

SCONE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL Minutes

A meeting of Scone & District Community Council was held on Monday 24th February 2025 in the RDMI 7pm.

1. Welcome. Chair V. Shand. M. Houston (MH) J. Belch (JB) H. Mackinnon (HM), L. Martin (LM) J. Dunn. (JD) Cllrs C. Stewart (CS), Anderson (HA), Welch (JW). 15 public members.

2. Apologies. None.

3. Police Report : no Scone incidents reported.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Matters arising: Change to paragraph 4 re library usage: from Scone having the second highest library usage in Scotland as stated in the minutes to Perth and Kinross having second highest.

Proposer: (LM) sec: (JD)

5. Treasurer's Report. Balance: £538.25 costs: costs are RDMI rent, website hosting and War memorial wreath. Balance made up to £700 annually by PKC, (CS) grant been at same total for many years, with increase in population, should be increase in grant independent group in council asking for increase. (JB) increased grant could fund equipment for hybrid meetings.

6) Local Issues: 1) Local Place Plan. 100 comments on the survey monkey, will be on agenda for LDP 3 evidence report, discussion at PKC. (HM) to send completed Place Plan to local councillors.

2) Scone Park and Pond. Walk around pond with PKC ranger raised issues re 1) drainage down into pond, 2) green condition of water, 3) worn and broken edges of the pond and 4) state of dangerously leaning trees. Ranger update: tree felled, water tested, not toxic but not safe to drink or swim in, condition of banks will be improved by adding bunds of coir implanted with vegetation to mask the missing stone cassies. Flooding issues: Flood forum to do a survey on 104 Angus Rd. Stormont Rd, flooding from Farquarson Park raises many questions i.e.: who is responsible? PKC contractors who put in the path? Who will fix it? Affected residents told a bund with trees planted but nothing done yet. Is this surface water drainage or evidence of excess groundwater drainage? No proper hydrologist study done on the route of the CTLR and the broken aquifers running across the site of the new housing development. Highfield area is highest geographical point from which all the water drains down towards the village. Water is still being directed into the Barrel Drain from housing developments.

3) Glebe ground for community use. Church of Scotland would continue to own the land, work by a small committee on developing contacts for grants and trees.

4) Library Closure update: closure postponed. Funds now in place for 1-2 years, to be ratified at next budget meeting. Good press coverage, support from local politicians and successful campaigning by all affected rural libraries groups. CPK to look at other ways of administering library service i.e. volunteer led, reduction of hours etc.

5) War memorial bench and refurbishment. From a donation of £1000 one commemorative bench will be bought and funding sourced for 2 more. Local men's shed a possibility. The installation of railings up the path would help with access. VE Day is May 8th but commemorations will take place on a Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th.afternoon Teas provided in the RDMI.

6) Highfield forestry clearance: many non-plantation trees have been felled which were not in the initial plan i.e. Beech Avenue, a clear fell in the area along the core path where the new developer is moving the housing equipment required for his build, CC will ask for this area to be replanted with trees. (JW) commented on loss of biodiversity, increase flooding problems, requests for replanting must be made. (HM) to contact Brian Stevenson, Scone Estates, re core path reinstallation. (HA) forestry commission at Battleby could help with replanting. Some trees replanted along route of CTLR but no greening hedges separating cycle track from road. The Green Bridge has already been vandalised with graffiti and there are many more trees to be removed due to exposure and wind damage.

7) BAM meeting: 29th January. A winding down exercise due to road being opened at end of March.

8) Merkat Cross no update.

9) Garden Party nominees 2 names have been sent to Lord Lieutenant of Perthshire

7) Planning 1) **Murrayshall:** PA for spa and lodges in front of committee in March passed. Main comments at planning meeting: passing places to be installed by Murrayshall along main road entrance from A94. Core path reroute and the driving range have yet not been completed. 2) Netherlea house planning passed. 3) Compulsorily purchased by PKC, Strathcona sold at auction for asking bid of £230,000.

Open spaces: Trees down in Netherlea after storm, ruptured gas pipes causing severe disruption to residents, pipes to be put in by PKC to drain land for new house, damage to core path down to the Den by tracked vehicular usage.

8) Councillors' Reports: (JW) Key focus at Wednesday's budget will be on libraries. (CS) Budget from the Independent group to focus on admin costs for community councils, CIF funding, reversing previous cuts, ie instrumental tuition, Bloom groups, rural libraries.. Group not keen on 10% council tax rise, favours lower increase. Issues which contribute to the wider built environment i.e.: increase budget for grass cutting over the summer to reduce possible tick infestation and unsightliness, add more shrubbery, money for unadopted roads and potholes, not all Perth focused. Setting up of a separate rural events fund. (HA) Items previously discussed will be on the budget list. Questions for Councillors: What can be done re empty buildings in the centre of Perth? (JW) this is owners' responsibility. Commercial buildings can be owned by pension funds therefore not for sale, commercial shopping habits have changed so property values low, no inclination to sell, put rateable values on empty commercial properties to encourage sales, landlords have unreasonable expectation of rental values, PKC are buying back housing stock. Concern expressed re erroneous reports of funding shortfall re the Museum, local paper issued an apology but Social media posts continued and should be monitored by PKC and commenting turned off if unsuitable.

9) SVA. Report.

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

10) A.O.C.B. In planning, groundwater conditions for H29 were removed from LDP2, can Councillors ask for this to be reinstated in LDP3 before new developer takes over? Persimmon have bought the ground from AJ Stephens and will build affordable housing allocation.

11) Date of Next Meeting : Monday 7.00 pm 31st March 2025