



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 March 2016

Held in the Rattray Community Connect, Rattray, 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) Mrs M Duncan (MD) 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> Mr G Darge (GD) Mr A Donald (AD) Ms S Fowlie (SF) Dr S Mitchell (SM)</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Secretary Treasurer</p>	<p>Mr A Lang (AL) Mr A Cannon (AC)</p> <p>Cllr B Ellis (BE) Cllr C Shiers (CS)</p> <p>Mr A McCutcheon Ms C Damodaran</p> <p>3 members of public</p> <p><u>ABSENT</u> Cllr L Grant (LG)</p>	<p>Associate member Associate member</p> <p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC</p> <p>Fire & Rescue Press</p> <p>Councillor PKC</p>
<p>Item 1 – Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>1.1 MY welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for the above.</p>			
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of February Minutes.</p> <p>The adoption of the minutes was proposed by IR and seconded by SN and carried unanimously.</p>			
<p>Item 3 - Subjects raised by members of the public.</p> <p>A member of the public again raised the matter of the siting of the taxi rank in the Gas Brae carpark and said that taxi drivers he had spoken to would like it returned to its original position. He also raised the matter of illuminated TAXI signs on car roofs, stating that it is not an offence for anyone to display such but it is an offence to obtain payment for pretending to be a licensed taxi. He also again talked about the swimming pool at the Recy. CS said that she had a meeting next Wednesday about the facilities at the Recy. MY reminded him that a meeting was going to be arranged by CS between him, the councillors, MY and the taxi operators & drivers, but that they would need to make sure that they turned up. MY noted that she had had conflicting information regarding the “preferred” positioning of the rank, she also reminded him that the reason it was moved was because the taxis drivers used to block the road during their frequent stops to chat to each other. He acquiesced.</p>			

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<p>Item 4 - A McCutcheon from Fire & Rescue gave an update on the last month's call outs. They had attended 18 calls, 12 of which were fire alarm activations. A crew had attended a road traffic collision near Mains of Arthurstone. This was not in the Blairgowrie area but they had been asked to attend. The driver was cut free from his vehicle and 2 people were transported to hospital. CS asked if the home fire safety visits were still available and AM said that they were and anyone requiring a visit should contact the Fire Station or the Home fire safety website.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Arising and ongoing Issues.</p> <p>5.1 Bus Route.</p> <p>PM reported on a meeting with the Strathmore Transport Group at the Charrette last week. Points discussed were what groups have minibuses and groups that may require transport whether by bus, taxi, patient transport, Freedom coach, also people who may have had surgery and cannot drive for 6 weeks. There was also mention of frail people who are driving when they really shouldn't be but who have no alternative; people who cannot afford to pay for both transport and whatever they want to go to. The RVS charge for when the volunteer driver leaves their own home and so the charge may be £4 before the person even gets in the car. Taxi cards are available in Dundee and Edinburgh (where a proportion of the charge is paid). If the route 63 were to be changed would anyone use it? Andrew Warrington PKC has still to come back and say what is happening at their end but this may well be after the end of the financial year (end March). BE said that originally the no 63 was timed to connect with the 57, 58, and 59 services but this did not need to be the case. All areas could then be served. DB said that at the moment the 63 is a one hour service and that if it were altered to include Golf Course Rd, Carsie would be dropped at these times (10.26, 12.26,14.26.) Any other changes would be at the expense of other parts of the route. IC questioned whether the service is well used by Carsie residents and PM replied that Carsie also has the 58 and 34 services which they can use. Any changes would have to be well publicised and IR asked if there would be a review. PM replied that there would be 3 and 6 month reviews if it goes ahead.</p> <p>5.2 Solar Farm.</p> <p>LS reported on his meeting with Mike Stevenson and Andrew Morton from CARES who talked them through a detailed financial breakdown of expenditure and income but the outcome was that it would be extremely risky to go ahead. The project might raise a very small sum but it would be more likely to lose money at the current rate of Feed in Tariff when the costs of interest on start-up loan were factored in. LS agreed to investigate other possibilities but this was unlikely to involve BRCC as it would be an arrangement between the landowner and a renewable energy provider.</p> <p>5.3 Citizen of the Year.</p> <p>PM said that the voting for the Citizen/ Young Person of the Year had opened on March 1 and would close on April 28. IR, AD & PM had distributed nearly 800 nominations forms to shops, offices, hotels/pubs groups and newsagents & supermarkets. There had been good coverage in the Blairie and IR is to give an interview on Radio Heartland. PM spoke of the correspondence with Daniel Duncan about a PA system for BRCC – did the other members think that this was a good idea. After much discussion, it was agreed to borrow a system as required. A member of the public said that BRCC could borrow his PA system and this will be investigated.</p>	

