

Minutes of DBDCDT Board meeting Number 32

2nd June 2025,

CIC, Lagmhor, Little Dunkeld 19:00

Present: Jan Silburn (Interim Chair) (**JS**) Jane Bremner (minutes) (**JB**), John Gilruth (**JG**), Stuart Paton (**SP**), James Jarvis (**JJ**), Roseanna Preston-Jones (**RPJ**), Beth Taylor (**BT**),

Guests: Alex Kettles (**AK**), Khalid Khurshid (**KK**) (Birnam Shop), Mike Wolf (**MW**) (DBDCC representative)

Apologies: None

Minutes

Minutes from 5th May 2025 were accepted. Proposed by **JS** and seconded by **JG**

Actions Arising from Minutes:

Representatives of the Dalgүise, Amulree and Butterstone village halls were sent invitations for this trustee meetings. Nobody was available to attend today.

All trustees present were asked if they had a conflict of interest for any of the subjects to be covered in this meeting. None were put forward.

New Trustees: **AK** was proposed as a new trustee and was accepted unanimously by all trustees.

Post-Office: **KK** outlined the series of events regarding the Birnam Post Office which is now closed.

The usual practice of advertising and consultation about the closure was not done by the Post-Office. The first announcements occurred after the post-office has already occurred.

KK put in a note of interest to the Post-office management to relocate and run the post office at his shop in Birnam. He already runs other post-offices in Perthshire. He did not hear from them and when he followed this up, he was met by Brian Tumble, who was in charge of the closure. There was no explanation as to why the post office had closed without the expected community consultation. **KK** was told that there had been no interest. **KK** reasserted that he was interested and was then sent the details.

The expected income from the post-office services was £10 - 12,000/annum. This would not cover wages for an employee working for 24 hours/week.

There may be a possibility of a Remote Access Grant of £5000

KK would need to pay the Post Office £18,000 for the setting up of the post-office equipment in his shop.

The previous post-office owner is happy to give **KK** the safes which may reduce this cost.

KK is still happy to continue with the application and asked the trustees what opening hours would be best for the community. He suggested part-time opening of 25 hours/week, including a Saturday.

The trustees all agreed that the Trust would back them however they could and would consult locals as the best opening hours. **MW** also said that the DBDCC would back the process.

It was also agreed that a joint letter from the Trust and DBDCC to our PKC ministers and the Scottish Government to outline the failings of the Post-office in this matter and to ask the Post-office management for an explanation. **JS/MW Action**

The details of the situation will be published in the Bridge and posted on the Trust website.

RJP/BT Action

The community will be asked for their opinions regarding opening hours.

KK was thanked by all present for trying to keep post-office services open as this was a great benefit to the community.

Finance - SP has circulated financial report for May. The annual accounts were examined by Bob Lindsey and were signed off by the trustees.

Insurance policy needs to be renewed **JB Action**

Development Officer report - Monthly report has been circulated

Care Group report - JG reported that all demand for PA's has been met. NHS Tayside will match the funding from PKC for the next 2 years.

Cases from outwith PH8 are now coming in.

Energy Report – JS/BT/SP/JB attended an on-line meeting with Local Energy Scotland (LES). The possibility of having part community ownership of a small percentage of proposed wind farm was discussed. This could take several different directions. At this meeting it was suggested that the Trust should set up a Note of Interest which is non-binding to the windfarm before they put in for planning permission. This would mean that **IF** the windfarm went ahead then the company would have to consider community involvement. If this was not done and the company was sold on, then the new company would have no obligation to the community. The LES representative stated that this would not affect the decision on planning. The trustees would have to do this before September when the planning application will be submitted.

A discussion was had regarding this and whether it was necessary. Some doubt was expressed as to whether this would appear that the Trust was in favour of the new Glentarken Windfarm. This is a controversial development with conflicting feelings about it in the community.

The CC are also very involved on obtaining community feeling about this. It was agreed that there would be a joint community open meeting organized by the DBDCC and the Trust at the end of August.

The community would be asked to give their opinions on 2 separate questions:

1. Whether the community, through the Trust should put in a Note of Interest before the planning application is submitted. This would be a Yes/No/(Maybe) decision.
2. Whether the community is for or against the proposed wind farm. This will be an open discussion with a survey to determine the views of the community.

Local Place Plan (LPP) – now complete and submitted.

Housing- JS/BT/RPJ had a meeting with the new CHAG group.

The suggestion that one of the members could be invited to join as a Trustee of the Trust was discussed. They will get back to us about this.

The identification of different sites need to be agreed on for submitting for the LDP. The date for this has been extended until the end of July.

It was agreed that there should be an MOU between the Trust and the CHAG. The Trust received a suggestion of an MOU from them. It was a close copy to the one that was set-up with the old HAG. It was suggested that the wording could be softened, without losing any of the intention. **JB/AK** to meet to discuss this and other possible locations that could be put forward for the LDP. **Action**

Website: RJP to update and upload new posts.

Artisan Village—money has been given for a Pre-App for the site. A general feasibility study has been done for the area which could be used for any activity proposed for the area.

Community Bus – no further information

AOB

Parking In collaboration with DBDCC, JJ will carry out a survey for the local businesses about the state of parking in D&B. This will then be carried forward and discussed with the PKC.

The suggestion that the school carpark could be used as an out-of-hours carpark was also discussed.

Meeting ended at 20.45

Date of next meeting: 7th July 2025 at CIC, Lagmhor, Little Dunkeld. 19:00