



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON February 8th, 2018

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

<p><u>ATTENDANCE</u> Mr I Richards (IR) Mr B Smith (BS) Mrs P McGregor (PM) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Mr G Darge (GD) Mr A Donald (AD) Mr A Thomson (AT) Mrs M Young (MY) Mr R Duncan (RD) Ms Hazel Harris (HH)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Ms E Forrest (EF) Mrs D Cushnie (DC) Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr T McEwan (TM)</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr B Brawn (BB) Ms C Damodaran (CD) 6 Members of the public</p>	<p>Councillor PKC Press</p>
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<p>Item 1 – Welcome & Apologies 1.1 IR welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for the above. 1.2 IR introduced Hazel Harris who has been co-opted onto the community council. 1.3 IR offered the community council's condolences to the family of PKC leader Ian Campbell who died suddenly.</p>
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes. Minutes of 11th January 2018 meeting were approved. Proposer MY. Seconder AD.</p>
<p>Item 3 - Matters Arising 3.1 Pop Up Museum Group IR reported that there had been another meeting of the group since the last community council meeting and that there was an enthusiasm and desire to proceed with the project. IR had also met with Steven Robb, the manager of the council building on Leslie Street. The office is currently being refurbished and a security system is in place now which will allow access, although other things still need to be sorted out. IR has also had communication from the person at Culture Perth and Kinross who is responsible for using libraries on some occasions and they are more than happy to talk to the group about using it for displays and events. Still looking at holding a pop-up museum over four days at Easter and hope to be able to confirm details of that soon. 3.2 Defibrillator Installation Update BS said that there had been a bit of a hiccup with the plug-in systems. He has made contact with the electrician but the electrician has not visited the premises yet. Any defibrillator the community council might provide is down to</p>

how much money is left over from the resilience group grant for the installation of the plug-in systems.

3.3 CCTV BB read out an email he had received from council officers:

"I have spoken with our Legal team and I have been advised that I need to carry out a Privacy Impact Assessment. This is basically a paper exercise to identify the need for the camera, who it would affect and how it would affect a member of the public's privacy. This will then be assessed by our Information Compliance team on whether or not a CCTV camera is appropriate in this location and for its intended use.

I also thought I would provide a bit of background information on what we are currently doing with CCTV within PKC at the moment. At the current time, our CCTV system and cameras are ageing, constantly breaking down and spare parts are very difficult to find to carry out repairs. We are currently undertaking a project where we will be purchasing a whole new system that will allow us to not only improve the cameras on street, but create a better infrastructure to add new cameras on to. I believe this will be going out to tender within the next couple of months.

If the Privacy impact assessment goes well then I would recommend that we hold off looking into installing the camera until the new system is in place. It will be a lot easier to connect into the existing CCTV network that Police Scotland can access and we would expect a cost saving compared to installing one prior to any new system.

With regards to Temporary CCTV, the same assessment would have to be done because of the local housing in the area. This is something we could potentially look at after the Privacy Impact Assessment although it would be difficult for Police Scotland to access and control."

BB said if the community council was happy he would go back and advise the council to go ahead with the privacy impact assessment. It was agreed he would do this.

3.4 Roads issues and meeting with Chic Haggart (CH) SN said that the walk around which had been due to take place this week had been cancelled due to the death of the leader of the council, Ian Campbell. A meeting had been arranged in Perth on Monday, February 12th. SN had also received a report back from CH with 39 points. These included the variable speed signs in the Wellmeadow, significant progress on which was due to be made in the next two weeks, and a series of work planned by PKC from the outcomes of the Living Streets report, which was due to start on February 12. In the Blairgowrie Community Campus area, developers Stewart Milne are doing to improve the drop-off and pick-up facility on Elm Drive. SN will ask for the drawings to see exactly what the proposals are for the area at the meeting on February 12. There are also proposals for a build-out and drop-off and pick-up area on Hatton Road in Rattray planned for early this year. Again, SN will ask for drawings of the proposals. With regard to parking around Blairgowrie High School, the council's housing department have developed proposals for additional parking there. At this point a member of the public commented that the car parking at Beeches Road around the High School is absolutely jam packed with cars going to the High School and that residents can't get their cars parked, even though the car parking spaces are in the paperwork for the houses. The member of the public added that she had asked CS to check the archives for the paperwork. A one-way system round Lower Mill Street has been designed and is ready to go, although there is no indication of when that might happen.

