



<p>Item 4 - Police and Fire reports.</p> <p>4.1 PC P McGuinness was unable to attend. AT commented that the Commander's Bulletin which is published weekly is totally irrelevant, as there are seldom any reports of incidents in Blairgowrie and we all know that is not true. He knew personally of three incidents that were never in the reports, including one where someone was apprehended. CS said that the Police were running a survey and there were questions there that would cover these matters. MY said that we need a report that is more relevant to the local area. AD asked who is in charge of the Community Watch scheme and BS said that it is John Handling. KN suggested that this be added to the website.</p> <p>4.2 Station Manager A McCutcheon said that there had been 12 incidents for Blairgowrie Fire &amp; Rescue, most of which were for fire alarms but that they had has a call-out to a cardiac arrest as the ambulance was not immediately available. They had been on 21 home fire safety visits and they were up to date with these. They are currently recruiting personnel for the Blairgowrie retained station and have 4 applicants for 2 posts.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Arising &amp; Ongoing Issues.</p> <p>5.1 Budget Report discussion with Cllr Alan Grant.</p> <p>MY thanked and introduced Cllr Alan Grant (AG) Convenor of the Environment Committee, PKC who said that he could not discuss all the matters in the budget report but one of the issues affecting the town, the closure of the public toilets. All the public toilets in Perth &amp; Kinross are to be closed to save £170K. They will be replaced with the “comfort scheme” found in some other towns where the toilets have already been closed, such as Lamb &amp; Gardiner's in Coupar Angus etc. He repeated the point several times that Councils have no statutory duty to provide toilets and it was felt that savings should be made firstly to services for which there was no such statutory duty, before cutting those which were. The Environment Committee has approved the process. There are 14 positions affected but as there were 5 vacancies, only 9 personnel will be transferred to other positions. AD asked if the closures were to affect Perth first but the reply was that each would be dealt with independently and that alternatives would have to be in place before any closure. MY asked if there was no other way to make savings but AG replied that the non-essentials were being cut first. SN said that the comfort scheme was more flexible and was open when many of the toilets would have been closed. There has to be clear signage and there may be a spin off to businesses providing the service, in the form of increased trade. GD asked if the properties were to be sold. AG replied that they were. CS wondered if the 14.5 thousand visits that were recorded last year would be beyond the capacity of the comfort scheme providers. AG replied that it is not a problem elsewhere. IR said that the public toilets in Blairgowrie occupy a prominent position and are very well maintained and are near the bus stance. KN was worried about the RADAR scheme for disabled people, but this was not felt to be a problem either by AG. MY's concern was that most of the possible providers of the comfort scheme in the Wellmeadow were licensed premises and wondered if this was appropriate. AG said that PKC comes to an agreement with a provider and it is not open for application.</p> <p>IR told the meeting that Keep Blairgowrie &amp; Rattray Beautiful (KBaRB) held a litter pick and that they picked up a lot of floating litter which had accumulated on the river bank but that there was a lot of erosion caused by the recent flood and there was much waste that looked as if it had been dumped years ago. AG said that the owner of the ground is responsible. GD said that when any development takes place there is lots of contaminated ground as the land had been disturbed. MY thanked AG for</p>	

attending and hoped he would return on a future date to tell BRCC more about the budget.

### 5.2 School Traffic Trial.

Dundee council have run a trial of “exclusion zones” around their schools which have had problems with pick up and drop off congestion. Non-residents are not allowed within these zones but residents, delivery vehicles and blue light vehicles are. As a result of these trials, PKC will be undertaking similar exercises in Burrelton, Coupar Angus, Arngask and Luncarty as reported in the Courier on 19 March. The flashing lights cost about £2K each and 6 are to be used at the gateways to the schools. These will alert drivers to the area they are entering. The road to Burrelton school is a dead end yet parents still persist in driving along to the school when there are plenty of drop off points available. BS had written to Stewart Milne (builders) asking that they pre-empt any problems, when they build the next stage of their development, by addressing the traffic problem now by connecting Elm Drive to Hazelwood Road. He had not received a reply. BS felt that if there were to be restrictions put in place on Elm Drive, then the problem would merely migrate to Smithfield Crescent etc. He personally knew of a house sale which fell through because of the parking problems. John Swinney MSP had been very supportive and if re-elected will take up the cudgels again. MY said that it is worrying that so many schools have problems. CS said that the problems at Burrelton are caused by parents – there was plenty of parking but they insisted on driving up to the door. MY said she would contact A Warrington PKC to see if there could be a 3 day trial with the P7s being offered a free bus pass to use on their introductory visits to the High school (BHS), then after the holidays when they start at BHS, they will know where and when the buses are and be more willing to use them. MD asked if there was a case for approaching school staff re a “walking bus”. CS replied that parents were nervous of taking responsibility for other children and need to understand that their children won’t melt in the rain. BS said it is the bad behaviour of parents and their poor driving that is the problem because of the lack of infrastructure. SN said that the brief for any new public building is flawed if it doesn’t cover parking. BS said that the legislation states that a risk assessment should be undertaken and GD agreed that a traffic impact assessment should be included. A member of the public said that when the Newhill campus was in the planning stages, she spoke to the head teacher about the parking but PKC would not listen.

