

SCONE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL Minutes
Monday, 31st January 2022

A virtual meeting of Scone & District Community Council was held on Monday, 31st January 2022, via Zoom commencing 7.00pm.

- 1. Welcome:** Chair V. Shand welcomed all attendees to the platform. D. Dykes (DD), F. Mailer (FM), L. Martin (LM), J. Dunne (JD), Gordon Clark (GC). Several members of the public were online. GC was welcomed back to the committee by VS.
- 2. Apologies:** H. Mackinnon (HM) and Jill Belch (JB).
- 3. Police Report:** Vanessa advised that there was no relevant content for Scone in the Commander's Bulletin. Moira Andrew advised that the Co-op in the village had been broken into on Saturday night, and that the police considered it to be a break in by amateurs. MA wondered if it was possibly linked to the anti-social behaviour of young people in the village at weekends. She wondered if we could check this with the police. Vanessa advised that there was a delay between incidents and publication of the bulletin and that the break-in was likely to be published in the next one issued. VS advised that anti-social behaviour was to be discussed later in the meeting.
- 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising:** Proposed by DD and Seconded by JD.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** LM advised that there had been no transactions since November and the bank balances were as then. VS advised that the CC's contribution to the noticeboard will be due for payment soon.
- 6. Local Issues:**
 - 6.1.** CTLR tree felling: LM advised that she had visited the woods on Sunday and noted that red pegs had been placed on the avenue where the beech trees are situated, indicating that they are due to be felled. She also advised that she had spoken to a forester, living in the village who advised that we were likely to lose many more trees than those due for felling due to the loss of the wind barrier trees. LM advised that

a letter had been received from Jamie Torrence, a Planning Officer at PKC. She advised that she had not read the letter in detail at the time of the meeting. Moira advised that we had been assigned a liaison contact by Bam Nuttall, Craig Viviani, who was very helpful, but that he was not party to the decisions being made by the contractors and PKC. A village resident, Liz, who explained that she is a qualified forester, advised us that Highfield Woods were in a poor state and that the compensatory planting being planned may be more beneficial to the environment than the existing trees.

JD advised that she had fallen while walking near the felling area as the ground was covered in tree branches. LS advised that it will be the responsibility of the contractors to ensure that there is suitable and continuous access to the woods during the felling period.

The responsibility for replanting was discussed. LS advised that the compensatory planting behind Harper Way had not yet started. Liz advised that replanting is dependent on the availability of grants and plants. CS advised that he will contact the Communities Department of PKC as they cover roads/planning green space regarding replanting. Also, MA suggested that this may revert to Saville's (for Scone Estates) once Bam Nuttall had finished their work. Liz agreed to contact Ed Lees at Saville's to discuss an earlier replanting schedule, as the tree felling is happening earlier than expected. She will report her findings back to SDCC.

In relation to the late notice of felling, CS advised he will check the protocol on notice as the late notice we received was not consistent with community consultation procedures. He also commented that he was struck by the number of people who gave testimony on what the woods meant to them at the Blessing service.

Liz also advised that a major issue for the school in using the woods was the large amount of dog poo which was not being lifted by owners.

6.2. 20mph speed limits update: details later

6.3. Vandalism issues: VS advised that there had not been a reduction in youth anti-social behaviour incidents over the winter months. She advised that incidents that had been reported included noise, litter and cars being vandalised. She read out letters by Lee Stewart (Community Liaison Officer) and the Community Wardens who had been engaging with the young people. Correspondence from Rory Maiden (PKC Youth Engagement Officer) indicated that intoxicated youths were not local to Scone. The police presence in the village at weekends is to continue. LS advised that insufficient resources are currently available for Community Engagement Officers. CS advised that he would liaise with the police and youth services and VS advised that we are planning to hold a multidisciplinary public meeting. VS also advised that LS had asked for community volunteers to assist with engaging with the young people.

It was noted that much of the litter in the park resulted from young people purchasing items in the Spar. JD noted that there were sufficient bins there and parents have a responsibility to teach children to use them.

FM advised that Strathcona was being used as a place for young people to gather. LS advised that compulsory purchase procedures have been implemented by PKC, but that it is generally a long process. He will continue to press for progress.

6.4. Cycle path progress: VS presented this item as JB was not present. She advised that Ganochy Trust was very helpful as the discussions progressed, but that engagement with Scone Estates was more challenging. MA advised that Sarah Gardner (Liaison officer for PKC re CTRL) had indicated that PKC were looking for ideas for projects to help communities. This may be worth pursuing in respect of the cycle path. VS advised that JB will be approaching Sustrans as funding will soon again be available from them. It was noted that the difficulties being experienced now related to obtaining landowner permissions.

6.5. Hanover Housing update: LS advised that the housing association will be refitting the existing houses to meet Scottish Government standards block by block. LS advised that he had spoken to residents,

and they are happy with the way the situation has been resolved. VS advised that we would be removing the item from the agenda and asked LS to keep us informed with progress.

