

17th of March 2025 7PM

MINUTES OF DOLLAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. PRESENT

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	GUESTS	APOLOGIES
Alison Marshall [AM]	Denis Coyne CC [DC]	Norman Ross [NR]
Stephen MacMillan [SM]	Scott Harrison CC [SH]	George Russell [GR]
Derek McDonald [DMcD]	Ross Burton DCDT [RB]	
Francis Allan [FA]		
Anne Sutherland [AS]		
Calum Jackson [CJ]		

NOMINATED AND ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS			
Derek McDonald [DMcD]	Chair		
Calum Jackson [CJ]	Deputy Chair		

SUBJECT	ACTION	NOTE
1.Minutes	Still to be approved	

<p>2.Matters Arising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMcD – Section 75 papers (for new Dollar housing developments) came out on Sunday 13th of March, without prior consultation with DCC as promised by Councillor Donald Balsillie. DCC has tried unsuccessfully for three years to have engagement with the process. DCC have requested a delay of one month to facilitate community engagement which has been rejected. In effect, the Section 75 agreement has been rubberstamped and is now binding. • DMcD – Asks DC about improvements to the Ramshorn Junction. DC does not have details at present. DMcD points out that they are detailed in the annex to the Section 75 papers. DCC wanted a roundabout at the Ramshorn to 	
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	<p>replace the current junction due to increase in traffic. Instead it is proposed to increase the radius of the corner of the existing junction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMcD Reiterates that there has been none of the promised consultation about such matters. • DMcD – After initial public meetings, which were not very productive, there has been no meaningful engagement. For example, we said no thanks to public art but it is in the Section 75 when the Dollar community would prefer that budget spent on other things. • CJ – DCC involvement in theory protected space around the health centre and the primary school to allow for expansion. Does this still stand? • Community land was offered then withdrawn, for example the “Fire Station” site. • CJ – This development had a very high number of comments and objections from the Dollar community which shows the level of concern and desire for involvement. • DMcD- Would like a meeting with the Chief Executive of CC. • DC suggests an initial meeting with Kevin Wells (Director of Place) • CJ – The legally binding agreement is between the developers and the council but we were told we would be involved and thus could have grounds for a formal complaint. • DC – First step in raising a complaint is Kevin Wells as Nikki McBride is the final arbiter. • RS – Asks DC if decision notice has been issued as planning permission has not formally been granted until then. • DMcD – DB gave absolute cap of 350 houses. The numbers vary in the document and could now be as high as 390. 	
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- CJ Worried about pushing the number up as there is a lack of trust with CC planning Dept and the developers.
- SH – defends DC as he is only one member of the planning committee.
- DC – Damage done before the document arrived. It could not be meaningfully changed by the time it reached planning. Developers did not engage after initial draft and presented a fait accompli to the council.
- DMcD – Developers ignored Donald Balsillie.
- AS – were the council so relieved at the developers finally reaching agreement that they did not want to rock the boat by questioning it?
- CJ – Dissatisfied with historical lack of robustness from CC on dealing with developers..
- FA – What happens if DCC and DCDT don't manage to halt issuing of Section 75?
- RB – Thinks we may have leverage to be involved at the design stage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FA – Asks about Local Place Plan – will it influence how Section 75 money spent/ – could do? • DMcD - Alloa Advertiser article on Strathdevon primary expansion is misleading as Donald Balsillie is quoted as saying DCC and DCDT are delighted alongside CC. This is false and DMcD will send a riposte to the Alloa Advertiser stating this. • RB – Is happy to help with planning meetings on behalf of DCDT. • DMcD – Quorate and DCC membership • FA – Bring forward AGM to before election – before July meeting? • AM to ask for timeline from Leslie Baillie for election process. • DMcD – DCC has not managed to achieve much due to lack of cooperation with CC (acknowledges funding difficulties). This makes DCC look ineffective and does not encourage new members from joining. • SMcM – need to communicate with locals to get them concerned enough about the planning issues to be willing to join DCC and contribute. • DMcD – need to resume monthly meetings. • DMcD – need to improve timely submission of reports in advance of meetings. • Other matters Arising – • FA – Has concerns about public access to Dollar Pool (Splash nights) and whether this is decreasing? DMcD to have a meeting with the Rector about public access to Dollar Academy facilities. • SM – has concerns about poor parking on Manorhouse road. DMcD – Still talking to DA about parking and drop off points etc. • FA to contact Police about monitoring parking. 	
<p>3.Clackmannanshire Councillors' Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached report from DC (appendix 1) 	

4. Law and order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached report (appendix 2) 	
5. Finance and fundraising report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached report from NR 	
6. Subcommittee reports	<p>1. & 2 Roads and Planning Local Place Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS – lot of work, tight schedule of end of June. We can request more time. Need help. • DMcD Organise a meeting with DCDT to start joint effort. • Steering committee suggested with 6-8 members including DCC, DCDT and Nick Poett etc. • Need funding for printing. • SH suggests speaking to Coalfields Trust. • SMcM Will help with IT • AM & AS to have weekly meetings • SH will help by asking for an extension. 	
	<p>3. Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS to collect last advertising cash.. 	
	<p>4. Flood Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report 	
7. Other Reports	<p>1. JCCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM attended a presentation from Kevin Wells, New Director of Place about his role and aims of his department. 	
	<p>2. EDF:</p> <p>No report</p>	
	<p>3. Strathdevon Primary School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report. 	
	<p>4. DCDT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report. 	

