

SCONE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL Minutes

A meeting of Scone & District Community Council was held on Monday 27th. January 2025 in the RDMI 7pm.

- 1. Welcome. Chair V. Shand.** New member M. Houston was formally co-opted onto the committee. H. Mackinnon (HM), L. Martin (LM) J. Dunn. (JD) Cllrs C. Stewart (CS), Anderson (HA), J.Welch (JW). 18 public members.
- 2. Apologies.** J Belch.
- 3. Police Report :** no Scone incidents reported.
- 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Proposer: (J D) sec: (LM)
- 5. Treasurer's Report.** No change of bank required, admin costs are included in admin grant from PKC. Balance: £538.25 costs: local place plan photos, RDMI rent.
- 6) Local Issues:** 1) Local Place Plan. 63 comments on the survey monkey, comments in the RDMI and library include: 20mph not monitored to be effective, no hedge around the park for safety reasons at night, an orchard on the Glebe church land, keep house developers limited to submitted house numbers, safe cycle routes. Local place plan ideas should be taken into account when PKC are determining the Local Development plan for the next 10 years
2) Scone Park and Pond. Walk around arranged with park ranger, state of pond surroundings, water pollution, drainage, and tree maintenance.

3) Murrayshall core path and quad bike usage. PKC state that as this is private land, nothing can be done. Email forwarded to **Councillor Welch** for follow-up info. Warning signs should be erected, legal questions to be asked, 4 unlicensed quad bikes along public roads, are guests driving, is this a wildlife crime disturbing red squirrels, deer? etc.

4) Library Closure update. 300 people attended demo outside museum, 5000 petition handed in, tv/media/local papers. PKC Budget 26th. Feb. (JW) may be space in budget with additional funding from Scot. Gov. Council tax to rise, national insurance increase for employees to come from PKC budget. CPK trying to find sustainable future for rural libraries. (HA) PKC budget increased by £200,000, with 7% increase from UK gov. 10% council tax rise likely. (CS) Scone has the second highest library use in Scotland and the lowest cost. If closed gap filled with mobile, cut from 3 to 2 so less support for all rural areas. Meeting this evening 6.30 in library.

5) War memorial bench and refurbishment. **(HM)** to contact Elspeth Bruce/ community Greenspace. RDMI fundraising coffee morning to help with refurbishments.

6) Consultation on Perth Air quality. No follow-up yet.

7) BAM meeting: 29th January. Is there money for path upgrade from airport to Balbeggie?

8) Timber operations in Highfield woods. Many core paths cut off while trees are cut down. More warning signs required.

9) Merkat cross. Project leader appointed, no fundraising required, all costs from grants. Area cleared, minimal replanting, selfie stand and info plaque

10) Garden party nominees. Update next month.
- 7) Planning P1)** 24/01750/FLL to split old furniture store into 3 units, 2 retail and one hot food outlet. **2) Murrayshall:** PA for spa and lodges in front of committee in March. **3)** 2 house extensions.
- Open spaces:** trees down in Netherlea after storm, ruptured gas pipes.

8) Councillors' Reports: **(HA)** budget discussions ongoing. **(JW)** walkover CTRL tickets picked up in 2 hours, access may be extended, safety features to be completed before formal opening in late March. Budget to take into consideration provision for Perthshire's aging population, £6,000,000 deficit to provide good health care, although successful the museum and other cultural facilities never operate at a surplus. **(VS)** Museum café running at a loss. (Concert hall café makes no profit.) This was seen as a potential income support for the free entry museum. No commercial operator would

take franchise, £230,000 subsidy given, concern expressed re effect on surrounding commercial cafes, some report higher footfall. Will museum café require further annual subsidy? Pkc will review and consult on future provision. Pkc to consult on applying visitor levy. **(CS)** After capital spend on museum, 17 million total, 10million from UK gov, business case still to be proved, only income generation is from café. Interest on finance repaid at a cost of £40,000 per million for 50 years. Costs include 2x24 hour security for the Stone of Destiny, café may break even after one of set up costs. Raised national insurance contributions and lowering of the threshold for all employees affects care homes, home care, charities, etc that have no ability to raise cost to cover. A grant may be made available from UK gov. Decision by PKC at 4th Dec. meeting, council tax to rise 28.5% over 3 years. CTRLR to open late March. Concerns from the floor expressed re value for money **(JW)** Council officers do their best, Pullar House to be turned into a public sector hub for pk organisations, only 1/3 occupied by the council, 1 High Street to become a boutique hotel.

Comment: 2 High Street is using lighting and heating but how is hybrid working managed with many people working from home?

9) SVA. Report.

1. SVA are currently in negotiation to reinstate the basketball hoops at Scone Ball court, removed for health and safety reasons after a complaint. Confusion re the number of bolts for original installation has now been ironed out. We are currently awaiting the company scheduling the reinstall.
2. SVA disappointed that the Christmas Lights display was never completed as issues with the infrastructure of four lampposts, 2 sorted before Xmas but other two issues more complex requiring a cherry picker, not possible before Xmas, but we had lots of positive feedback regarding the new motifs Santa, Snowman and Gingerbread Man. We have 19 motifs and RDM children have entered designs for a competition to design motifs for 2025 display. These hopefully to be sited near the school, taking our motif count back to 21. 225 entries so far!
3. The outdoor box at RDM Institute housing the defibrillator has begun to fail, as it was purchased and sited there in 2014 so owes us nothing. SVA have agreed to purchase a new case similar to the existing one. The defibrillator still remains in situ in case it is required. There are other public access defibrillators at the Wheel Inn flats (Earls court) and Scone Old Church Hall.
4. The 2025 Christmas Lights Coffee Morning has been scheduled for Saturday 15th November 2025 at RDM Institute from 10am till Noon.
5. Can we remind villagers that Scone Ball Court is not dog friendly. All dogs must remain outside the Court fence.
6. Our next meeting is at RDM Institute is Tuesday 18th February at 7pm.

Thanks to Julie Livingstone for this report.

Destiny deadline dates: 21st March, 23rd May, 25th July, 19th September, 21st November.

10) A.O.C.B. Flooding problems ongoing at Farquarson Park. Will contact Frank Campbell pkc

11) Date of Next Meeting : Monday 7.00 pm 24th February 2025