



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 February 2016

Held in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie St, Blairgowrie at 7pm

<p><u>ATTENDANCE</u> Mrs M Young (MY) Mr I Richards (IR) Ms N Ferry (NF) Mrs P McGregor (PM) Mr D Bailey (DB) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Mr G Darge (GD) Mr A Donald (AD) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mrs K Nicol (KN) Mr L Seal (LS) Mr B Smith (BS) Mr A Thomson (AT)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Mrs M Duncan (MD) Sue Fowlie (SF) Dr S Mitchell (SM) Cllr L Grant (LG)</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Secretary Treasurer</p> <p>Associate Member Councillor PKC</p>	<p>Mr A Lang (AL) Cllr B Ellis (BE) Cllr C Shiers (CS) Ms C Damodaran (CD) Ms W McCombes (WM) 3 members of the public Mr R Ross Sgt K Harrison (KH)</p> <p><u>ABSENCES</u> Mr A Cannon (AC)</p>	<p>Associate member Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Press Coupar Angus CC Safer Communities Team Police Scotland Associate member</p>
<p>Item 1 – Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>1.1 MY welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies from the above.</p>			
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of January Minutes</p> <p>The 3rd last line of item 10 should be changed to BE from BS. Adoption proposed by IR and seconded by BS and was carried unanimously.</p> <p>Silver Arrow. BE said that we were no further forward and asked if the BRCC wished to resurrect the competition. Acceptance of the motion was proposed by DB and seconded by BS and carried unanimously. BE would get in touch with Robert Mercer-Nairne. KN hoped that the competition would be open to young and old, male and female and thanked SF for her research.</p> <p>The BRAN litterpick date will be reorganised.</p> <p>BE confirmed that street Sweeping will not be affected by the PKC budget savings.</p>		<p>BE BE/IR</p>	
<p>Item 3 - Subjects raised by members of the public.</p>			

<p>A member of the public again brought up the issue of taxi plates and after much discussion, it was agreed that there was nothing further that BRCC could help with. Another Taxi operator said that it cost £260 per annum to have a place at the taxi rank and that he didn't make enough for this to be his sole source of employment. He said the taxi operators do not like the new rank as it is too far from the bus stance & the Crown Bar and said that people are too lazy to walk over to the rank. MY said that if they had a taxi office then customers could hail a taxi in the street or that it could come to them. CS said that the taxi operators had asked at the time to have the rank in the car park but the member of the public said that it is different now that they are there and realise that people are not coming over. ST said that the taxi operators should come to the Charrette (29/2 – 3/3) and put their grievances to those there.</p> <p>The 1st member of the public then said that the pool at the Recy is filthy and people are refusing to use it. BE said that the Recy is to be refurbished but not as much as they would like. The Charrette and Community Sports Council are looking into this. BE said there is a new group – Cultural and Sport Advisory Forum – which will become live on April 1. They will be purely advisory and have no funding. SN said that BRCC had put a lot of effort into putting a multi-discipline centre into the LDP2.</p> <p>The 1st member of the public again raised the issue of litter and fly-tipping in the Scotmid carpark. MY said that she had spoken to a person from Scotmid and that the larger items would be removed. Also that they hoped to patch the surface of the carpark soon. Community payback could perhaps be approached to clear the remaining litter. CS confirmed that community payback would be clearing the area and that the larger item had been removed this morning.</p>	
<p>Item 4 - Police & Fire reports.</p> <p>Sgt K Harrison attended and said that the monthly reports had stopped but the Commander's Bulletin would still be issued weekly and that Community Watch had been set up. Although the crime rate is still low locally, there have been a lot of quad bike thefts but 3 men were apprehended in Bridge of Cally and charged. There have been break-ins to sheds in Alyth; scratched cars in Coupar Angus and money scams in Pitlochry; tools have been stolen from vans and there was a break-in on Burnhead Rd. Look out for people doing door to door deliveries, driveways, roofs etc. If you think they look dodgy, phone Police. Look out for vulnerable neighbours. ST asked if speed monitoring will be carried out once the pedestrian lights and 20mph limit are installed. KH replied that if there was an issue with speeding then they would attend. PC Jim Lorimer has retired so will not be attending any more BRCC meetings in an official capacity. BS asked if the Community Resilience group could have a meeting with the Police but KH said that they preferred John Handling to deal with this.</p> <p>There was no one from Fire & Rescue.</p> <p>Mr R Ross from the Safer Communities Team gave a short presentation of his department's remit – Community Wardens, ASB investigators, MAPPA Liaison Officers, Community Safety Hub and the Unpaid Work Team. There are 12 wardens in Perth & Kinross and youth crime has diminished in the areas that they are deployed. There was a problem in Kinross with anti-social behaviour, arson etc. There was a bad group but in 6 months they have managed to reduce this. Junior wardens learn respect and good citizenship. The wardens provide Cycling Proficiency classes, Crisis intervention, problem solving and Fire/Crime Prevention. In the future there may be Community Funding. In Aberfeldy, there have been problems getting enough Retained Firefighters during the day and one of the Community Wardens is now also a retained firefighter. If it works, this may be tried in other areas.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Arising & Ongoing Issues</p>	