<p>8. A.O.B.:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Plan – DMcD reiterates that in meetings with Rector of DA he requested a traffic plan during FIDA building and that FIDA is completed before work on the new housing commences. • CJ – need to talk to planning about phasing of developments as it could be completely chaotic. • Microgrants – We have agreed to pass surplus microgrant funds to Paul Crawford for renovating benches in Dollar <p>Date of next meeting: 7pm 14th of April 2025 Captain’s Room Dollar Academy.</p>	
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Appendix 1 - Councillor Report

Clackmannanshire Council, Clacks East Councillors Report, March 2025

Budget 2025 - 26

- Since 2010, the Council has worked hard to save £70.5 million while continuing to protect essential services. And while this year’s settlement from the Scottish Government was an improvement, it remains insufficient to cover the rising costs of delivering vital services.
- Council tax makes up only around 17% of our total funding, with the rest determined by UK and Scottish Government decisions. Meanwhile, external pressures continue to mount. For example, the UK Government’s national insurance increase alone adds £779,000 - equivalent to a 3% council tax rise in Clackmannanshire. There is also a risk that this cost pressure caused by Employer NIC will be passed on by providers of commissioned services and also suppliers and contractors of goods and services. The cost of this is currently unknown but would also need to be met from council funds.
- Our energy costs have surged by £75,000 this year, while our Private Finance Initiative (PPP) contract costs have risen from £10.38 million to £10.69 million for our three secondary schools, again equivalent to another 1% CT. We

have also budgeted for a 3% staff pay increase, costing £2.47 million. Every 1% above this will be an additional £900k

- There is a need to help fund the HSCP overspend as well.
- The Council is operating in a challenging context. As Scotland's smallest mainland authority by population, we also have a significant number of residents with serious and complex needs. This means a large and increasing demand for services such as social care and education.
- It is important to note that every 1% rise in council tax generates just £255,000, meaning these pressures far exceed what can be covered through small adjustments.
- As a small local authority, there are also fewer opportunities to generate additional income compared to larger councils. For example, Edinburgh raises over £27 million annually from parking charges, and Perth & Kinross expect to raise £2 million from second homes council tax charges, whereas in Clackmannanshire, this brings in just £55,000. This limits the council's ability to offset rising costs in the way that other councils can.
- At the same time, demand for services, particularly in social care and education, is soaring. More than £100 million of Clack's budget is dedicated to these essential areas, ensuring we continue to support those who need it most. In recent years, the council has worked hard to find efficiencies, reduce costs, and use reserves where possible.
- Continuing to rely on reserves is not sustainable and would leave the council unable to respond to future financial pressures, especially in critical services like social care where there is increasing demand. The reality is that without this increase, we would have faced even deeper cuts, significantly impacting the most vulnerable in our community.
- Whilst continuing to push for fairer funding, the council also has a duty to take immediate action to ensure financial stability.



Positive Destinations for School Leavers Exceed National and Regional Averages

More school leavers in Clackmannanshire are entering a positive destination when they leave school.

School leavers who are engaged in higher education, further education, training, voluntary work or employment are classed as having a positive destination.

Recently published Scottish Government data shows that the initial destinations of school leavers from Clackmannanshire's secondary schools in October 2024 are currently at an impressive 95.9%. This figure surpasses both the national and Forth Valley averages, highlighting the impressive achievements of our young people.

This success is a direct result of the hard work of pupils, and the support provided by our school staff and parents, and a range of committed partners within the Family Wellbeing Partnership. This holistic approach to supporting our young people and families has been a key factor in ensuring that so many school leavers move on to positive destinations.

This support continues as learners transition into their post-school destinations. Local partners, including Skills Development Scotland, MCR Pathways, Career Ready and many others are ensuring that young people receive the ongoing guidance and support they need to succeed in their chosen paths.

Cllrs, Martin, Harrison & Coyne
17 March 2025

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Dollar Community Council Meeting 17/03/2025

INTRODUCTION

The Ward Officers for Clackmannanshire East (Clackmannan, Forestmill, Dollar and Muckhart) can be contacted by calling 101 or by e-mail at barry.reiter@scotland.pnn.police.uk or barry.ritchie@scotland.pnn.police.uk

There have been 3 crimes recorded in the Dollar area since the last meeting.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

None

ACQUISITIVE CRIME

A youth was charged for a theft at the COOP, Bridge Street.

VANDALISM

None

VIOLENCE

None

DRUGS

None

ROAD TRAFFIC ISSUES

A parked vehicle was damaged while parked on Bridge Street. Enquiries are ongoing to identify the offending vehicle.

A male was charged with careless driving following a minor road traffic matter.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE

None

ANY OTHER COMMUNITY ISSUES

Additional patrols are continuing in relation to anti-social behavioural and damage caused previously around the village.

Community officers have continued to carry out speed monitoring in the area.

Any information regarding drug dealing or other criminality can be reported to police or Crimestoppers and can be done so anonymously.

Any relevant information can be passed on by contacting police on 101 or anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111.

FEEDBACK FROM MEETING