3.5 Memorial seat for David Bailey. MY reported that she had received a reply from Sam Mercer Nairne who said that beechwood was not suitable for a seat and that oak or ash would be more suitable. AD suggested MY contacted Forneth Estate as they had had a few trees down recently.

3.6 Classic Car update RD said that the Rotary Club was delighted with the response from IR, IC and MY and BRCC's involvement in the event. It was hoped that Bank Street

in the town could be closed for Drive It Day with an arch of some kind by Davidsons the Chemist. The route of the Drive It Day run had been altered to incorporate driving through the arch. Cars will now leave Blairgowrie Golf Club in 30-second intervals, turn right on to Golf Course Road then left on Coupar Angus Road and into the Wellmeadow, turning left on to Bank Street then right on to Allan Street, across the bridge and left on to the A93. A generator has been secured for the arch and the Rotary has made £500 available to whatever group would like to put on some sort of event or entertainment in the Wellmeadow that day. IR said that he had written to the person in charge of road closures and it was basically sorted but he hasn't got the details yet. RD said that there would be lots of people with collection tins in and around the arch and the Wellmeadow as well as the cars, trying to raise as much money as possible for the two chosen charities, Cancer Research UK and Alzheimer Scotland.

Item 4 - Subjects raised by members of the public.

4.1 Blackthorn Place - one member of the public said that developer Stewart Milne had made lots of promises as part of their planning application for the construction of 72 properties on the Blackthorn Place site, one of which was that there would be set times when they would not be actively working. They said they would not be active before 7.30am in the morning but local residents have seen and heard heavy plant activity before 7.30am on numerous occasions. They also said that they would not be accessing the construction site from Blackthorn Place, but there is a sign up at the end of the road saying site access. The third point was that Stewart Milne said there would not be any construction traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. While there is no traffic at these times, the local resident said that the heavy machinery was backing up along the road until they were allowed to access the site, causing obstructions. IR said that Stewart Milne was clearly in breach of its own restrictions and asked SN to write to Stewart Milne highlighting this. GD also suggested contacting Eddie Jordan, the planning enforcement officer at PKC. The member of the public also asked BB to raise it as well. BS commented that if the lorries were causing an obstruction then that is a police matter, and that there should be a stacking area. IC also pointed out that the recognised entrance to the site had been blocked on occasion by parents picking up their children from school.

4.2 A member of the public said that he would like to point out the problems with the Blairgowrie and Rattray Infrastructure Report, commenting that while it espouses the benefits of open space, the LDP2 is proposing building over open spaces, and describing it as lacking in common sense and as being shambolic. Acknowledging the need for additional housing, he commented that the report refers to amenities but then takes them away. He said that he had written to the chief executive of PKC expressing these views. IR said that he hoped everyone had responded to the LDP2 consultation. SN said that he had sent quite a strong email on the lack of infrastructure and the fact that there was no provision to expand on that, and that he hoped it would be considered with all the other responses which will be given to the reporter. He said that the town could strangle itself if 2000 houses are just lumped on to it with no additional infrastructure and the town is not given the chance to grow properly. BB pointed out that it was going to take a long time for all the proposed houses to be built, commenting that only an average of 33 houses per year had been completed in Blairgowrie based on the last seven years. RD commented that it sounded as though PKC's planning department was not answerable to anyone and surely the politicians are the ones who set the criteria. BB responded by giving the example of Glenalmond Road where one of the objections was the impact increased traffic at the development would have on the surrounding area. The council's traffic assessment team said it wasn't a problem however. If councillors turn an application down and it goes to appeal they have to justify the decision making process. Another member of the public said that at the end of the day PKC just does what they want when they want, they say they want to hear from people but then do it themselves, the traffic lights in the Wellmeadow being a prime example of that - the money they wasted by not listening to the people - and problems with parking at the High School were raised when they first proposed the new building

there but the council does not listen. IR said that as a community council they do have some influence but that the member of the public was absolutely right, the council had squandered thousands of pounds on the traffic light debacle in particular and the people involved were just moved sideways and not disciplined. The member of the public said that the community was sick and tired of the council. HH said that medical provision was not mentioned in the plan and that it might be worth looking into how that was going to affect the community. BB said that the strategy team say that the NHS says there's no problem but the doctors are saying that there is a problem.

