



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 December 2016**

Held in the Community Hall, Balmoral Rd, Rattray, Blairgowrie at 7pm

<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>          Mrs M Young (MY)          Mr I Richards (IR)          Mrs P McGregor (PM)          Mrs D Cushnie (DC)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mr A Donald (AD)          Mrs E Forrest (EF)          Mr S Nichol (SN)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Mr B Smith (BS)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Ms S Fowlie (SF)          Mr A Thomson (AT)          Ms R Haufe (RH)</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer</p>	<p>Cllr B Ellis (BE)          Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)          Sgt A Ness (AN)          Ms A Mustard (AM)          4 members of the public</p> <p><b><u>ABSENCES</u></b>          Mr A Cannon (AC)          Cllr L Grant</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Press</p> <p>Police Scotland          SCYD</p> <p>Associate member          Councillor PKC</p>
<p>Item 1 – <b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p>			
<p>1.1 MY welcomed everyone and gave apologies for the above. She extended a warm welcome to the 3 new co-opted members, Diane Cushnie, Robyn Haufe, who had given her apologies and Elaine Forrest who has agreed to take the post of secretary.</p>			
<p>Item 2 - <b>Adoption of November Minutes.</b></p>			
<p>BS asked for the word <i>visit</i> in item 5.1 to be changed to <i>join</i>. BE asked for the word <i>Board</i> near the end in item 6 to be changed to <i>Committee</i>. This was agreed. MY referred to item 3 re Castle Water staff parking issues. She had spoken to Roy Sim and Castle Water has reserved parking beside the Victoria Hotel and in front of Castle Water although the public perception may be that these car parks are for public use. The parking in front of the Lairds House is shared between Castle Water, Cargills and the other businesses there. She proposed that this matter be left a few weeks until the recruitment period is over. AD said that the car park at the riverside play area is clogged up and visitors and dog walkers are complaining. MY said that the parking in front of Castle Water was allegedly being used for managers only. CS said that it is part of their planning permission that they have a travel plan. On the plus side it is completely empty at weekends.</p> <p>With reference to item 5.4, MY asked SN how the meeting with Chic Haggart had gone and he replied that they had a good walkabout and CH had sent an update email which SN had circulated to members.</p> <p>1. They are currently discussing the possibility of a street audit with Living Street and CILPK but no date has been set yet.</p>			

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Proposals are being drawn up for the Reform St junction and will be available to discuss in the next few weeks.</li> <li>3. The 20mph signage should be made permanent in the next few weeks and implemented as soon as a contractor can be arranged.</li> <li>4. The legal process has begun for the removal of the unnecessary double yellow lines and loading bay markings.</li> <li>5. It has been agreed that the 30 minute parking limit be increased to 60 minutes and the legal process has begun for this also.</li> <li>6. Inappropriate &amp; obsolete signage will be removed as soon as the contractor can programme it.</li> <li>7. A formal pedestrian crossing is being designed for beside the hospital and this is to go before committee early in 2017.</li> </ol> <p>A member of the public asked if, when they are removing redundant poles, they could also look at the black cable ties which are left on poles when notices are removed. SN noted this. IR asked if the road markings would be done at the same time as the signage and SN said that he presumed so. MY asked if they would put up signs at the Bunters junction directing traffic to Dunkeld as there are no signs there. AD said that the one on Perth St directing to Dunkeld and Perth had blown down in the last storm. GD asked about budget provision for 2 "your speed is" signs. SN would follow up. IR asked about the bollards on Coupar Angus Rd and AD said that he thought that they were to be replaced next week. BE said that he would have this clarified.</p> <p>Re the pea lights in the Wellmeadow, MY said that she had be in contact with Barry O'Sullivan and been told that they would be fixed. PM asked about the pea lights in Croft Lane and CS said that they were broken and funding would need to be secured to repair them.</p>	<p>SN</p> <p>SN</p>
<p><b>Item 3 - Subjects raised by members of the public.</b></p> <p>A member of the public said that he was a former Police officer and he was dismayed that there is no public counter service at Blairgowrie Police Station in an area with a population in excess of 10 thousand people but that Pitlochry which is much smaller still has a limited counter service. This contradicts what is said on the Police Scotland website and the 101 service is useless, as you are speaking to a call centre in the central belt where they have no knowledge of our area. He asked if BRCC could help in any way. Sergeant Ness (AN) said that Police Scotland have had to cope with very challenging reductions to their budget including reductions in support staff which is not down to local policing but to those much higher up. He said that the reason Pitlochry station still has a public counter is that there is no other station on the A9 until Aviemore. MY commented that there is to be a new model for community policing in February. AN said that he was leaving this area and the new community sergeant would be Sgt John McKeag along with 2 officers. It was to be hoped that an officer would be able to attend most CC meetings. There are no plans to close the Police station as there needs to be a degree of security and privacy with some aspects of Police work. In his 27 years of service there has been a totally different way of policing and it is more challenging and there is much more co-operation with the Perth office. There may be less Police but policing is more targeted; crime is down; there is less vandalism and thefts and it is now more about vulnerable people</p>	
<p><b>Item 4 - Police and Fire Reports.</b></p> <p>There was no representative from Fire Scotland.</p> <p>Sgt Ness reported that there had been an operation with drug dogs and 8 officers attending pubs in Blairgowrie. At the Gig there were 120 people there and the passive drugs dog indicated on 2 of them, but they both proved negative. One person was ejected by Gig staff as becoming unruly. It had been a very good op and it may be</p>	

