



## BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 January 2017

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

<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>          Mrs M Young (MY)          Mr I Richards (IR)          Mrs P McGregor (PM)          Ms E Forrest (EF)          Mr A Donald (AD)          Mr S Nichol (SN)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Mr B Smith (BS)          Mr A Thomson (AT)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>          Mrs D Cushnie (DC)          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Ms S Fowlie (SF)          Sgt J McKeag (JM)</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer          Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr B Ellis (BE)          Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Mrs B Leslie (BL)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p><b><u>ABSENCES</u></b>          Ms R Haufe (RH)          Mr A Cannon (AC)          Cllr L Grant (LG)</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Blairgowrie High School          Press</p> <p>Associate member          Councillor PKC</p>
<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome &amp; Apologies.</b></p> <p>1.1 MY welcomed everyone, especially Mrs B Leslie, Head Teacher, Blairgowrie High School and gave apologies for the above.</p>			
<p><b>Item 2 – Adoption of December Minutes.</b></p> <p>LS asked that the words “are the best way forward” be inserted in 5.5 line 2. There being no other amendments IR proposed adoption and SN seconded; all agreed. BS asked if MY had resent the email about Civic Trust nominations and EF said that she had but would resend it. MY said that she had a lot of trouble with emails over the festive period and would everyone now use the <a href="mailto:chair@brcommunitycouncil.org.uk">chair@brcommunitycouncil.org.uk</a> address.</p>			
<p><b>Item 3 - Subjects raised by members of the public.</b></p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>			
<p><b>Item 4 - Police &amp; Fire reports.</b></p> <p>Sgt McKeag, Police Scotland, had sent his apologies and there was no one present from the Fire Service.</p> <p>IR said that the email sent by JM giving the new structure for the community policing was much more efficient and MY said that she was glad to see a return to community policing which would be rolled out next month, hopefully. IR said that it was a good idea that all 3 officers would be on the same shift. MY said that it would be</p>			

<p>helpful if the information about contacting the police were put on the BRCC website. AT said that in talking to the public, there seems to be the impression that a lot of people thought that the police station was reopening from the articles in the press and he hoped that CD could make it clear that it was not. MY would add that to the website. CD said that there would be a PR exercise next week about the new service.</p>	<p>MY</p>
<p><b>Item 5 – Arising &amp; Ongoing Issues</b></p> <p>5.1 Scottish Civic Trust nominations.</p> <p>MY asked if there were any nominations for this and there were none.</p> <p>5.2 Hamish Henderson Festival</p> <p>There has been a group put together to organise this comprising some CC members, John Burgen (PKC), Kay Seal, and Aileen Ogilvie (who organised the showing of the HH film at the campus). This first meeting had been to see how people saw the festival being presented; it was a good meeting with ideas and some groundwork coming out. Jessie Shaw would like One Voice to take part too and MY would hope to include them at their next meeting. MY then asked BL about the idea of changing the name of BHS to Hamish Henderson Academy to which she replied that there is great pride in the present name which has a long history and tradition but there would have to be lots of consultation and it was not simply a case of changing the name, there would have to be some sort of rationale and she wouldn't be committed either way at this stage. MY then suggested that the new Recy could bear the name or a new wing at the hospital. She said that the wider population didn't know who Hamish Henderson was but we could start to educate the local people about who he was and why he is so important. BL said why didn't they do something as part of Freshers' Week with the new 1<sup>st</sup> years and it could be incorporated in there and that would start to raise awareness. The school could help out with this; they help out with Bookmark and they could also help out with a HH Festival.</p> <p>5.3 Dog Poo</p> <p>MY has been talking with Greenspace (PKC) about more dog poo bins along Riverside and they have said that there are enough bins but that there may need to be more signs and that they need to be more prominently placed. IR said that Lucy Garthwaite (PKC) said that there are no more bins but they can be redistributed and that was the idea of consulting the public to see where bins were required. MY said that she had the map with the present positions of bins but that the signage at present is really rubbish and needs to be replaced. AD said that they need to be more beside playparks etc and that 26 deposits had been counted at the Davie park and also 2 human deposits. AT said that it is the people who are in charge of the dogs who are the problem and the football clubs have to pay to play on the pitches but they are used as a dog toilet. On occasion there are dog wardens but nearly always at the wrong time or place and they are parked in a prominent van so, naturally the inconsiderate dog walker goes somewhere else. On any given day, there are 100 dogs on the pitches and Piggy Lane has a massive problem. CS said that they did change the warden's hours, but it was a worldwide problem and the only solution was to keep reporting to CS &amp; BE with times and identities of those involved. IR asked if there had been any prosecutions in the last year for dog fouling in PKC and CS said that she thought that there may have been 3. But she had made the point of the ration of prosecutions to the number of complaints. MY asked if it was Greenspace or Environment that covered this. CS said there was a crossover between Greenspace and community safety. Dennis Hearsom is the Dog Control Officer and she would invite him. MY would ask Andy Clegg (PKC) for bigger brighter signs. AT said that 80% of dog walkers were responsible and picked up dog poo. MY said that Davie</p>	<p>CS</p>

