

Dunblane Community Council

Rachael Muir
Secretary

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
Chair

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Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 7 May, 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), Jonathan Failes, Alan Booth, Peter Swindon, Fiona Plumbtree, Anthony Delleur, Annelise Bakri. By Zoom: Karen Jenkins, Rachel Nelson.

In attendance: Councillors David Wilson and Alasdair Tollemache, Bridget Clark, Mairi Santolini (Parent Council, Dunblane High School), Catherine MacKay, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary). By Zoom: Councillor Thomas Heald, Colin MacKenzie.

Apologies Apologies have been received from Calum Thomson, Caroline McArthur and Councillor Robin Kleinman.

2. Conflicts of interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

3. Adoption of minutes of 2 April 2025

These were approved, proposed by Peter Swindon and seconded by Jonathan Failes.

4. Residents’ Forum and current topics

Dunblane High School update Mairi Santolini gave updates on the following, stressing the focus the school is placing on being more involved with the community and encouraging the community to get more involved in the school.

With reference to the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools award, as the school works towards achieving the silver award in November, she reported that progress is being made in establishing a culture of rights-based principles and language throughout the school, with teachers also undertaking training. Peter Swindon agreed to give her

contacts in the Primary School to link in with this initiative. **Action: Peter Swindon.**

At the recent Sportathon fundraising event, over £3,000 had been raised for extra-curricular activities.

Project Based Learning with S3 classes resulted in musical performances in the Dunblane Centre and pupils have also supported sporting events in the primary schools.

Annelise Bakri reported that the Dunblane High School Garden will be open to the community on 20 June and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mairi Santolini reported that the design for the new School Library will be agreed later this week and a space has been designated for it.

The Robotics teams have been successful in the UK and Ireland competition and Mr McKenzie won the Team Coach of the Year award.

Concerns were raised that pupils are not crossing safely to get across to Tesco and Bridget Clark also raised the issue of the barriers on the link path from the new housing disgorging pupils onto the traffic roundabout at the High School. She advised that the barriers be removed and replaced with a bollard. Councillor Tollemache agreed to raise this again, stressing the importance of making routes to school safer for pedestrians and together with Councillor Wilson will speak to the Headteacher. **Action: Councillor Tollemache and Councillor Wilson.** It was suggested that this be addressed at a school assembly by the community policeman attached to the school. Drivers need to be more aware of pupils walking onto the roundabout and it was pointed out that they should also not be stopping on zebra crossings, in contravention of the Highway Code. The Chair suggested that this issue be raised at the next public Local Place Plan session this week.

The Chair reported that options are being explored about taking young people to Vaison-la-Romaine. Although it will likely not be organised in time for this year, it is hoped that this will happen in the future.

Local Place Plan (LPP) As part of Ecofest in Dunblane, Imagine If is running a public consultation workshop on 9 May. Anthony Delleur gave a brief report on the first LPP session held with local stakeholder groups from which feedback on common topics will inform this second session. The Chair felt people should not be restricted by the strict criteria covered by the LPP but that wider concerns could be included at this stage, e.g. connectivity or parking, even if they were not part of the final LPP; what do people want Dunblane to be like in ten years' time. The community council should work together with Stirling Council on ongoing projects.

Laighhills pavilion Councillor Tollemache raised the issue of the lack of toilet facilities at the Laighhills and asked that this be raised as part of the

LPP discussions. As far as he knew there is not a demolition order on the pavilion which is structurally sound and has connections to services. There have been expressions of interest from individuals looking to use the building and Councillor Tollemache agreed to make contact with them if they are still interested. Now that the building is designated as a common good asset it is hoped things can be moved forward in bringing it back into use for the community, with funding available. The Chair proposed that the future of the pavilion be part of a community-wide discussion. It was suggested that repairs could be a Community Payback project and that it would attract a greater use by different groups, e.g. as an outdoor studio. Mairi Santolini agreed to pass photos of the building, the outside walls of which had originally been painted as a school art project, to staff to generate more ideas. Although it would be possible to erect ready-made toilets on the existing plinth, it was agreed that the best solution would be to reinstate the toilets in the pavilion. Councillor Tollemache agreed to ask council officers if they have looked at low-cost options in the first instance. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.** Public toilets are an asset for the town and there should be better signage for those available – another point to be raised in the LPP discussions.

Other topics suggested for the LPP were promoting Dunblane as a creative hub and finding a solution to the break in the circular path in the Laighhills where part of the path has slipped into the river.

5. Reports

Police Report : See attached. It was noted that there have been incidents of drug driving. Community councillors noted that the results of the traffic survey at the Keir roundabout are not yet known, and that the short slip roads at the Queen Victoria school on to the A9 are not compliant despite there being more development to the north of Dunblane than was originally envisaged. As accidents are not recorded in the police report unless an offence has been committed, there is an under-reporting of traffic incidents. Councillor Tollemache suggested that the community council contact their local MSP to raise concerns, and the Chair agreed to contact Ailsa Gray, who had previously reported on this, for more details. **Action: The Chair.**

The Chair also agreed to ask the Police to attend the next meeting of the community council to discuss enforcing the new 20 mph speed limits, e.g. on the Perth Road. **Action: The Chair.**

Operations Report: See attached.