<p>repeated. There was a crackdown on anti-social vehicles – loud exhausts etc. If drivers are issued with 2 ASBOs then their vehicles can be seized. MY noted that Blairgowrie now has the highest number of ASBO's issued (9) in the whole of the PKC area. There seems to be a culture in Blairgowrie of bad driving and the aim is to educate and minimize this. MY asked if the registrations that she had supplied had come up with any results and AN said that she would need to contact Karen Harrison. There would be a drink-drive campaign up to 22 January and people need to remember that, with the limit being 22 mgs, they need to be aware that driving in the morning there may still be a significant amount of alcohol in their system from the previous evening. Crime is relatively low; there have been 2 vandalism reports, 3 assaults and 1 mugging. There have been cases of sheep worrying and anyone walking their dogs should be aware that the farmer has the right to shoot dogs that are worrying their sheep. This can be very distressing for all concerned. GD asked about his premises being graffitied and AN replied that there had been a lot of graffiti with the same tag about a month ago. In reply to AD about the cost of the damage and whether the victim had any recompense, AN said that if the perpetrators were over 16, they could be reported to the Procurator Fiscal, or on the spot fines. They have no thought of the consequences and MY said that the offenders were getting away with no punishment. AN said that he had not been in favour of the idea of restorative justice, as he thought there would be a slanging match between the offender and the victim but it seems to be good for both parties. IR said that they were trying to get a meeting about the antisocial behaviour at the riverside and AN said that there have been increased patrols. CS said that when Sgt McKeag starts then the list of suggestions that has been compiled will be there for him from the beginning. SCYD have also been helpful. The area at the Cuttle Burn has been cleared and attention will be needed in the springtime because there are bottles lying there. DC asked what happens to kids hanging about and AN replied that police engage with them and persuade them to move on. If there is vandalism then, depending on the age, type and value of the property, they may be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. DC asked if there were signs up to say that there was no drinking allowed in public spaces. AN said that drinking was not permitted in any public space in Blairgowrie, with offenders getting an on the spot fine. If under 16s were caught drinking, then they were taken home and asked where they got the alcohol. MY said that they were hoping lights could be put up on the Riverside and up Oakbank Rd, so that it was more attractive to dog walkers in the evening and less attractive to those who were up to no good. DC asked about legal highs and AN replied that there didn't seem to be a problem in Blairgowrie, it was mainly in Perth and that since the shops selling them had closed, it has diminished considerably. AN said that Sgt McKeag and his team of Officers Crowe and Addison were a solid team who had good knowledge of Blairgowrie and the Area Commander was Inspector Gordon Thomson.</p>	<p>MY</p>
<p><b>Item 5 – Arising and Ongoing Issues.</b></p> <p>5.1 Co-option of 3 new members.</p> <p>Already covered.</p> <p>5.2 Appointment of new Secretary.</p> <p>PM proposed Elaine Forrest to be the new Secretary and IR seconded. Everyone agreed. The new members would be added to the “all” email address and would be welcome to join any of the subgroups. Any updates are included in the Arising matters.</p> <p>5.3 Scottish Civic Trust nominations.</p> <p>MY asked if everyone had seen the email about Civic Trust nominations and said she would send it out again as most people hadn't seen it.</p>	