MY

### 5.3 Permanent Traffic Crossings update.

MY said that she would contact Michael Findlay (Roads) about the missing yellow hatching in the Wellmeadow at the end of Commercial St. The lights are nearly finished except for the ones at the end of Haugh Rd but all should be finished in 2 weeks. When they are operational, there will be a sequence timed for 3.30 – 5pm to introduce extra red light times to make artificial breaks in the traffic This should help keep traffic at a steady pace while still allowing pedestrians to cross safely. There was considerable dismay that the crossing lights do not have any sound and the vibrating cones for the visually impaired are not working. MY reported that the Reform St lights are to have their sound removed. This was not popular. A member of the public said that there need to be green man lights on the opposite pole of the crossing and not just the small one on the nearer pole, which is often obscured by the person nearest it. Another member of the public said that the Haugh Rd lights are too near the bus stop and asked if there were no regulations about proximity to bus stops, similar to the requirement for bus stops to be a certain distance from junctions? BS said that the lights at Reform St were too slow to react and by the time they changed there was no traffic anyway.

MY

5.4 Handbook replacement costs.

MY said that the green handbooks which were issued to everyone and signed for cost £8 to reprint and if anyone lost theirs or failed to hand them back on ceasing to be a Community Councillor, they would be required to pay the cost of replacement and also an administration fee of £2 if an official letter was needed. MY proposed this and PM seconded. All agreed.

5.5 Wi-Fi update.

MY read out a statement from O<sub>2</sub> sent to Murdo Fraser which said that a start has been made to rolling out 4G in Blairgowrie and according to their map, coverage outdoors is good but indoors is patchy. O<sub>2</sub> has a licence obligation to deliver 98% indoor and outdoor coverage to the UK by the end of 2017. To deliver this they are currently undertaking one of the biggest infrastructure improvement projects in the UK, modernising the 2G and 3G networks while rolling out the 4G network. MY went on to say that PKC are very behind in their roll-out of this programme. Maybe CS could find out what is happening? AT said that there had been a meeting in the town hall to install Wi-Fi as part of the roll out. MY said that was one of the Wi-fi hotspots she had proposed and there are 12 others. PKC have been very supportive of proposed hotspots which will be easier to roll out whilst waiting for O<sub>2</sub> to provide 4G coverage.

CS

5.6 Resilience Plan framework.

There are many things to do but it is difficult when people don't answer calls and emails. People volunteering skills must be competent, preferably with training. BS said their notes show that they have done a lot of work but there always seems to be an even greater amount to do. KN went to the debrief and found it very interesting. BS said that everyone must learn their own limits and not undertake too much, eg they wondered about swift water training but Scottish Fire & Rescue said no, that was a job for the professionals. For anyone needing trauma support, PKC would provide counselling. They realised that in the event of an emergency, Bendochy may be cut off from its "parent" Coupar Angus and it would be up to Blairgowrie to be a good neighbour and provide support. Similarly, school children from Coupar Angus, Alyth and other outlying areas may require care. Users of the Blairgowrie foodbank living outwith the area could be cut off and be in need. Food packs could be kept in key locations. Signs that the road is blocked at Butterybank would be erected at the Dundee Rd traffic lights in Coupar Angus and also on the Forfar Rd and Perth Rd. Nurses and doctors volunteering would be covered by their professional public indemnity insurance but anyone else would need to arrange insurance. Similarly anyone using their own car would need to arrange insurance. The working party may need to be bigger as the amount of work is increasing and it was wondered if the net should be spread wider? CS said that the flood diversion route needs to be marked and publicized as many people are not aware of what routes are available, such as delivery drivers. Instead of the Leystone cemetery road, the Strelitz road is maybe a bit further but a far better and quicker route. The possibility of "sign monitors" who could put out signs at the Police request was also raised.