6.6. RDMI noticeboard. Chiming Clock: Dorothy advised that the new noticeboard will be received by the RDMI this week. Keys will be provided for both SDCC and the Village Association. The funding for the village clock is being provided by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. The clock mechanism will be electronic, and the chimes will be used only for special occasions so that residents are not disturbed.

6.7. VAS proposal Mapledene Road/Stormont Rd/Puffin Crossing. School crossing patrol: LS advised that the budget is there but at present there is no capacity to install VAS on Mapledene/Stormont Roads. He advised that currently there are insufficient funds and capacity to complete the puffin crossing. LS advised that it continues to be difficult to recruit someone for the school crossing patrol. This is because the contract is unattractive, and the conditions of the job can be difficult as they often experience unpleasantness from drivers and parents.

7. Convenor's reports: VS thanked GC for agreeing to act as the SDCC Planning Convenor.

7.1.1. Planning: Path from H29 to Highfield Road: MA advised that both PKC planning department and Mr Stephens, the applicant had agreed that there was insufficient detail on the planning application. Mr Stephens advised that the application was to show there was continuity between H29 and the village, and that a revised application would include the positioning of bollards to prevent vehicular access. GC advised that he had objected on the basis that there was existing footpath access between H29 and Scone less than 60m from the application site.

GC advised that a yellow construction notice had been placed at the entrance to the core path before Ragnorock. GC will watch to ensure that this is only for vehicle access to the house construction site and not for tree felling activities.

JD provided GC with the planning application reference.

7.1.2. Bowling green application: The site has been given planning permission for three houses. The current owner is to sell the site. LS observed that this had been a community asset and will follow up why the site was not first offered to the community. He advised that the outcome has highlighted the importance of objecting at the planning application stage. Only one objection to the planning application had been received.

7.1.3. House plot changes: LS advised that we should request details of height changes to planned properties. This had happened in Balgarvie and has greater impacts on existing properties than changes in plot sizes.

7.2. Communications:

7.2.1. PACC: DD has kindly agreed to be SDCC's representative on PACC. He requested that HM contact PACC to let them know this.

7.2.2. Open spaces: LS has advised the planned clean up of the pond will be carried out by the Ecology Group on Mother's Day. He advised that their expertise is needed to carry this job out correctly. He advised that the date may change due to lack of volunteers on the proposed date.

8. Councillor's reports:

8.1. CS: CS advised that the Road Safety Projects list re. 20mph limits showed no extension to the included areas. He advised that the temporary traffic orders will last for a period of eighteen months. He advised that the Community Investment Fund was open and wanting bids and that the cycle path would be an appropriate applicant. He advised that Council Tax will be set in the context of the council not having received all the required funding by the Scottish Government. Councillors had written to the Finance Secretary regarding the deficit. He said prioritisation will be required with cost cutting in some divisions to meet priorities.

CS will chase up on the Liaison meetings with the PKC and provide the CC with possible meeting dates. It was observed that the issues regarding tree felling, and replanting could have been avoided if these had been taking place. Geoff raised the issue of pollution levels in Perth streets. CS related this to the Climate Change Action Plan and advised that he expected that there will be some proposals for physical alterations to improve air quality.

- 8.2. LS:** LS reiterated that funding issues were a major concern and will have an impact on council services. He advised that councillors are now office working. He advised that the new planning Enforcement Officer is tough and is dealing with issues relating to effluent in the burn running adjacent H29 development, and to the lack of suitable footpaths there. He advised that footpath access between H29 and the village are complicated as some of the pavements belong to Scone Estates. In addition, he is chasing up the lack of road signage and markings at the development. LS advised that Earls gate has been sold to Kingdom Housing Association as affordable housing for over 55's. It was observed that this was the best possible outcome for this development.

In response to DD's question, he advised that volunteers are needed to join Friends of the Park. He will also report back on the path being built at the North Inch.

- 9. Scone Village Association report:** It was reported that volunteers are required for planting in the village. Also, volunteers are needed to address the issue of dog fouling in the park. Destiny will be on sale in the next week and contributions are needed. The Men's Shed is thriving with 23 registered members and 11 regular attenders. It was reiterated that all are welcome. The latest project was constructing a welly boot store for Balbeggie Nursery.
- 10. A.O.C.B.:** VS advised that the proposal to include Balbeggie with SDCC was well received. LS advised that he would speak with previous members of Balbeggie CC to recruit villagers for this to proceed. CS advised that he speak with council officers to discuss making the necessary boundary changes.

VS advised that Scone's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations will be centred in the RDML. She advised that volunteers are needed to help organise the events. VS is the contact for asking questions or to get involved.

DD commented on the current disrepair of the streets in Scone. LS advised there was insufficient funding available for general maintenance and resurfacing, but that problematic potholes should be reported directly to PKC.

11. Date of next meeting: Monday, 28th February 2022, at 7pm