Park was near houses and that particular bacteria in dog poo could cause blindness in young children.

#### 5.4 Community Wardens

MY said that following the meeting she had with the Police and Anne & Ashley from SCYD the wardens had been out and touched base with the kids and had started rolling out that initiative in the town. Wardens have cameras and are the eyes and ears of the community. BS said that there is no cohesion between the wardens and BRCC CS said that Amanda Nicholson of Police Scotland facilitated links between them and MY. BS said that the Junior warden scheme at Rattray Primary had been very successful. EF wanted to know what the wardens look like and AD said that they have green jackets and walk about Rattray in pairs. They give advice and report on problems and then Councillors flag them up. If it is noise problems then the Noise team are informed etc. BS had seen 3 articles; one on wardens, one on community payback and one on Rattray Primary Junior wardens so their work was publicisable. CS said that a lot of what the wardens do is not in the remit of the Police. A good warden knows the area and that is very important. People will talk to the wardens and give them information that they would never give to the Police. EF asked who funded them and CS said PKC; the community safety reports are on the PKC website. CS said that the youth antisocial behaviour at the Riverside was passed to the Police then Roddy Ross (RR) who called the wardens out. The strategy is for the warden to deal with it then the Police if required. IR said that Oakbank Rd is a mess from antisocial behaviour and CS said to flag it up with RR. This was all covered at the meeting that she had with MY SCYD and the Police. CS said it was an interesting point as there are 41 Councillors on PKC and not all areas have the benefit of such a forum as BRCC; RR had noticed that we are very active and he appreciates it.

#### 5.5 BHS Education Budgets.

PM said that she had been approached by 2 residents with regard to pupils at Blairgowrie High School (BHS) being charged for homework booklets (40p), jotters and copies of a play that they were studying. MY introduced BL who said that whilst there had been a reduction in funding, the school was still adequately resourced. She said that one of the teachers in the Maths Dept had misunderstood the directive that if a pupil lost their homework booklet, they were to be charged with the cost of a new one and had been charging all pupils for their booklets. This has been clarified. BL said that she was disappointed that the residents concerned did not contact her directly at the school instead of speaking to a community councillor and anyone can come to her with questions so that any mistakes can be corrected. Pupils in S4-6 have never been issued with jotters as standard and instead pupils are encouraged to provide a loose leaf binder for which they would be supplied paper. Recycled folders are always available for young people who cannot provide their own folders. Some young people still prefer to work from jotters and they are available but must be paid for. There have been orders for paper and jotters throughout the year and their budget is still in the black, so they haven't run out of money. However, where there was difficulty in paying for these items, no pupil would be disadvantaged.