5.7 LDP2.

SN gave an update. CS asked if there was anything more about the infrastructure: growth ratio.

5.8 Charrette.

SN said that the first draft of the report had been received by the steering group and early comments fed back to the consultants. Because of the conditions of the grant from the Scottish Government, the charrette was mainly about the town centre, so does not capture the town as a whole, however, the comments about the wider town have been captured. The next step, once the report is received as complete, is to publish the results, in terms of what should be taken forward and who it should be taken forward with. A small implementation group should be formed so that the conversations and ideas on how to make the town better can continue and groups will be encouraged to grasp initiatives and take them forward together. The steering group will meet to come up with a recommendation on membership.

#### 5.9 Community Market cover.

MY said that Sue Cole welcomed our help again this market season setting up and taking down the stalls. She gave the market dates as 23/4, 28/5, 25/6, 23/7, 27/8 and 24/9 and asked if anyone was NOT available to participate again this year and to let Tracie know which times and dates they were available. The member of the public who volunteered his PA system asked about the electricity supply in the Wellmeadow and AD said that it had been upgraded last year. AL has also offered his PA system. PM reminded everyone that the market on 25 June would also be the presentation of the Citizen of the Year awards.

#### 5.10 Betsy White Memorial.

MY reiterated that Betsy White's grandson wished to site a memorial in Rattray and she wondered if the garden area maintained by Blair in Bloom beside Rattray Church would be a suitable place for a plaque or stone. A member of the public said that it would be insensitive to place a memorial to Betsy White near where Sheila Stewart had lived but thought that if there were to be a plaque to the singers of Rattray then that might be better. This year is the centenary of Hamish Henderson's birth and it was felt that this should be marked in some way. SN suggested that maybe a dedication on one of the riverside benches might be an option.

#### 5.11 Ruby Place sewerage maintenance.

MY thanked CS for her help in getting this problem sorted.

#### 5.12 Office Bearer nominations.

MY reminded everyone that the AGM is next month and asked if there was anyone who DIDN'T want to put themselves forward for either the role of Secretary or Chair. AD, GD, SN, KN and SF all said (for various reasons) that they would not like to be considered for either role. NF will not be seeking re-election as she is going to college. MY is not seeking re-election as Chair. IR & PM are willing to be re-elected, as Vice Chair and Treasurer, if so wished.

#### 5.13 Meeting date and location change.

MY had investigated and now booked a new venue for BRCC meetings in Rattray at the Rattray Community Hall in Balmoral Rd. The meetings will be held in the "small hall" to the rear, entered by the side door. Closer to the time MY will be given a code to access the building and enough time has been booked to set up and clear down. The room is larger than the Community Connect and MY wanted to mention how helpful the staff have been in assisting her with the booking. The dates for Rattray are now June 9, September 8, and December 8. A member of the public said that the Community Connect should be free to BRCC and what a disgrace it was that it

