the road surface, which the Council should raise with Amey. He agreed to send details to Councillor Tollemache. **Action: Alan Booth.** He also raised the issue of diverted traffic not observing speed limits but Police Scotland are constrained by lack of resources.

Alan Booth asked about the possibility of speed awareness signs and Councillor Wilson agreed to ask Stirling Council about the possibility of having them in Dunblane, for example at the top of the Old Doune Road. **Action: Councillor Wilson.**

Fiona Plumtree asked that the Council look at the poor road surface on Auchinlay Road and Councillor Tollemache, commenting that this has been raised before, will follow this up. He also agreed to check on the railway barrier at Springbank Crescent which she reported has fallen down. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.** With reference to the poor surface on the Old Doune Road, he agreed to find out if its repair can be rescheduled next year.

Traffic activated signs on Perth Road Councillor Tollemache has received complaints that these have not yet been installed, although they should have been erected at the same time as the speed limit was changed. He agreed to pursue this. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Keir roundabout Councillor Tollemache reported that there have been several minor accidents as people leave the roundabout heading to Stirling, as the slope of the road deceives them and the surface needs to have more grip. BEAR and Transport Scotland have agreed to resurface this exit later this month. The Chair enquired about air pollution at the Keir roundabout and if this could be measured. Transport Scotland undertook a safety survey at the roundabout in July and Councillor Tollemache agreed to publish it when it becomes available. He also agreed to give feedback to Mark Ruskell MSP.

Parking issues on Hillside Increased parking there on Saturdays, including parking on pavements is causing issues for residents. Councillor Tollemache agreed to follow this up. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Double yellow lines, Allanbank Road, Kinbuck The Council is proposing putting in double yellow lines and Councillor Tollemache is organising a meeting with residents to discuss this. The next Net Zero committee of the Council will meet in February. Councillor Tollemache commented that the Council can operate only with the consent of its residents, and agreed to keep the Chair updated.

Planning Report: See attached.

The Chair gave a brief update on the progress of the bakery at 1 High Street, which hopes to be open in the New Year. They hope to have a pop-up presence at the Christmas Extravaganza on 27 November.

With reference to the application at Ledcameroch, this has been withdrawn. However, as was noted at the May 2025 meeting, clearance work had already started, and the Chair agreed to contact the planning department to point out the need for reinstatement work. **Action: The Chair.**

The idea of having a wider group to deal with planning was aired, including having residents from the wider community involved. The Chair and Alan Booth will progress this. **Action: The Chair and Alan Booth.**

Elected members

Councillor Wilson highlighted the issue of the blind corner down from the Library and the danger it poses to traffic and pedestrians.

Councillor Kleinman has received complaints about the installation of new lamp-posts at Newton Crescent which has been paused. However, it will recommence next year. Lamp-posts are also being replaced on the Braemar estate. He asked that any incidents of materials being left around are notified to Councillors who will contact the contractors to make them clear up.

The Old Doune Road is going to be completely resurfaced next year.

Councillor Wilson reported that waiting times at Accident and Emergency at Forth Valley Royal Hospital are often very long. He also reported that patients are not getting the same level of care as was normal in the past. There is not adequate provision with Hospital at Home when people leave hospital. He asked to be informed of any cases people are aware of. He repeated his concerns over children and young people struggling with autism and ADHD.

5. Community

Community Action Plan (CAP) The Chair reported that the Local Place Plan (LPP) was submitted last week and is being reviewed by the Council. Looking to the future, topics were thrown up during work on the LPP which did not meet the criteria for being included in it. The Chair proposes that these be looked at again as part of the CAP, and agreed to circulate them to start discussions before the next Annual General Meeting.

One of the issues the Chair raised is over food security and accessibility for those in Dunblane who are struggling. With this in view, she is meeting next week with Council officers to look at the format for a meeting of community groups and when this could take place. Bridget Clark noted that food shops and supermarkets often end up with food they are unable to sell. Surpluses can be sent to charities, but she suggested that a scheme be set up whereby people would know where they could pick up food. This could also cover surpluses of fruit and vegetables that people have grown in gardens. The Chair floated the idea of a community fridge, one place where people could donate or pick up food. She also suggested the idea of a community kitchen with annual jam and chutney making, and that a community recipe book could be produced. Stewart Corbett commented that knowledge of cooking is often poor and Alan Booth noted that High School pupils are also keen to learn how to cook. Mairi Santolini agreed with this and supported the idea of pupils learning how to cook on a budget; she will take this back to the school for discussion. She thanked the community council for their support on Apple Day and the school is discussing the idea of having its own orchard. The Chair hopes to work together with a Home Economics teacher and the school could be involved in the meeting next week to support food accessibility for families. Councillor Wilson highlighted the increased difficulties people with mental health or disability issues have with food security and accessibility.

