

Dunblane Community Council

Rachael Rennert
Secretary

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald
Chair

cc@dunblane.info

cc@dunblane.info

Minutes of the Dunblane Community Council held on Wednesday, 4 March, 2026, 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, Calum Thomson, Karen Jenkins, Caroline McArthur, Anthony Delleur, Peter Swindon, Fiona Plumtree, Rachel Nelson. Annelise Bakri joined later and Calum Thomson left early. By Zoom: Rachael Rennert (Secretary), Stewart Corbett (Treasurer).

In attendance: Terence O'Byrne, Councillors Alasdair Tollemache, Robin Kleinman and David Wilson, Brian Roberts (Chief Executive, Stirling Council), Bridget Clark, William Thomson, Linda Cartmell, Jennifer Stirton (Chair, Trustees of the Dunblane Centre), Claire Kinnear (Dunblane Centre Manager), Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary). By Zoom: Mairi Santolini (Parent Council, Dunblane High School).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Jonathan Failes and Councillor Thomas Heald.

2. Introduction of Chief Executive, Stirling Council

The Chair welcomed Brian Roberts, Chief Executive, Stirling Council. He spoke about his career of over 30 years' service in the Council before he was appointed Chief Executive last October. He intends to visit all community councils in the area to speak to the huge pressures facing the Council both in terms of resources and funding. Recognising the challenges, he wants to instil pride in communities and in Council organisations and to this end he has introduced a new management structure focused on enhancing cross-departmental collaboration with a greater emphasis on customer service and community partnerships. Budgets are ultimately political decisions, but he is aware of frustrations within communities about the lack of consistent communication and he stressed his willingness to listen to communities about the issues affecting them. The Chair reported on the work of the Local Development Plan (LPP) and the meetings of the Informed Communities

Group of Chairs of community councils which have pinpointed the topics raised by residents. However, Brian Roberts noted that people now want to know what happens next and how themes raised, such as land use and housing, influence future policies.

3. Conflicts of interest

As members of the Planning Panel, Councillors Alasdair Tollemache and Robin Kleinman will not take part in discussion over planning applications.

4. Adoption of minutes of 4 February 2026

The Chair noted the positive feedback from holding last month's meeting at the High School and proposed holding a future meeting at the Dunblane Centre.

The minutes were approved, proposed by Peter Swindon and seconded by Rachel Nelson.

5. Reports

Police Report: See attached.

Alan Booth highlighted the importance of continuing support from Social Services, where required, to people who are relocated to Dunblane. Brian Roberts indicated that he is organising different departments to work together such as education, housing and social services under the umbrella of family services, or road, land and library services under the communities team. His focus is working together with a much more holistic approach to the challenges in communities.

Operations Report: See attached.

Terence O'Byrne, an associate member of the community council, was thanked for his work and the monthly maintenance and operations report.

Gullies and road surface on the Perth Road Terence O'Byrne will be provided with a detailed plan for the works to fix all the issues reported on the Perth Road gullies and poor road surfaces. These issues have been ongoing for over four years. The Council will carry out all repairs before the end of this summer. It was noted that because of the poor road surface, water is splashing on to and damaging the wall on the Perth Road at two locations.

Gully at the Fourways roundabout A new gully has been installed in the wrong place resulting in the water ponding at the pedestrian crossing point continuing to be a problem. A new one will be installed by the end of April.

Issues when traffic is diverted off the A9 The issues affecting Kinbuck and the damage to the Kinbuck bridge have been reported at community council meetings over the months (see Minutes August 2025 onwards) with residents of Kinbuck feeling their concerns are being ignored. At a meeting of Kinbuck residents in December 2025, various solutions were suggested and the Council has agreed to put up warning signs restricting the weight of HGV lorries. As a driver has not committed an offence until he actually drives

onto the bridge, Councillor Tollemache has also proposed installing a camera at the bridge to identify the drivers guilty of causing damage. The Police do not have the resources to divert any HGV drivers, who are ignoring the longer diversion signed for them, away from Kinbuck and only become involved when traffic problems in Kinbuck or at the bridge occur, instead of being more proactive to prevent any trouble. What is required, and has been suggested many times by Terence O'Byrne and Councillor Tollemache, is a multi-agency approach to find a solution, involving Transport Scotland, the Police, Amey, and Stirling Council. Brian Roberts agreed to organise this and also suggested that Dot Reid, Head of Environment and Place, and Gary Neill, Road Services Manager, be involved. **Action: Brian Roberts.** He noted that placing weight restrictions on the bridge should also include length restrictions. Councillor Tollemache agreed to send him all correspondence he has with the various agencies involved. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Pedestrian crossing at Springfield Terrace There has been a delay in completing the work because of nearby scaffolding posing a safety risk to workers. However, Terence O'Byrne reported that the signs and traffic cones, not immediately needed, are still there. No new date has been provided to complete this work. **Action: Councillor Tollemache to request a new date.**

New zebra crossing at top of Doune Road Terence O'Byrne reported that this has not been completed within the 2-week allocated time. The raised table did not have any markings or signage to indicate the present of the ramp. Signs should have been in place from the time the work stopped; it took five days for signs to be put in place.