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<p>5.4 End of financial year statement.</p> <p>PM read out the figures to date and said that the end of the financial year is 31 March and the accounts will go to the accountant. She asked for approval to give the CA a small thank you gift as before. This was approved.</p> <p>5.5 Resilience Plan framework.</p> <p>BS reported that the Resilience Plan had been devised and detail was still being added. He and DB had a meeting with John Handling (PKC Health Safety & Wellbeing Officer) (JH) as they were experiencing difficulty communicating with the emergency services apart from Fire & Rescue. They spoke to Mrs Leslie, Blairgowrie High School only to find that BHS is already on the local Resilience Plan. JH explained that it was already part of the local plan as a Support Centre. There will be a meeting to apportion tasks and responsibilities and also a meeting with Fiona Johnstone, Community Engagement Officer, along with asking the Blairie to advertise about volunteered resources. The plan is progressing but there is a long way to go.</p> <p>Ceremonial Guns.</p> <p>BS reported that he had been in contact with Historic Environment Scotland and that he would be having a meeting in April.</p> <p>Campus Parking.</p> <p>A letter from Sheena Devlin to John Swinney MSP stated that there was no problem at the Campus, only bad drivers. The tone of the letter was very disappointing and they would push for a meeting as she had completely misunderstood the problem and needed to arrange a site visit. BE said he would speak to Sheena Devlin to make her aware of the problems. CS said that the Rattray Primary School (RPS) head teacher was very proactive and they had a plan for RPS coming together. BE asked for the letter to be forwarded to him, KN gave him her copy and MY asked BS to forward her the email.</p> <p>5.6 LDP2 Update.</p> <p>SN said there were 2 events in a row and over 200 people then 70 people attended respectively. This was a great success, more so because of BRCC's input & encouragement given to people about the need to record views in writing or online and the fact that the maps & diagrams were a bit clearer helped at the second event. The PKC planners were very pleased and have emailed a note of thanks for BRCC's input, enthusiasm and help generally. SN thanked LS in particular for his help on the day. The next step is for the draft plan to be produced in late Autumn at which time further consultation will be required before the final version is determined.</p> <p>5.7 Charrette Update.</p> <p>The 4 day event went very well and numbers exceeded all before. One or two people complained there was not enough time and things were not clear enough. Some group discussions were held with craft groups, business community, youth and school children and many individuals attended 1:1 sessions. In all 350 people were engaged. The feedback session on Thursday at 4.30 was very interesting and some of the findings and observations were very encouraging with much to think about when the final report is available at the end of March. While the infrastructure and amenities in Blairgowrie have remained static, the rate of growth is 1.8% per year, second only to Mexico in the entire world and many things are lacking. The next step is to discuss the</p>	<p>BS</p>
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<p>results, after which BRCC is obliged, by the fulfilling condition of the grant, to form an implementation group to ensure elements are delivered. SN thanked ST for opening and closing the Town Hall and washing dishes! Also Steve and Dr Jessie Shaw. MY thanked SN for all his hard work. DB asked if David Thomson would report to the Community Council and was told that SN will write to him and there could possibly be a public meeting in the Town Hall to discuss the findings.</p> <p>5.8 Piggy Lane Update.</p> <p>MY said that ST is a star, the opening of the new changing facilities was spectacular. ST replied that it was used last weekend and is the first step of many towards better facilities in the town. It was good to see so many people from all groups there. He had met councillors about a dog park but cannot stop people exercising their dogs there although about 75% use the bins compared to Bogles Field where 90% don't clean up.</p>	<p>SN</p>
<p>Item 6 - Local Councillor Reports.</p> <p>BE updated the meeting on the tree and shrub infection Phytophthora Ramorum which is affecting part of the CATERAN Trail. He had attended a landowners meeting last week. There are to be two huge events in May/June. The first is an Ultra Marathon on 11/12 May where 120 runners are signed up and the second is the CATERAN YOMP where 740 runners are already signed up. Signs will be erected where entering and leaving the affected area and a 200m exclusion zone will be created within which all trees will be felled. This pathogen can be spread by feet but it mainly airborne; if it rains it is carried into the pine needles. There will be 2 baths on the trail, one of disinfectant and the other with brushes in the bath to clean boots. 2 bowsers will be supplied. There is also a different strain which is affecting blaeberrries, so it is advisable not to eat them. This infection is quite widespread in Devon & Cornwall and the west coast of Scotland. It is very destructive and it cannot be controlled. There are approx. 7000 walkers on the CATERAN Trail every year and notices and postcards have been produced to inform them by Forestry Scotland. These will be placed in B & Bs and hotels etc and on the Country Trust website. The landowners are very concerned and there will be a helicopter survey in May which can identify affected vegetation by the discoloration. The infection will be mapped and the area cleared; fortunately it does not affect the value of the timber.</p> <p>There is a new mini layby on the A94 at Meikleour Woods; this is for the Speed Camera van.</p> <p>Silver Arrow. Robert Mercer-Nairne has emailed BE to say that the Silver Arrow is now in the possession of his son, Sam Mercer-Nairne. BE said that, rather than have a contest for the Arrow at the Highland Games, it would be better to have a separate event, possibly in the Blair Junior's ground – a challenger is needed!</p> <p>The Sports Fun Day was a tremendous success and was so oversubscribed that some kids had to be turned away. BHS and its feeder schools want to take part.</p> <p>Expo 16 is on at Ingliston on 20/21 April and BEPTA will have their own stall because of the large number of appointments they have. They will be taking the new Berries & Cherries tartan with them.</p> <p>The campaign to build a new Recy and all weather pitches. There are various options and BE will have a meeting with council officers. There will be a big campaign in the Blairie and all East Perthshire councillors will be involved. It will cost in the region of £18m according to a report by Council officers last year. A 25m pool will not</p>	