<p>5.4 HEAT</p> <p>LS said that the Climate Challenge Fund is now called HEAT and things had moved very quickly since the last BRCC meeting. The Ericht Trust will take on the proposal as they are a Charity. The deadline for the funding application is Friday 16 December.</p> <p>5.5 Solar Farm Possibilities.</p> <p>LS said that in this area there is a limited grid capacity and in the short term really small initiatives are the best way forward. He was impressed by the Foster Group and they seemed to know their stuff. There is a possibility of either a free standing installation or an array on a south facing building. They would need to see what develops and whether community funding would be available.</p> <p>5.6 Skip Site Charges.</p> <p>AD said that 2 weeks previously, it had been brought to his attention that charges would be introduced at the recycling centre for frequent users. He was under the impression that this would be for everyone who used the facility frequently and not just businesses. He felt that this would encourage fly tipping. BE said that there had been no mention of charges for non-business users and he would investigate although he said It was not on the agenda for the next environment committee meeting. A member of the public said that she had nowhere to put her bin as the farmer had blocked the entrance for the bin lorry.</p> <p>BS gave an update for the resilience group re the plug-in systems for the Town Hall and Rattray Hall. Ericht Electrical have offered to do the work on a costs only basis as part of their contribution. He asked if the members would accept the deal totalling £2600 for switchgear and cabling for the generators and all agreed. He also thanked everyone for their support for the Ericht Allotment group which had been awarded funding from PKC as a result of the community vote. LS also thanked everyone for the Community Garden funding vote. BS also thanked the Blairie for the front page coverage.</p>	BE
<p><b>Item 6 - Local Councillor reports.</b></p> <p>BE said that the matter of taxis picking up fares when they weren't licensed in Blairgowrie had resulted in an operator from Alyth being censured. In future any reporting of out of town operators being seen touting for trade in town should be reported firstly to the Police who will pass to Licensing and they would have to appear before the committee.</p> <p>BE reminded members that volunteers are needed for Santa's sleigh. AD said that a PA system is needed and that there had been some mix up at the lights switch on when the operator forgot to turn up the volume for the speeches. There would be new lights next year and they may put them up in the summer to test them.</p> <p>The CATERAN YOMP is on 10 June 2017 and the numbers entering have already increased. This year the start and finish will be at the Bogles Field, Essendy Rd, so the route will be slightly longer. They hoped to have local caterers etc.</p> <p>CS said that she had been at a meeting of the Community Action Partnership which had been very long and much of it incomprehensible. It is an unwieldy monster which was dominated by a very vocal group from the Carse of Gowrie. She hoped that the areas may be made smaller. No minutes were available from the meeting.</p> <p>She had attended a meeting after the Hamish Henderson film and John Corrigan is to see about putting together some sort of festival.</p> <p>CS had a meeting with MY, AM of SCYD and community wardens, Police and Community Justice which was really useful and bodes well for the future.</p>	