5.1 Citizen of the Year Process.

IR said that the process for nominating and choosing the Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the year would be the same as last year with the nomination forms being available from 1 March and the closing date would be 28 April. He said that we need to get the message out to as many people as possible to nominate someone has gone the extra mile for their community. It was successful last year but we want this year to be even better. The cups will be presented at a ceremony at the community market on 25 June at 11am. The recipients of the awards carry out several duties throughout the year, including switching on the Christmas illuminations and starting the fireworks display on Braemar night. In reply to KN, MY said that the present Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year had been nominated to attend the Queen's Garden party at Holyrood.

5.2 Bus Route.

PM gave apologies from Andrew Warrington, Public Transport manager, PKC who had intended to be present to give his report about the proposed changes to the 63 bus route. John Millar of Stagecoach has had a trial run of the proposed route to ascertain timings and has proposed that the service at 10.26, 12.26 and 14.26 should be re-routed out Coupar Angus Rd then along Golf Course Rd but at these times it would not go out to Carsie, instead continuing with the route as it stands at present. Carsie is also served by the 34 and 58. PM also said that the Strathmore Transport Group are looking into all aspects of transport in the area, including taxis and minibuses and are to have a workshop at the Charrette in the Town Hall on Tuesday 1 March from 10.30. The proposal was accepted unanimously. WM said that CACC were looking into Stagecoach taking bikes on board buses and PM said that she would pass that on at the Charrette.

5.3 Community Resilience Group

BS said that the meeting with Fire & Rescue had been very instructive but they need information on the Care Homes in the area. They were now seeking a meeting with the Ambulance Service. The team has drawn up an emergency plan. The draft plan would be available shortly but filling in the nuts and bolts would take a long time. They need to know what services & vehicles would be available. KN said to ask on social media and the press for a list of things that would be needed. AD said that there were 2 parts to the town and if the bridge were down or a serious explosion damaged it, facilities would need to be available on both sides. BS agreed that this was the case. They would be having many more meetings.

5.4 Community Watch.

See Community Warned above.

5.5 Keep B & R Beautiful

IR said that BE & CS had been very supportive of the KBRB group. Blair in Bloom had been very good over many years including their annual litter pick and IR is to have a meeting with Helen McCann in the next weeks. A close working relationship with Blair in Bloom is the key to success. The 1st stage – litter – is to survey the town and mark the areas where there is a problem on our extra large maps, particularly the route from Blairgowrie High School to Tesco and the Coop, then divide it into zones for volunteers and various organisations to monitor as their own. Encourage Tesco and the Coop to get involved, including with sponsorship and also with manpower. There needs to be an educational side, as there is no point in using the threat of prosecution when there is no hope of enforcing it. The dog fouling around the town is also on the increase and again there is no enforcement. The number of prosecutions last year was