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<p>fit into the current ground area – a complete new build is needed. The Capital Budget is in June – pressure needs to be built up. At the moment swimming competitions have to be held in Kirriemuir or Arbroath. The facility must also have a decent amount of parking.</p> <p>The repairs to Oakbank Rd are to be completed by the end of March but BE felt that there should not be an opening ceremony, just a dignified walk by some members. AL said that there doesn't seem to be any sign of the fencing but BE explained that it is a separate contractor who will be doing the fencing and clearing the fallen trees. He asked if there was any intention of having a retaining wall and IR replied that it will be built in the summertime when the water flow is lower. AL thanked all the team who cleared the drainage ditch. AL remains concerned that a number of points raised in the (post slip) consultant's report remained unanswered, for instance, Is monitoring still going on? The reply from Andy Clegg was unsatisfactory and he suggested that they should meet again to resolve the outstanding issues. IR will write to A Clegg.</p> <p>CS reported that the BMX track is moving forward and they are to receive some of the Tesco Plastic bag money, either £8K, £10K or £12 K depending on the voting by customers. This will be about ¼ of the funds required.</p> <p>30mph limit on Coupar Angus Rd. This change is imminent.</p> <p>Ratray Primary school parking – there will be Police enforcement.</p> <p>The fly-tipping at Parkhead Rd has been attended to. Any further concerns should be reported to Lucy Garthwaite, PKC.</p>	<p>IR</p>
<p>Item 7 – Pending Planning applications.</p> <p>There were no applications of interest.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – Secretary's Correspondence.</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>Item 9 – Chair's report on follow ups since last meeting.</p> <p>MY said that we are not renewing the Survey Gizmo app as we have a new website built by TD. Anyone still to put their profile and picture on the website should send them to PM, MY, IR or TD. Anyone requiring training on the website should contact TD who can come to their house or they can go to her's.</p> <p>MY had a meeting with J Burke of Corryard Developments Ltd who said that when they have sold all the flats in Perth, they will start on the redevelopment of the Hill Primary site. There was still no word from PKC on the planning decision process.</p> <p>Oakbank Litter Bins thanks to CS for contacting Andy Clegg to request more litter bins be placed along the Oakbank Road.</p> <p>HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Commemorative coins for schools and councils. MY showed the members the 2 coins that she had been sent but no one wanted to order any.</p> <p>ABO wind have intimated that their preferred split of the Community Fund would be 40/20/20/20 to MBCC/ACC/BRCC/Joint fund between all 3 CCs. There is a meeting next Tuesday but MBCC is not happy. ACC very supportive and level headed</p>	