<p>She met the previous day with Alan Dorman, who is the new Community Ranger and they discussed issues including the Riverside and maintenance and Loon Braes. She will send an update of that.</p> <p>The Upper Allan St saga is still rumbling on.</p> <p>The occupiers of the Welton Rd Industrial Estate would like to see improvements made to make it a more user friendly and inviting area. It is much underused.</p> <p>PKC have an online survey asking residents to choose which services to cut so that the budget can be reduced. CS said that she had never seen such epic bad timing as this press release at the same time as saying they were going to spend £2 million buying St Pauls Church in Perth to turn it into an open space. AD said that PKC should stop wasting money on consultants and have the staff that they employ do the job they are being paid for. CS said that the first thing she said was, if they are going to bring in consultants when there are difficult decisions to be made, why not just get rid of the staff, or get the staff to make the decisions in the first place. MY said it makes a mockery of staff on £80K a year who cannot make decisions and there seems to be a distinct nervousness within the council. CS said she was in favour of this participatory budgeting but you can't just have an event on a Saturday morning and hope that people will turn up; there needs to be proper community empowerment not this unwieldy thing which has a budget of £30K. They should take meaningful chunks of budget and match it up to meaningful chunks of projects. BE said who knows what will happen after the May election.</p> <p>MY asked a member of the public who had previously spoken to BRCC about collecting folk songs in the manner of Hamish Henderson for an update and she replied that she has collected around 50 songs now. She said that she was at the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh and they could fill millions of song books but it is still in draft format. It will take a long time. She had intended that there be a new chapter in the book entitled "New songs from the berryfields of Blair" hoping to get our immigrant community to join in with this to include folk songs from their own countries and get them translated into English so that they could be sung by everyone. Unfortunately, no one seems to be interested and the farmers have even been reluctant for her to talk to the workers. She thought maybe SCYD and the school pupils would be interested in helping. IR said that the Fruit Farm manager at Rosemount Farms may be able to help; IR would contact and hopefully receive a positive response from their permanent Eastern European workforce. Another member of the public suggested that Melanie Thomson could be contacted. She said that she didn't have to meet these people, she just wanted the music. Hamish Henderson's most famous song had been adapted for the bagpipes and renamed "the Bloody Fields of Flanders" and the Pipe Band are looking to add it to their repertoire. She said that Betsy Whyte wrote "the Yellow on the Broom"; this has been adapted into a musical play and she hoped that the Blair Players would be able to perform this. They could be invited to Edinburgh to perform it but unfortunately there is no funding to transport them and their props to Edinburgh; the thought was there though. She has been in contact with the music department at Aberdeen University, and a leading person there, with the hope of composing a Requiem Mass in Gaelic to be played on Armistice Day which was Hamish's birthday. Hamish raised the status of a number of the travelling people who became famous and also the status of a number of people who were not famous. There was perhaps something in the way that Hamish worked that could help promote schemes which would promote community cohesion generally. Jess Smith, the traditional story teller and author has agreed to meet this person from Aberdeen. CS said that there is community funding available for small projects and MY said that because Perthshire Amber would not be happening next year, maybe something could be arranged with a Hamish Henderson link; if not, then certainly there should be something in 2019 as Hamish's centenary year, not just a folk festival but a music festival.</p> <p>MY introduced AM who is an intergenerational development worker at SCYD and they create projects to get older &amp; younger people working together. She said that they have a café and youth drop in area. After Christmas this will be restructured and there</p>	<p>CS</p>
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<p>will be different groups on different nights. She had copies of their annual report to hand out. At present she is working on social isolation in older vulnerable people and by March it is hoped that there will be a project off the ground to identify and help these people.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 – Pending Planning applications.</b></p> <p>GD said that there had been some communication regarding the proximity of the development to the Blairgowrie caravan park. He had reviewed the planning application and while it says that there would be planting of a buffer zone between the properties, there is no detail. He proposed that he email the Planning department and ask what is proposed. Other than that he had no real concerns. There had been a application to demolish some buildings at the Hill Primary and also listed building application for the development. He hadn't had time to examine the Riverside Church application but if anyone wanted to make representation it would have to be by Monday. There is no specific mention of the memorial window to the Labour Corps other than to replace the metal grille with a polycarbonate screen and it might be worth talking to the planners to make sure that people who may wish to visit the building can look at the window but not have a meal in the restaurant. SN said that the Glenalmond Rd development plan has not left enough room for a distinct boundary and that this area of the Caravan park is 4 star lodges and that the Park may lose its 5 star status if the the amenity is lost with no protection of the boundary. The owners of the Caravan Park were not even notified of the development. CS said that she had long talks about the proposal with Kathleen Tries, the planning officer, and comparison was made with the Bertha park development in Perth, also by Springfield – she pointed out that there is no comparison because the proposed development in Perth has no boundary neighbours. There were also potential flooding issues as well as transport and road access issues. A member of the public said when we were asking about the planting schedule could we ask for the maintenance one as well. Another member of the public said that the day that Alyth flooded last year, the roads around Rattray Connect were flooded as well. GD said that there was a full flood alleviation study assessment in the application. SN said that he thought it would be appropriate for BRCC to make these observations on behalf of the Park. Another member of the public said that PKC need pulled up over their attitude to neighbourhood notification. GD said that neighbours within 90m of a proposed site should be notified and it would have an important effect on a planning application if this were not adhered to. A planning decision could be toppled.</p> <p>DC asked what stage the Local Development Plan (LDP) was at and SN replied that it had been delayed for 1 year and the response from Government where it was sent for consultation, was that they didn't have the resources to turn these things round. The current LDP is still active. CS said that Peter Marshall is the LDP guru and he has offered to come out in the New Year to speak to local businesses and it was suggested that some of the Community Councillors could also be involved. GD said that PKC's website had the plan and SN said that he had a hard copy. MY said she had a hard copy of the LDP 1 and would be happy to share it and explain it to DC.</p>	<p>GD</p>
<p><b>Item 8 – Secretary's correspondence.</b></p> <p>PM said that there had been no correspondence other than the usual emails.</p>	
<p><b>Item 9 – Chair's report on follow ups since last meeting.</b></p> <p>MY asked whether BRCC should plan another Open Day as the last one went very well with over 100 people visiting the tables from PKC Waste Management, Planning, One Voice, SCYD, Windfarms, and Alzheimer's, the feedback from PKC being favourable. She would ask AT what dates the Town Hall was available. It was suggested that the Community Campus or Rattray Connect would be cheaper.</p>	<p>MY</p>