Parking issues at Hillside Avenue The Chair noted that this was a good example of a solution being found after meetings were held with all parties.

Allanbank Road, Kinbuck Parking issues and the Council proposal, unacceptable to everyone, had led to the Kinbuck residents' meeting in December 2025 which led to three compromise solutions being suggested. A Traffic Regulation Order had been issued by the Council and objections were raised to this. It will therefore go to the Planning Committee. Councillor Tollemache noted three outcomes were possible: accept the officers' recommendation, accept another solution or reject everything. It was difficult to change an officer's proposal once it has been formulated, and it was noted that Council officers had expressed the opinion that it would be inappropriate for them to attend the meeting at Kinbuck. However, Brian Roberts said that officers should be making proposals for consultation not just for notification.

BT/Openreach works on Kirk Street Terence O'Byrne reported that this should have been completed in one day (4 March) but the site is still fenced off and traffic is diverted through Ramoyle. Noting the importance of taking into account the impact on communities of road works taking longer than they should, Brian Roberts will ask Dot Reid and Gary Neill to address

community concerns and think about taking a different approach to prevent recurrences. **Action: Brian Roberts.**

Pedestrian bridge at the station Noting the long campaign to deal with the rust and water ponding on the bridge, Brian Roberts expressed his willingness to get involved and send a letter on the Council's behalf to the relevant agencies.

Planning Report: See attached.

With reference to Firs of Kinbuck, the Chair noted that the application will be considered by the Planning Panel on 17 March. The previous Chair of the community council, Ailsa Grey, is heavily involved and will be speaking to the Panel on behalf of the community, especially of Kinbuck. She is going to draft a note of her concerns to the Chair for circulation.

Aware of the issues around traffic on the A9, Brian Roberts suggested it would be reasonable to ask Transport Scotland to send a representative to attend a community council meeting, together with Gary Neill.

With reference to the application at Ledcameroch, the expiry date has been extended until 16 March. It was agreed that the Perth Road wall, which is also owned by the applicant, should be repaired.

With reference to the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), Terence O'Byrne reported that comments can be submitted on the 'Strategy and Site Options' consultation from 26 March. The Chair proposed setting up a small sub-committee to look at the LDP, and agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting in April. **Action: The Chair.**

Elected members

Councillor Wilson reported on the budget agreed by Stirling Council. He is very concerned that money is being raised by closing in-house school dinners for Council primary schools and nurseries and out-sourcing meal provision. At present, there are high nutritional standards with fresh produce providing 75% of ingredients, and the Council has been a Food for Life Silver Award holder since 2014. Concerns were raised by the Chair of the need for children to have access to high quality food to prevent future health problems. Councillor Wilson also said that jobs would be lost with wider implications for local producers and suppliers. Councillor Tollemache agreed that more scrutiny would have been beneficial.

Brian Roberts stated that officers' proposals to save money were put forward to the Council whose members make the final decisions. The nutritional value in meals is subject to statutory standards and will be maintained. The changes will not take effect until 2027 and all staff will be redeployed. He is aware of concerns by parents and the importance of engaging with schools.

He noted that, more broadly, Stirling Council is collaborating both with Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Councils on a case-by-case basis in an attempt

to reduce costs. It also collaborates with the National Health Service and Third Sector agencies, as well as communities.

With reference to the Integration Joint Board (IJB), on which Councillor Wilson has reported over recent months to the community council, Brian Roberts noted that the Stirling and Falkirk IJB is the only one covering two Councils.

Councillor Wilson has passed on details of the Community Alcohol Partnership (see minutes December 2025) to the Chair with a view to having a representative attend a future community council meeting.

6. Community

Residents' Forum

Plans for marking the 30th anniversary The Chair welcomed Jennifer Stirton, Chair of the Trustees of the Dunblane Centre and Claire Kinnear, the Centre Manager, to the meeting. A service is held at the Church of the Holy Family on every anniversary, but this year the Cathedral will also be open all day for quiet reflection, with background music provided by the organ. St Blane's church will also be open. People will want to mark the day in their own way. The Chair noted that memorials in the town have been refurbished and suggested candles are lit in windows. She also reminded the meeting that many people all over the world had sent messages and gifts to the town after the tragedy. Jennifer Stirton reported that they are trying to find out where these have been stored and how to display them. An exhibition curated by the Council archivist is being arranged for later in the year, but an appropriate place in Dunblane for a more permanent exhibition is being sought.

