

## **Dalbeattie Community Council Meeting**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 @ 7pm Dalbeattie Town Hall**

Draft Minutes

### **Community Council Elected Members Present :**

Linda Ashton (LA) Chair, May Donaldson (MD) Vice Chair, Ron Smith (RS) Treasurer

Edward Palmer (ED), Lynn Gibson (LG) Robert Widdowson (RW) Clean Up

James Carnochan (JC), Pauline, Paterson (PP) NEW Secretary – proposed LA seconded RS

### **Councillors :**

Davie Stitt (DS)

### **Royal British Legion:**

Willie Watson (WW)

Robert Kirk (RK)

### **Dalbeattie Initiative:**

Ian Wilbur (IW) Chairperson of the Dalbeattie Initiative

Liz Wilbur (LW)

### **Public:**

Mick Comstorie, Laura Robertson, Kate Caldwell

Mark Bethell, James Dingwall, Lynn Green, John Green, Susan Swanston

Cathy Crompton, Kevin Lesser, Judith Gibson, Amanda Macaulay, Erica Johnstone

## **1 Welcome and Introduction**

LA opened the Meeting

## **2 Apologies**

Councillor Kim Lowe

David Reid

## **3 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (14<sup>th</sup> April 2025)**

Review and approval of Minutes from the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

All approved

#### **4 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes not on the Agenda**

LA Informed the meeting there is an online Zoom with the police and other Towns which takes place the night after Dalbeattie Council Meeting unfortunately LA was unable to connect on the night of the last police meeting but there were no issues.

The matter of Parking / Driving around Dalbeattie was brought up and Parking on the High Street on Double Yellow Lines, the contractors parking on Alpine Street on double yellow lines, if anything could be done about it.

LA informed the meeting of the:

#### **The police drop in**

Car Park rear of Town Hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 Between 6.15pm -6.45pm. Drop in sessions are held every couple of months.

#### **5 Actions from the Previous Minutes**

Nothing here

#### **6 Police Report**

LA Read out the Police Report

17/04-theft of pedal cycle, enquiries ongoing

18/04 report of online fraud, enquiries ongoing

24/04-assault within public house, persons reported

30/04-speeding, ticket issued

03/05 report of threatening behaviour, enquiries ongoing

07/05-report of threatening behaviour, enquiries ongoing

08/05 report of worrying livestock, person charged

09/05-male reported for supply drugs

09/05 online fraud, enquiries ongoing

14/05-threatening behaviour, person charged

19/05-speeding x 2, tickets issued

16/05-report of theft from motor vehicle, enquiries ongoing

26/05-speeding, ticket issued

01/06-serious assault, person charged

03/06-speeding, ticket issued

## **7 Treasurer's Report**

### **FISCAL YEAR 2025 Additional Details**

**OPENING BALANCE £40,583.15 FROM CLOSING BALANCE FY2024**

**Income £36,407 ring fenced for pond**

**deposit 21/05/2025 £8,424.00 from Dunn Foundation for bandstand**

**TOTAL INCOME £8,424.00**

### **Expenditure**

**14/04/2025 cheque 130 £72.00 Birchvale theater rent for meeting**

**02/05/2025 direct debit ICO £47.00**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE £119.00**

**Opening Balance £40,583.15**

**Income £8,424.00**

**Opening Balance plus Income £49,007.15**

**Expenditure £119.00**

**Closing Balance £48,888.15**

## **8 Working Party Report / Sub Group Report**

### **Pond Regeneration**

Very upsetting news regarding a person reporting to SEPA the important work of the cleaning of the pond. This is now an ongoing investigation by SEPA therefore all the hard work everyone has put in cleaning the pond, especially Robert Widdowson, has been put on hold. Before the work was stopped vapes, bottles, litter and stones from the pond walls were cleared from the pond.

Robert received a round of applause as thanks from the meeting.

There is cracking in the base of the pond.

Phase 1 of the work is to seal the base and walls of the pond, this work is planned to be completed by the end of 2025.

The tenders for Phase 2 have now gone up from 3 contractors to 6. These tenders are with D&G Council and are due to go out in a few weeks time. D&G Council have taken over the liability for the pond. Fundraising needed for Phase 2.