<p>MY asked if a handrail could be installed on the downside of the bridge at the Rattray end as there is a considerable slope and it is dangerous when wet or icy.</p> <p>In reply to a question about the lamppost banners in the Wellmeadow, BE said that the ones beside the Bus Stance were done by BEPTA.</p> <p>MY said that ABO wind had agreed that 20% of the funding generated by the Windfarm would be split between Growbiz, Blairgowrie High School and Perth College to benefit local people. The other 80% would be split between BRCC, ACC and MBCC; the division to be agreed if and when the development gets the go ahead.</p> <p>MY said she would like to congratulate Clare Damodaran on becoming Editor of the Blairie.</p>	
<p>Item 10 - <b>AOCB.</b></p> <p>AD said that the new bridge at Bleaton Hallet had barriers at both sides that would prevent snow being pushed into the river. It was decided that this was outwith BRCC's area.</p> <p>MY said that she would like to thank all the members very much – they had been amazing to work with and how their enthusiasm had been noted by many outside the area who had commented on how active and involved BRCC is. IR replied that she was an excellent Chair. LS said that he had really enjoyed being a part of BRCC and felt that they had achieved a lot.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 12 January 2017 in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie St. at 7pm.</p>	<p>All</p>

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank  
Mrs D Cushnie  
Mr G Darge  
Mr A Donald  
Mrs E Forrest  
Ms S Fowlie  
Ms R Haufe  
Mrs P McGregor  
Mr S Nichol  
Mr I Richards  
Mr L Seal  
Mr B Smith  
Mr A Thomson  
Mrs M Young

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick  
Mr A Lang  
Mr A Cannon

Local Councillors:

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Mrs E Grant  
Mrs C Shiers

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Mrs B Leslie Blairgowrie High School

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