<p>was so expensive. MY replied that the rooms are too small for BRCC and not open late enough.</p>	
<p>Item 6 - Local Councillor reports.</p> <p>CS was happy to report that the Loon Braes Parknership had been resurrected and that there had been a meeting with Sheenach Shepherd, Katrina Whyte and John Corrigan. There will be a family fun day on 13 August from 12 -3pm and any fund-raising groups who may want to take a stall are invited. They hoped that the Fire &amp; Rescue service and Police would take up the offer that was made to them last year for more community involvement. Also that training should be given to drivers who don't seem to know how to drive in bad weather and standing water. It was noted that the Davie Park is a public Park and AT wanted to know if the Parknership were to pay a fee. The Football Clubs' fees were astronomical and may soon be unaffordable for some of the clubs.</p> <p>The Blair in Bloom litter pick is on 17/4 meeting at 10.30 at the Riverside carpark.</p> <p>CS said that she felt the closure of the public toilets was inexcusable and IR said that it was a bad move when they were trying to make the town a better place. SN asked if a community buy-out would be possible.</p> <p>CS said she was to have a meeting with the Estates division of Police Scotland re the Police Station closure and said that when the building was put up for sale, the community should have first "dibs" The Police may keep part of the building as administrative offices. SN said that it would be a great building for the Ericht Trust to take forward their plans in and CS agreed. A member of the public said that according to the Land Reform Act, the community must get first choice and she couldn't understand why that had not happened with the Hill Primary building. Another member of the public pointed out that there is a large telecommunications mast in the grounds of the Police Station and wondered if that would be a problem. CS said that, realistically the Police Station is not being used.</p> <p>AD wished BE a speedy recovery from his operation and hoped he would be back next month.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – Pending Planning applications.</p> <p>GD said that there were no planning applications of note but commented on the McCarthy &amp; Stone development, that there seems to be a lot of tree felling and that the building is closer to the pavement than anticipated.</p> <p>A member of the public raised the matter of the application for care cottages at the Beech Manor Care Home on Golf Course Rd and wondered how BRCC felt about it.. This application had previously been rejected twice and he felt that this latest attempt is to develop general housing disguised as Care cottages with support packages. The site is behind the current Care Home and is virtually land locked with inadequate access to the proposed 10 semi-detached cottages. The previous applications had been refused by PKC and also by the Reporter. There have been 27 objections and 3 neutral comments and the response period has passed. One of the main concerns of the local residents is the currently excessive traffic which would only be made worse should this application be granted. CS said that there were vehicular access issues and the application would go before the planning committee in June. MY suggested that, as we didn't know much about the application, we put it on the Agenda for next month and discuss it then. The gentleman was happy with this and agreed to come back next month.</p>	

<p>CS also raised the issue of the Pheasant Farm being developed on Myreriggs Rd. Whilst this is not in the BRCC area, some members were concerned about pollution. IR asked if there was office accommodation being erected and CS said that it was caravans.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – Secretary’s correspondence. - None</p>	
<p>Item 9 – Chair’s report on follow-ups since last meeting.</p> <p>Nothing that hasn’t already been covered.</p>	
<p>Item 10 – AOCB</p> <p>IR said that he had a meeting with Stephen Kane (PKC) as Andy Clegg was on holiday to pass on some comments about Oakbank Rd. The low stone seat at the Cuttle Burn has been raised by 100mm. The tensioned wire fence was always going to be a chain link fence, as opposed to our assumption that it would be a strung wire fence, but it will be reduced in height to 1.2m and the stakes that the contractor put it, which were not in the plan, will be removed. MY passed on the request for a second seat to be placed on the lower pathway and was told this would be subject to available funding.. When the works are completed, an improved walking surface will be laid. BRAN have asked for a covering for the surface drain so that wheelchair access can be provided, although this is not a statutory requirement in this case. The lower sides of the Cuttle Burn culvert will be seeded or turfed. It was commented that perhaps somewhere on the lower path could be a site for the Betsy White memorial.</p> <p>IR raised the issue of parents living in the Miller Homes development on Coupar Angus Rd who would like their child to walk to school but think it is too difficult for the child to cross the CA Rd without a crossing. Would it be possible to install a Zebra crossing? CS would check.</p> <p>BS said there had been people come into the One Voice office who wondered how to contact the Community Councillors without a computer. The councillors would think about what means were feasible.</p> <p>AD complained of horse dung on footpaths. He intimated that the Braemar Day committee were to have a Bingo Tea BYOB, a Quiz night on 30/4, teams of 4 in the Town Hall and a fashion show again in the Town Hall on 7/5. The future of Straloch School is to come to committee in June.</p> <p>MD said the dog waste bin has been removed from Ardblair Rd. There is also a problem with dogs in Glenalmond Rd with loose dogs and waste. A girl was bitten last week. ST said that the 2010 act was to do with dog control. Piggy Lane and Davie park are particularly bad and it is only certain dog owners. The under 14s girls football were playing when a dog came flying over. IR will contact Dennis Pearson. MD said that there is also a problem in Upper Mill St from Ericht Court up to Allan St and she has seen dogs just let out to roam all day.</p> <p>TD reminded councillors that 6 profiles on the BRCC website have no photos and 6 councillors have not posted a profile. This makes the website look unprofessional. She again offered her services to councillors who wish to learn how to post on the website to promote events, projects and other information.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>All</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, 12 May in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie St at 7pm. This will also include the AGM.</p>	<p>All</p>

Distribution (email unless specified):

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Mr I Cruickshank  
Mr G Darge  
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