Item 5 - Police & Fire reports.

No police or fire reports were available.

Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report.

Two transactions since last meeting.

TD for website £10

Copy Shop for members' badges £1.35

Bank Balance "A" £2511.45

"B" £7090.58 of which £856.70 is Christmas activities and £6233.88 is Resilience group

Cash £ 6.26

Total £9608.29

Admin a/c £ 254.70

Outstanding a/cs due for February - Rattray Hall £22 not received yet.

Minute secretary £35 not received yet.

Item 7 - 3G pitch

ST is chair of Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Football Club. He called on the community council to support the club's ongoing efforts to secure a 3G pitch for the town.

He said: Within the Club there are 155 Boys/Youth, Girls 42, Adults 67 we are tired of being as we see it at the bottom end of any investment in our facilities at Davie Park and Piggy Lane being that we are largest town in PKC. And have largest growth of any other town in the country Set aside anything we pay in pitch fees, last year £1700 and the year previously £1500 probably more than any other football Club. In our opinion very little maintenance An example is at piggy lane no fertilizer or seeding having been done for at least 4/5 years. The pitches have not been aerated or rolled in as many years. The car park is full of large holes and has not had any maintenance since it was first installed. Every day of the year at least 100 people with twice as many dogs if not more tramp across the pitches, keep fit classes use it, bikers use it, general public use it, it is a lovely area and you can understand why, but they pay nothing as it is designated as a public area. In fairness PKC have reinstated goal areas in last two seasons and new goal posts, the bare minimum required. The Club with assistance from SFP had to install our own changing rooms and toilets again a grant from The Climate Challenge fund did enable this to go ahead, but for the privilege of these units we have to pay a yearly fee of £133. Now to ensure security etc. we are having to spend £9k on fencing, money that could be better spent on equipment etc for the teams. We have repeatedly said we are always willing to work with PKC in developing the area and if need be doing our own fertilising job, all be it with a reduction in pitch fees Davie park pavilion has no Female changing or toilet facility, totally unacceptable in this day and age its 2018 not 1918 and the park as a whole has no public toilets. This year after 4 years of attempting to have the main building upgraded it looks like it is going to happen, mainly due to the fact that the electrics are due an upgrade and PKC have to get this work completed. A sum of £60k was allocated three years ago but never used and PKC attempted to have it reduced to £32k and would have happened if the Club had not found out about it. The club since the building was opened in 1987 has always worked with PKC, as partners in running the facility all be it utilities have been paid for by the Club, unlike other facilities where this is included in a hire charge. The Club have done their own estimate as to cost of upgrade and reckon around £35/£40k is sufficient, as we still have not seen the actual planned works we cannot be certain of this figure. The remaining £20k would be more