Schools Mairi Santolini reported on the Scottish Government's policy that every place of education becomes a Sustainable Learning Setting by 2030, under the headings of Curriculum, Culture, Community and Campus. School policies should be underpinned by sustainability and she suggested that they work with the community council and for inclusion in the CAP. The Chair noted that community councillors are willing to join meetings at the High School, and suggested a community council meeting be held there in February 2026. Mairi Santolini will find out if the school could host a meeting, and suggested this be widened out to include primary schools. She

reported that the school has been successful in obtaining a Windfarm grant to develop the library.

Jonathan Failes reported that the Careers Fair at the High School will take place on 13 November. Mairi Santolini encouraged people to come and speak to young people between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dunblane Development Trust (DDT) Stewart Corbett reported that, at its AGM, the DDT's officers were reappointed. With reference to the Laighhills pavilion, work is being done to identify potential users – sports clubs, schools, local youth groups – and use this information to draw up a business plan. Contact has been made with members of the business community who might, for example, be interested in running a coffee outlet. Alan Booth reported that the Cricket Club has, with the agreement of Stirling Council but without the agreement of Land Services, left the upper pitch in the Laighhills in need of repair. The drainage on this pitch has improved and he suggested that the Soccer Club might be interested in using it again. The Chair agreed to discuss this with them. **Action: The Chair.** It is hoped that a business plan would be drawn up in the New Year and it was agreed to aim for a combined meeting to discuss the Laighhills by the end of January.

The Christmas Extravaganza will be held on 27 November, and publicity for it will be distributed shortly.

6. Environment/Sustainability

The Chair commented that the Scottish Government requires local authorities to create a Food Growing Strategy to increase opportunities for community growing and she will ask the Council about this. She referenced community gardens, allotments and the Western Greenbelt. Councillor Tollemache agreed to enquire further of Council officers about the Food Growing Strategy and will keep the Chair informed. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Orchards Alan Booth has made a list of tasks for volunteers to undertake at the orchards and commented that there were many orchards in Dunblane. Another ten trees have been planted at the Haugh.

Bridget Clark reported that the Dunblane Centre also has a garden. The Chair is going to meet with them and will include this for discussion.

Greenspaces The Chair is going to meet with the Council's Nature Restoration Officer, Zoe Niven. Alan Booth reported that the Council has a commitment to planting many trees. Plastic stakes round dead trees in the Laighhills are being removed and the intention is to replant in more suitable places.

The Drumbrae Forest community meeting will take place in Bridge of Allan on 21 November.

Alan Booth reported that the Forth Rivers Trust is holding a Volunteer Day. He reported that beavers have been seen in Dunblane and Bridge of Allan and the Chair suggested someone could come to the community council to speak about them, while Stewart Corbett suggested this could be linked to EcoFest.

The Chair reported on future work on the Laighhills paddling pool, clearing out the scouring burn and reinstating the fish pass.

The Council is reviewing the effectiveness of biodiversity sites.

Kippendavie long-term forest plan renewal This has been circulated and it was noted that any comments have to be submitted by 28 November. Bridget Clark has circulated her comments to the community council, highlighting issues with access and drainage. The Chair will ask for permission to look at the site.

7. Internal

Treasurer's Report: See attached.

The Treasurer reported that the administration grant from the Council has been received.

8. AOCB

Broadband Councillor Tollemache reported on broadband problems for the Burgh Chambers and areas at the High Street near the Cathedral. He has contacted Openreach who are dealing with the problem, and he stressed the importance of a good broadband service for Dunblane.

Community council away day The Chair suggested that community councillors spend a day helping with Start Up Stirling, before Christmas. She asked councillors to submit suitable dates, which she will then circulate, and said that this would be a good opportunity to support the local community.

Western Green Belt (See Minutes, October 2025) Peter Hill thanked the community council and Stirling Council for their help in submitting their ideas as part of the Local Place Plan for Dunblane.

Litter Group It was shared that litter picker groups in Dunblane have commented on Facebook that they have noticed improvements and less littering. It was agreed to link with the groups on Facebook.

Balmoral Court Karen Jenkins enquired whether the Council is going to clean the paths round Balmoral Court, and agreed to pass this on to Terence O'Byrne.

Tesco bus stop (See AOCB Minutes May 2025) Jonathan Failes repeated his concerns about the difficulties for pedestrians, especially those with buggies or wheelchairs, to cross the bus space when drivers park cars there. Councillor Tollemache agreed to find out if this space was being redesigned

as part of the installation of the pedestrian crossing. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Facebook The Chair would like to use the community council's Facebook page to highlight issues such as litter, mental health report, the new planning group, and working with schools.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dunblane community council will be held on Wednesday, 3 December, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Library, Dunblane.

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald

Date.....

Chair

Rachael Muir Date

Secretary