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<p>– not graspy. MBCC may have difficulty spending their share as most of their projects would be disallowed under the rules. There would be a fund management team. There has been a rethink about the height of the turbines. ACC will object MY reminded everyone that an objection by BRCC is still only 1 objection and not indicative of many people objecting.</p> <p>HM Queen’s Garden Party.</p> <p>Tom Caldow and Daniel Duncan have been nominated to attend.</p> <p>The meeting schedule for the year is to be amended as we had previously agreed that every third meeting would be in Rattray so June 9, September 8 and December 8 will be held in Rattray and April 14, May 12, July 14, August 11, October 13 and November 10 will be held at the ARC, in Jessie St.</p> <p>MY reminded everyone that she will not be seeking re-election as Chair at the AGM on May 12 and that anyone interested in taking on the role of Chair, or any of the Office Bearer roles, should make themselves know to her over the next few weeks so a candidates list can be put together for the group.</p>	
<p>Item 10 – AOCB</p> <p>IR reported that he had had a very useful meeting with Helen McCann of Blair in Bloom who was willing to work together with Keep Blairgowrie & Rattray Beautiful (KB&RB). and they would jointly be represented at the litter pick on 17 April. Brian Cargill will provide large scale maps of Blairgowrie and the team will survey the town and mark the litter black spots. SN will keep Keep Scotland Beautiful updated. IR thanked the Blairie for their support. Although many people have complained about dog mess, litter is the first on the agenda.</p> <p>IR said that the BRAN team had obtained a grant towards the cost of tools and the team have had training in using strimmers etc. They have secure storage in the Tayside Contracts yard. They have a work schedule every week, alternating Fridays and Saturdays. He asked CD if the Blairie could advertise that BRAN need to know which paths need maintenance and they will be seen to be responding to requests for help and everyone will see the improvements. Piggy Lane was very overgrown and has been cleared to 2 pedestrian widths. KN asked about the Himalayan Balsam infestation at Davie Park/ Loon Braes. BE replied that they had taken out as much as possible. BRAN has a meeting every 2 months and they will have meetings at the Community Market.</p> <p>ST brought up the matter of the Poppy wreaths after the Remembrance ceremony. They tend to get blown about and damaged by wind and rain. He asked if there were any ideas for displaying them more tidily. CS to investigate.</p> <p>Reform St junction. BE said that there was no decision yet but PKC was working on drawings.</p> <p>Town Hall. There will be 2 fun & magic shows in the Town Hall on 11 June and they need to sell 600 seats to cover costs</p> <p>Piggy Lane. P5/6/7 girls are offered 3 x 1 hour football taster sessions at £2 per session and there will be a free ticket to the Scottish Women’s Football International.</p> <p>MD said that the Rotary Ladies had done a litter pick in the Scotmid car park a couple of years ago and Cllr A Grant had told them they had no right to be there and told them to leave.</p> <p>MD also said that the Charrette didn’t emphasise the need for housing for single people who didn’t want to live in McCarthy & Stone type developments and who then occupy large houses, when what they want is smaller independent houses while they are still able. KN replied that when she retires she will be selling her large house and moving away from Blairgowrie as it is not a suitable town for older people.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>CS</p>

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NF raised the matter of wheelchair accessibility on the 57 bus. Stagecoach are still persisting in using one of their old buses which has a bar in the middle of the door denying entry to wheelchair users. Her partner was told that he would have to get out of his wheelchair and fold it up, which it couldn't do. He had to take a taxi to Perth at a cost of £40 to get to his work. This was not the first time that this had happened. CS will contact John Millar of Stagecoach. KN said that disabled users should be able to get on any bus and can these older buses not be adapted?	CS
Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 14 April at ARC, Jessie St, at 7pm.	All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr D Bailey
Mr I Cruickshank
Mr G Darge
Mr A Donald
Mrs M Duncan
Ms S Fowlie
Ms N Ferry
Mrs P McGregor
Mr S Nichol
Mrs K Nicol
Mr I Richards
Mr L Seal
Mr B Smith
Mr A Thomson
Mrs M Young

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick
Mr A Lang
Dr S Mitchell
Mr A Cannon

Local Councillors:

Mr B Ellis
Mrs E Grant
Mrs C Shiers

External:

PKC Community Councils
Clare Damodaran (Press)
Mrs B Leslie Blairgowrie High School

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