<p>“The first session was held in the Town Hall on 23rd January. The attendance was great, well over 200 people, which way exceeded expectation of PKC planners, and even I was called on to be planner advisor for the day!</p> <p>I fed back to the planners on observations on the day, prompted by LS, and other attendees on the day, so as to help make these sessions more meaningful and useful in informing the results.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maps and plans, far too small and difficult to read. They agreed and hopefully these will be better in the future. 2. The language used was too technical and “planner speak” in all displays and this needs put in lay person speak. Again they agreed. 3. There was insufficient opportunity to feedback comments on proposals on the day. The fear being that people who turned up and said their bit, will have thought they had discharged their duty. However, that is not the case. Having followed this up with the planners they confirm that comments regarding the main issues report will only be accepted in written form by way of their forms. Online or hard copy. They agreed that they need to make this much clearer at these events. Our offer of collating responses at the next event and feeding them in would not be acceptable, but help with making the procedure clear to people is. <p>The next session is on Thursday 25th Feb at Blairgowrie Community Campus from 4.00 – 8.00pm”</p> <p>LS said that social media had been very effective.</p>	
<p>Item 6 - Local Councillor reports</p> <p>CS said that the consultation on playparks closes on 22/2. AD asked about the Lochy Park play area but CS said there was no refurbishment planned for there, but that there may be funding available from the Lottery if a Playpark Users Group were to be set up.</p> <p>CS confirmed receipt of MY’s email requesting dog bins on Oakbank Rd. She had follow-up meetings about the recent flooding. Lots of opinions on Facebook about issues such as signage and diversion routes.</p> <p>The Blairgowrie High School follow-up inspection had been good which is good news. Mrs Leslie would like to work with the Community Resilience Group as BHS has lots of facilities that would be useful during an emergency situation.</p> <p>BE said that there are still teachers parking on Beeches Rd and residents are having problems parking. There is an issue with space for emergency vehicles and bin lorries. He had contacted Mrs Leslie.</p> <p>He had contacted Chic Haggart about the junction of Reform St with Perth St. They are looking at solutions to the accidents which have occurred and planning the cost of remedial action. There is a suggestion that a raised area from the pedestrian lights – across the whole junction including Perth Rd/St be installed.</p> <p>There is to be a sports day for Primary school pupils on Wednesday 17/2 at the Recy and it will cost £12. CD said that she would be on holiday but that the PA would cover it.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – Pending Planning applications.</p> <p>There were no applications of interest.</p>	

<p>Item 8 – Secretary’s correspondence.</p> <p>There was no correspondence of note.</p>	
<p>Item 9 – Chair’s report on follow ups.</p> <p>The Pedestrian Lights in the Wellmeadow should be completed by the end of March but the return to 2 way traffic at the Crown Bar will be a bit longer.</p> <p>Scotmid will patch the car park behind the Factory Shop and the Coop are planning to resurface their car park and have the job out to tender at the moment.</p> <p>Ratray Connect will charge us for using a room there for our meetings so ST said he would enquire of Ratray Bowling Club whether they let out their premises and the likely cost.</p> <p>Oakbank Rd. MY spoke to Steven Kane of PKC. They are to replace the drainage pipes at the Cuttle Burn and renew to culvert in plastic not cement with a grate to catch any debris. BRAN said that the grate must be kept clear; they would upkeep. Hopefully work will be completed by end of March. Brushwood has been left in front of the flats where bushes and brambles have been cut back. AL said that Andy Clegg’s answers to questions were illogical and unsatisfactory, although some comments were helpful.</p> <p>MY, Tony Thomson (MBCC) and DB had a meeting with Bernadette Malone, PKC (BM) which included the procedure of the Hill Primary School sale. She was not aware of specific details about it but would try to get the Property Sub Group to get in touch. The letter from David Littlejohn to the Ericht Trust was curt and dismissive. MY will get back to BM. DB thought that the letter from David Littlejohn should be forwarded to BM.</p>	
<p>Item 10 – AOCB</p> <p>Strathmore Advisory Group. (SAG)</p> <p>DB said that there is a huge change with the integration of parts of the NHS and Social Services and SAG will have to change their terms of reference. The new unit at the Cottage Hospital has been well received and the former maternity unit is to house the Community Mental Health Unit from Coupar Angus. The draft terms of reference have been sent off and the stipulation is that there is one representative from each community council in the area.</p> <p>ST said that the 3 new containers in Piggy Lane, housing the changing facilities etc for the sports teams, will be opened at 3pm on 21/2 by John Swinney MSP. This is £70K worth of very expensive tech and is a first in Scotland; for 3 weeks engineers were there every day. All are invited to the opening ceremony and to give generously to the collecting boxes! BRCFC teams will be playing. DB proposed a vote of thanks to ST for his tremendous work on this.</p> <p>AT, BE & IR will be clearing the Craighall path on Friday/Saturday 19/20.</p> <p>Blair in Bloom urgently need new volunteers as do the Braemar Day committee.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.45</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting will be at Ratray Connect on 10 March at 7pm.</p>	<p>All</p>

Distribution (email unless specified):

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Mr I Cruickshank

Local Councillors:

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Mrs E Grant
Mrs C Shiers

11 February 2016

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Ms S Fowlie
Ms N Ferry
Mrs P McGregor
Mr S Nichol
Mrs K Nicol
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