AD raised the matter of the litter trail around the town with BL who replied that it was a continual frustration to her and her colleagues but a class cannot be forced to pick up litter as often their parents will claim it is infringing their human rights! She said that she had asked PKC to send out a warden any lunchtime but they do not have litter wardens any more. MY cited the case of Harris Academy in Dundee who had imposed a lunch-time ban on pupils leaving the premises with a phased re-introduction from S6 downwards. If there was any litter, then the ban was reinstated. BL said that this would be hard to police and in addition, the dining hall at BHS was not large enough to accommodate all 800 pupils at one time. She said they now have some prefects in town but they can't approach youngsters but they can take names

and report back. There are more than enough bins but the need is not only to educate pupils about not littering, but also all other members of the community, including adults, to have a pride in their town. Littering is mentioned at assemblies where the message is do you want PKC to spend money on removing litter or on doctors and nurses. Each thing that they try has a short term impact but nothing seems to have a long term impact. She had spoken to Vivian Milford from Environment Services and they hope to do a whole school initiative from the Easter term and they thought about a community litterpick. MY said that we would all like to live in a clean, welcoming town where tourists come which ultimately would provide jobs for youngsters leaving school. IR said that pupils are welcome to be involved with the organised litterpicks later in the year and it would be great to see them involved with the like of BRAN, Blair in Bloom etc. BL said there was the facility for S4-6 pupils to take part in an "opt-in" activity but she would need a lot of notice for this as the timetables are arranged very far in advance.

## 5.6 Skip Charges

CS said that at the last meeting she had known nothing about this and had emailed Alan Grant. She then received a briefing paper which should have been distributed to councillors about the changes but hadn't been. AD said that if a trailer is over 6 feet and double axled then it needs a permit so people like himself who have a trailer and take rubbish for the like of BRAN etc will need a permit. This is to flush out rogue traders but it was felt it would encourage fly tipping. SN said that we will have to observe and act accordingly. BS said that this legislation had been in force for over 25 years but PKC has never managed their sites effectively. CS said that there was a barrier but it had never been used. 90% of traders know that they should have a carrier's licence and a permit. EF said that it seems to be adhered to in other areas.

## 5.7 Blairgowrie Streets Action.

SN said that he had received communication from Chic Haggart (CH) re his previous emails about the plans for the town.

1. Raise waiting limit on-street to one hour maximum. This will be subject of a report to Committee.
2. Reconsider all loading bays' provision. Review underway.
3. Review waiting restrictions around former primary school area. Review underway.
4. Raise with Jenny Williams the desire for a coordinated theme for street furniture. This was completed 23-11-16.
5. Coupar Angus Road bollards not working / dirty. This is due to be addressed in February/March 2017.
6. Consider options for crossing point near to tennis / rugby club. Location under investigation.
7. Crossing at hospital ? Proposals for a Puffin crossing have been prepared. Subject to Community Council support, will consult with local residents and plan to introduce this as soon as possible.
8. Waiting restrictions at Honeyberry Drive ? It is understood that these have been marked as far as reasonable.
9. Consider removal of waiting restrictions outside Taste of China and Vintage Interiors on Reform Street. This will be subject of a report to Committee.
10. More and bigger signs required for undertaker on John Street. Expected to be ordered this week and implemented as soon as possible thereafter.
11. Consider raised area only at give way on Reform Street junction with High Street. Proposals for a road hump have been prepared. Feedback from the elected members and the