Ramoyle traffic proposals The works are in two phases, lining and signage, notification of which was sent to local residents today. The lining and surfacing work will be undertaken between 12 And 16 May. It was noted that traffic priorities will change. Councillor Tollemache will ask that potholes be repaired at the same time. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Scottish Water High Street closure The High Street was closed for three days by Scottish Water who mis-identified the location of a water leak. Scottish Water has admitted this was a mistake and will write to apologise to traders.

Springfield Terrace pedestrian crossing Because of the site of a mains cable, it is proposed to site the new crossing 8 metres away from the George Street lane. Councillors felt that placing it closer to the Tesco crossing would discourage people from using it. Councillor Tollemache agreed to raise this with Council officers. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

SSEN reinstatement works Councillor Tollemache reported that the works on Beech Road will start next week.

Planning Report: See attached report, prepared by Terence O'Byrne. The Chair reminded councillors of the training meeting with Sharon Marklow, a senior planning officer with Stirling Council, on 28 May.

Ledcameroch With reference to the application to build a house in the walled garden off Perth Road, Rachel Nelson voiced her objections to this development. She reported that trees in Knockmafuddy Woods have been cleared to make a six-metre wide path. Stirling Council when notified of this, stepped in to stop any further damage. Councillor Tollemache reported that this is being investigated by a Council officer. Since the previous planning application, the owners have reasserted their rights to own a piece of the woodland but Alan Booth questioned their legal responsibility to maintain it.

As for the application itself, Rachel Nelson pointed out that there would be problems with access, drainage and other services. Alan Booth noted that the owners, who live abroad, also own the wall on the Perth Road and refused to engage with the Council when essential repairs were required. He said that if permission were granted, it should be with the condition that they bring up to standard all of the Perth Road that they have responsibility for. He reiterated Rachel Nelson's objections and suggested that a separate planning meeting was needed to draw together a response for the whole community council to discuss. Alan Booth suggested bringing in outside members of the community with experience and having a planning panel or sub-committee who would report to the community council. It was agreed that after the training session councillors will be in a better position to decide how to handle planning applications. The Chair agreed to draft a letter, based on the community council's objections to the previous application for this site, and circulate it for comments. **Action: The Chair.**

Lecropt With reference to the three separate applications for houses at Lecropt, these are technically within the boundary of the Dunblane community council. The Chair is going to liaise with the Bridge of Allan community council and will draft a response and circulate it for comment. **Action: The Chair.**

Beech Road Questions were asked about the erection of a fence at the top of Beech Road. Councillor Tollemache suggested that this would be part of the planning application for a house which was granted in 2022.

Elected members' reports Councillor Wilson reported that Stirling Council is now in a dispute process with Clackmannanshire Council over the Integration Joint Board (IJB) with serious implications for adult care.

Councillor Tollemache agreed to raise the issue of the Council not posting on Facebook. The community council, meanwhile, posts on their own Facebook page notifications received from the Council. The Chair has also asked for clarification from Stephen Bly, Community Council Enquiry Co-ordinator, Stirling Council.

Councillor Tollemache has queried with the Council why the cost of the Trim Trail at Braemar Park should come out of the developer's contribution as it was agreed previously that a Government grant was being used.

Environment

Community gardens The Chair reported that Blossom Day took place on 4 May as part of Ecofest and was very successful.

Forestry The Chair reiterated concerns about the use of glyphosate at Drumbrae to kill bracken. The treatment will be repeated annually.

Internal

Communication The Chair initiated a discussion on how the community council projects itself on dunblane.info and would be interested to discuss this with anybody willing to get involved. It would be very useful to know how other community councils manage this. It is also important that Minutes and Reports are uploaded timeously on the website. When Alan Booth pointed out that these cannot be publicised until they have been approved, the Chair agreed to discuss this with other Chairs of community councils.

6. AOCB

Pavement outside Tesco Jonathan Failes reported that, because the pavement outside Tesco is very narrow, people with buggies or who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters use the bus space but are forced into the road itself when cars are parked there. Councillor Tollemache asked that photos of the site be sent to him.

Hogweed Fiona Plumtree reported sightings of giant hogweed which she was asked to pass on to Terence O'Byrne.

Path near Dandara Wallace View development (See Minutes 5 March 2025.) Concerns were raised previously about the need for a solution to provide a well-constructed and accessible path to Wanderwrang Woods. The landowner of the land on the other side of the Dandara wall has agreed to

enter discussions on how to clear the path there. Bridget Clark reported that it will be difficult to remove tree stumps and roots to make the path accessible and ideally 2 ½ - 3 metres wide.

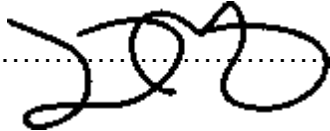
7. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting and the AGM of the Dunblane community council will take place on Wednesday, 4 June, 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.....30/5/25....
Chair



Rachael Muir Date
.....
Secretary