### Clean up Dalbeattie

Lots of the town is looking brighter and cleaner from the efforts of the group especially on the play equipment. Work is ongoing from this group.

### Resilience

Next meeting September

### Community Engagement including Local Place Plan

EP handed Maps around and discussed the ongoing work. 80 newsletters are put into the Post Office and all have been taken.

EP asked for articles from attendees even if these are just in bullet point form.

Survey has had approximately 150 responses. From 400 fliers there were 40 responses – 10%.

Pantry will include a survey element when they leaflet the whole of Dalbeattie. More responses will help to make the survey more statistically significant.

Original deadline for Local Place Plan was end June 2025 but we have an effective 4 month extension.

Consider workshop meetings to generate and discuss ideas. For example Dalbeattie doesn't have a central area to meet as Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas have.

### 9 Community Organisation Reports

#### **Dalbeattie Initiative**

Work continues on the building but plastic protective sheeting means that this isn't all visible. Vent on 27th June for Funders.

#### **Scouts**

KL / EP The Scouts are looking for a home for storage, meetings and activities with lockable rooms. Scout numbers are growing. They have approached the police and are looking to see

if they can acquire the Police Building via a Community Asset Transfer. This was applied for on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025. They now have a 12 month window in which to put a business plan together and are looking for any Community Help and support to assist with this. Forms and formulas are complicated.

The building could also be available to other youth focussed organisations and as a general youth club centre.

If anyone in our community can help with this application and justifications please get in touch

Letters from the Community Council or other groups help to support the application. A petition was suggested as funders insist on community involvement and evidence of support.

Also it is the Scouts Centenary Year in Dalbeattie September 2025. Between the 4<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> September, they are planning to have Tents in Colliston Park with action for all.

#### 10 Regional (D&G) Council Report to the Council

Lollipop person – High levels of concern about this withdrawal with increased risk for relatively small financial savings.

Discussion took place regarding the removal of the Lollipop person and how dangerous it will be for the school children at the lights as they are on bad timings. Suggestion of putting barriers up to protect the pedestrians. Traffic lights knocked over multiple times

John Street closures from James Street to Station Road due to start 7 July. 3 to 4 weeks closure but work planning has reduced the estimated closure period. Heavy traffic diverted by A75 and back via Cargenbridge. Access for emergency vehicles etc and a 4 way traffic light system in place.

Potential Stagecoach withdrawal from many bus services. Discussions ongoing. Changes due early August.

#### 11 Planning Application that need Community Council comment

Community Common Good Land in Rounall Wood

There was debate regarding this matter. LA is now attending the Common Good Council meeting regarding this matter alongside Dalbeattie councillors. Brought forward from October but no date yet. The general feeling at the meeting was strongly against the sale of this land because of the size and shape of the plot as well as the historical significance of the wood.

Dalbeattie Forest Community Partnership (DFCP) were mentioned as working in the wood to improve overgrown and uncared for areas.

### 12 Other Projects

Update on Music Fundraiser to raise money for Phase 2 of Colliston Park Pond work.

To take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025 in the upstairs room of Dalbeattie Town Hall.

Doors open at 4.30pm Bands Start 6pm until Midnight including the excellent Kissing The Flint. Bar No Food.

### 13 Public Feedback

WW Street Lamps Corroded at the bottom where the Electrics are Person informed to Report it to Callam Edgar in D&G Council.

Discussion took place regarding Mill Street becoming a one way road but no one had been told of any information on that matter.

Discussions took place regarding the speed limit around Dalbeattie being reduced to 20 miles an hour, on the incoming and outgoing roads maybe having variable road speed cameras, there was a feeling that it would be hard to police as people go over the 30 mile an hour limit now. KL particularly mentioned danger to younger people in the area of Londis shop due to speeding and parking.

Note – police report includes dates of several speeding tickets issued. As tickets are issued it may influence driving habits.

LA is going to write to Paul Penny thanking him for all the information he puts on Facebook keeping Dalbeattie up to date on road closure information.

Discussion regarding the funding and job security of the Common Learning Programme attracting people to the town and encouraging young folk to stay and have families plus job security.

RW asked about land for car parking. From church down to burn and behind the police station.

### 14 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025 7pm to take place in Dalbeattie Town Hall.