<p>Community Council is sought. The measures will be implemented if and when the CC and Councillors express their support.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Various signage improvements/reviews. Improvements are expected to be ordered this week and implemented as soon as possible thereafter. Reviews are on-going.</li> <li>13. Review speeding on Ashgrove Road / Old Mill Road area. Under consideration.</li> <li>14. Woodlands Road – send letter out confirming one-way dropped. Letter on its way.</li> <li>15. Consider parking spaces “at dump area” on Welton Road for fishermen? No action.</li> <li>16. Prepare drawing and plan of what is to happen, with images to explain clearly. Unfortunately we have not had sufficient resources to prepare this.</li> <li>17. Consider illuminated flashing signs for the 20mph limit between Boat Brae and Gas Brae. No action so far.</li> <li>18. Get trial 20mph made permanent. This is imminent.</li> <li>19. Review Balmoral Road / High Street bottleneck. No action so far</li> </ol> <p>AD said that there were 4 redundant flashing 20mph signs at Straloch primary School which could be used in Blairgowrie but CS said that Straloch School is not officially closed but mothballed. BS said that there needs to be better signage at the foot of John St as a driver was seen turning right and then left into Reform St, both against the flow of traffic. SN said that the street flower planters need refurbishment. CS confirmed that they belonged to Blair in Bloom but that they would not be averse to them being upgraded. MY said that all this was supposed to take 12 weeks and it is now 1 year later. CS said that her colleagues in other wards report the same problem, the department is staffed by 3 people and they are snowed under and there is a lack of resources. Barbara Renton has been drafted in to prioritise works. MY said the safety issues were glaringly obvious and now there is the terrible weather and snow. Admin are not keeping their eye on the ball and departments are getting in a state and the people who are in charge of a huge budget are not doing anything. This has been going on for a long time and it is not OK. BE said that all 41 Councillors bring up these issues and IR said that there should be a meeting with the Chief Executive. CS replied that any representations made to the Chief Executive simply cascade down. She writes lists to prioritise urgent works but it doesn't get any better. AT said that it would get worse with the forthcoming local Council elections. MY said that she was not filled with confidence; there is a huge need for change. SN said that the key relationship was between the Chief Executive and the leader of the ruling party.</p>	
<p><b>Item 6 - Local Councillor reports.</b></p> <p>CS said that she was still battling about the missing brown (tourist) signs and the tea lights in the Wellmeadow which are not working. She was impressed by the proactive approach about the incident at Carsie but the residents were not happy with the extended Police presence. The Police should have kept the residents informed as well as the Councillors. BS said that the Resilience Team were not called out.</p> <p>BE said that there is to be a meeting in the Royal Hotel on 10 March from 9 – 3 to bring all the local Path Groups together. Subjects include their aims, budgets etc. There will be classroom type presentations in the morning and some machinery training in the afternoon. BRAN has been back at the Riverside ditching and at Loon Braes attacking the path behind the pavilion. There are a lot of local groups and BRAN was proud to be asked to host this gathering. BE said that he had received an email from Alison Bowman (Forestry Scotland) telling him that the Ballathie Bluebell Woods are to be sold off with an asking price of around £235K. It is hoped that there will be a community buyout with support from some high profile people and organisations This is a very valuable asset with photographers even camping out to get photos as the sun comes up. It is in Stanley CC's area but he asked if BRCC would be willing to support it too. If it is not protected then it could be chopped down. The community could micromanage and it could lead to full time employment. MY asked for approval and this was agreed.</p>	

<p><b>Item 7 – Pending Planning Applications.</b></p> <p>GD was not present but had indicated that there were no planning applications of note. AT said that it was not a planning application but he had noticed in the Courier an application for an extra lorry to be based at Fairfield Works in Rattray by a person based in Alyth. He thought that this was an unsafe part of the road to have large vehicles exiting onto. If an application for 1 vehicle was agreed then who knew what would be next.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Secretary’s Correspondence.</b></p> <p>EF apologised for the multiple emails that had been sent in her efforts to get to grips with her new position. She had received notice of the Queen’s Garden Party at Holyrood on 4<sup>th</sup> July and nominations have to be received by 27 January. She asked if there were any nominations. MY replied that the criteria was that someone who had been before could not be nominated again and that they had to be over 18. It was agreed that the Citizen of the Year should be asked if they would be willing to be nominated and also the Young Citizen of the Year. AD asked if we could request that we receive feedback after the event from the successful nominees.</p>	EF
<p><b>Item 9 – Chair’s Report on follow-ups since last meeting.</b></p> <p>Citizen Aid before paramedics could attend. In such circumstances as terrorist attacks and emergencies. She asked are we under such a heavy threat and CS replied that in the UK as a whole – Yes.</p> <p>MY asked in light of the LDP/LDP2 plans for housing behind the Cottage Hospital, was there room for the hospital to expand if needed, bearing in mind the huge increase in housing that is envisaged. SN said that the master plan was sent back to be redrafted. BE said that it was too detailed for that stage. AD said that the hospital before all the recent alterations had 64 beds but now only caters for 17. CS said that the visiting clinics now bring their equipment with them and do not need to have dedicated areas; also there is more community based care. GP provision was more important and as the town grows there is pressure on resources. AD said that patients shouldn’t have to go to Perth or Dundee for treatment. BE said that when he moved into his house, Ann St was quiet but now there are delivery lorries from 5am and nurses park outside his door.</p>	
<p><b>Item 10 - AOCB</b></p> <p>LS said that progress had been made on the cycle path network and £18½K had been allocated in grants to employ a consultant. This is Chris Yorke of “Walking the Talk” who had impressed them. There will be a meeting on 18 January at SCYD at 7pm. He had written to people who were at the previous meeting to let them know.</p> <p>Further to a previous email in which he asked if BRCC members thought that a public “hustings” meeting would be appropriate for the residents of the town to get to know candidates at the forthcoming local Council elections, members gave varying views. Candidates would have the opportunity to make themselves known; BRCC should not get involved in Politics; in many ways a good thing but not under BRCC umbrella; a level playing field for all candidates and not just those with bigger parties behind them; residents could differentiate between Politics and personality. AD asked when the candidates would be known and CS said by the end of March but postal voting was normally not long after that. MY said that hiring a hall and arranging things would be under BRCC’s remit as gauging public opinion. BE said there had never been any “hustings” at local level and SN said that Fife Council had not either. BE thought that many candidates would not want to give time to this instead of going round doors. MY agreed to contact Democratic Services (PKC) and seek their opinion.</p>	