Schools

The Chair reported that she is meeting the Chief Executive Officer of the Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau on 12 March to discuss holding sessions at the High School and the Dunblane Centre for residents to access advice and help in applying for available support. She invited other councillors to attend.

Community Facilities

The Chair reported on a meeting of Youth Group representatives where there were discussions on transport - for example, how can young people from Ashfield get to and from the Dunblane Centre - and how to make the crossing at the Dunblane Centre more safe. It is hoped to hold four meetings a year.

Parking In view of the upcoming closure of the café at Marks and Spencer, where parking was readily available, the Chair proposed a review of Blue Badge spaces especially near other cafés in Dunblane to help those with mobility issues. Councillor Tollemache reported that the Council is looking at parking issues in Dunblane and the Chair suggested that for commuters

going to the station either parking spaces be made available at the site of the disused abattoir, or buses could run to the station.

Sports pitches

Anthony Delleur reported on discussions being held with the Soccer Club and representatives from the Scottish Football Association about upgrading the pitches in the Laighhills and the High School and how to apply for funding. The Soccer Club is also interested in using the pavilion once it is refurbished. The Soccer Club continues to grow but there are difficulties in booking other pitches. Brian Roberts reported that the Council is undertaking a review of community facilities, and Anthony Delleur confirmed that a discussion with Council officers about the redevelopment of pitches will take place shortly. Alan Booth pointed out that if AstroTurf is used and fenced off, this would represent a major change to using the Laighhills and should be discussed with the wider community. He also pointed out that the cricket pitch wicket has not been repaired yet by the Council due to lack of funding, and Councillor Tollemache reported that he is pursuing this. **Action: Councillor Tollemache.**

Dunblane Development Trust (DDT)

The DDT held an Open Evening on 2 March, hoping to attract more volunteers. However, Stewart Corbett reported that, as not many people had attended, it was felt it would be better to hold another one after publicising the work of the DDT more widely.

7. Environment/Sustainability

Orchards The Chair reported on the Laighhills Orchard Day held on 1 March when general maintenance was carried out in the community orchard. Five different community groups were represented. She is now looking forward to Blossom Day in May, linked in with EcoFest. Some work still needs to be done on the trees in the upper Orchard.

Community gardens Annelise Bakri has the application for the Council's Community Growing and Park Well-Being Fund ready and agreed to share the proposal with the Dunblane Centre. It was agreed to support this application. She also reported that there is a design proposal for a Cultural Map of Dunblane (see Minutes June 2025) and the Chair stated this would be the first of other maps focusing on different aspects of the town. A decision on this has to be made by the end of the month and the Chair will circulate the draft proposal for comments. **Action: The Chair.**

Sustainability The Chair reported on Stirling's Good Food Fortnight and pointed out the books on display in the library and the upcoming coffee mornings to be held there.

8. Internal

Treasurer's Report: See attached. The Treasurer felt a discussion was needed on how best to spend the monies sitting in the Community View Fund and Project Fund.

9. AOCB

Alan Booth is meeting with a representative of the Forth Rivers Trust on 5 March, who have drawn up proposals. (See Minutes December 2025 and February 2026).

The Chair reminded the meeting of the draft survey on food growing in Dunblane which she has circulated to councillors for comment and noted that the allotments have a waiting list. It is important to raise awareness of community and school gardens and community orchards.

Bridget Clark reported on the progress of the discussion over the siting of cycle lockers at the station in Dunblane. The Secretary is waiting for an update from the Council and Councillor Tollemache agreed to pursue this.

Red squirrels Linda Cartmell, who lives at House on the Hill cottage, addressed the meeting on the concerns she has that, once the House on the Hill and its land (approximately 5 acres) is sold, the red squirrels there will be displaced. She asked for help in protecting them. Red squirrels are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 2014, making it illegal to kill, injure, or disturb them or damage their dreys. The trees may be protected as well, and the large pond in the garden is part of the water system draining off the Glen Road. As yet, there is no planning application to examine but Alan Booth suggested that a formal letter be sent to the present owners to notify them of the presence of the red squirrels. Brian Roberts said he expected different agencies to be involved to address the issues with the old trees, the water system and a protected species. Linda Cartmell agreed to send details to Brian Roberts and to the Chair. **Action: Linda Cartmell.**

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dunblane community council will be held on Wednesday, 1 April, 2026, at 7 p.m. in Dunblane library.

The meeting ended at 10 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Anna Jarchow-MacDonald Date...12.3.26
Chair