<p>If this went ahead it would not be a traditional hustling with 1 party, it would be all candidates together to speak to the public. CS reminded members that this would be the first time that 16 – 18 year olds would be voting in a local election here and BHS pupils could design a poster for the event.</p> <p>LS said that the Strathmore Transport Group had recently received funding for a Development Officer, 12 hours a week for a year. This group is involved in helping isolated people get transport, should they wish to visit the doctor, hairdresser, social event etc. There is a mention on the “Discover Blairgowrie” website and the closing date is 27 January.</p> <p>AD said that the ongoing problems with parking at Lower Mill St are not getting better and MY said that she would speak to them again. AT said that it is an absolute mess and why can't they use the empty Upper Mill St private car park which also belongs to the site owner. CS suggested a time restriction on parking at the Riverside but MY was against this and CS asked if it was certain that the cars belonged to Castle Water employees. AD replied that he had seen them coming out of the office at tea time and walking down to the car park.</p> <p>AT said that they were having matches on Saturday from 9.30-12.30 with teams coming from Dundee, Forfar and Fife with about 200 people expected. This was an ideal opportunity to promote Women's' football and there could even be future Scottish Internationalists among the players.</p> <p>AT also talked about the Town Hall and how it is maybe not the most salubrious of buildings but PKC are reluctant to do anything. The Town Hall Committee have to run the hall on a very tight budget whereas Rattray Connect could be virtually empty and PKC wouldn't close it; the Community Campus in Elm Drive could be virtually empty and PKC wouldn't close it but Blairgowrie Town Hall must make ends meet. It needs support as it is a fantastic old building. There will now be a complete refurbishment which will be finished by the summer with the Community Payback Team doing the painting. MY thanked AT in particular and the Town Hall Committee for all their efforts and assistance.</p> <p>BS said that the Allotment committee had been offered another plot by another landowner who wants to give the plot to the Community. There would be allotments, a community garden, a picnic area, woodland and a duck pond. He had to give a yes/no answer by next week and get back to the original landowner.</p> <p>IR said that he had a meeting with Greenspace and had good news for AD. A new strimmer would be ready for collection on Monday and the grant of £500 could be collected soon. On Saturday, BRAN would be having a working party and 14 people have signed up for this. This coincides with a request from Greenspace to allow a cameraman to record their Footpath Team. This would probably be a part of PKC's bid for City of Culture. There will be litter picking on the riverbank to the sewage plant and then up to Rosemount. Also the River Ericht path and the Cuttle Burn. The AGM is Wednesday 18 January at 7pm in the Royal Hotel.</p> <p>BE said that he would be unable to attend the next meeting as he has a meeting with Outdoor Access.</p>	MY
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be Thursday 9 February, in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie St at 7pm.</p>	All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank  
Mrs D Cushnie

Local Councillors:

Mr B Ellis  
Mrs E Grant  
Mrs C Shiers

Mr G Darge  
Mr A Donald  
Ms S Fowlie  
Ms E Forrest  
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

External:

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

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