than enough money to convert part of the building into a female facility as again we have done a quick basic survey. The Park similar to Piggy Lane has dogs, Play Park use, quad bikes, golfers etc. all using the area. Our Teams every winter have to travel to other Venues in Tayside likes of Coupar Angus, Guildtown, and Kirriemuir, Perth Dundee etc. due to either cost of indoor here in the town or no available alternative such as a 3G. When the pavilion was opened in 1987 it was a first class facility all be it without any individual female facility and we had an all-weather floodlit area to train on. NOW all we have is a pretty basic unit We are losing kids to other clubs in Tayside due to the above and our inability to train or play in winter months, kids in this town are now going to likes of Letham where they can train and play almost every day/night of the year. So where is all this ranting and raving going you ask? The Club wholly 100% support the New Recreation Centre and swimming pool. The existing one requires replacing urgently and the sooner the better for the benefit of all sports in and around East Perthshire To the crux of the matter, The Councils Strategic Investment Group meet this coming Tuesday unless this has been postponed due to Mr Campbells sudden death. At this meeting on the agenda will be a discussion whether or not they will allocate a small part of the money from the designated and well publicised £18million for the new recy and go with the PMR Leisure consultation/proposal to allocate part of these funds to install a 3G floodlit training area at the Davie Park. All be it is half size but this would be better than what there is at the moment. This would also fit in with possible plans by the Loon Braes Committee to enhance and improve the Braes area the whole of the Davie Park, including a proper public toilet. The proposed 3G option as described in PMRs process would elevate PKC and Blairgowrie to the forefront of training pitch technology and it is a standard acceptable to both SFA and SRU, once again putting Blairgowrie and Rattray on the map regarding football facility as it was when the Pavilion was built in 1987. The 3G would also enhance the offering for all sports in conjunction with what would be available through the new recreation centre and ease pressure on demand for its all-weather surface, bringing more people into Blairgowrie and Rattray from neighbouring towns and villages to use both facilities

In light of the well-publicised growth of our town, Let us look to the future long term instead of short term and learn from previous mistakes. I would ask that (A) the community council send a letter of support for this 3G pitch to PKC and our three local councillors also give it its backing here tonight and in chambers next week ensuring that this becomes a reality. As well as that a proposal that has been put forward by PKC for the Scone area within its development for new housing that PKC work with ourselves and others to have something similar incorporated into the future housing developments here in Blairgowrie and Rattray Gavin Tolmie set up an online petition on Tuesday evening and we already have over 350 signatures. 2018 has been deemed by the Scottish Parliament as YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE, please do not let our young people down, support them with a proper 3G facility. A show of hands of community councillors showed its unanimous support for the proposal.

Item 8 - Local Councillor reports.

BB said that he had nothing more to add.

IR read out an email report from CS: to update - rescheduled meeting with Chic for Monday morning (Tom and Bob both notified) we can work through list.

I have meeting with officers re Town Hall tomorrow so Sandy will know where we are with that.

The Strategic Investment Group will analyse the report from Penny on Tuesday

and after that it will move to public discussion/consultation.

The budget has been delayed as it is the funeral for Ian Campbell next week but it will likely be the week after. From there we will know what projects/funds will be for 2018/19 and beyond.

Item 9 – Pending Planning Applications.

GD said that plans had been submitted for the site of the former Hill primary school and that he had the drawings if anyone would like to see them. He said that he had had a good look at them and that leaving aside the horrendous decision that PKC made the development has a light touch and the main buildings are all staying in place with very little alterations to the external facade. There would be new windows but they would be in the same format and the architecture will be retained. He commented that he didn't think it was over development and that it was a successful design. One member of the public asked if there was any way to improve the narrow pavements on Upper Allan Street, GD said that a 1.8m pavement would narrow the road but that if the community council wanted him to approach the developer regarding the possibility of including a pavement within the site then he would. It was unanimously agreed that GD should do this. PM raised concerns about vehicular access to Newton Terrace. GD said that the roads department will have to assess the feasibility of that.

Item 10 – Secretary's correspondence.

None that hadn't already been circulated.

Item 11 – Chair's report on follow ups since last meeting.

IR said that if communities want to improve their local areas and make it attractive for themselves and visitors then they have to do it themselves and it is down to individual groups in the town that people should get involved with to make a difference. Following on from this SN said that a draft community action plan had been circulated and that for the purposes of the minutes the community council needed to officially approve their support of it as an organisation. SN went on to explain that following discussions with PKC their preference is for one umbrella organisation to draw together a vision for the town and that to achieve this The Ericht Trust and the One Voice volunteer group have just about merged into the Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust which rather than concentrating on its own projects will support groups in the community that wish to undertake projects or initiatives but don't necessarily have either the resources, employment, charity or legal status that a trust can offer. SN said that one public meeting had been held already and there was to be another on next week and the hope was that all the organisations to be co-signatories to the Community Action Plan (CAP) which can then be used when applying for funding. Members of the community council unanimously voted in support of the CAP.

Item 12 – AOCB.

12.1 IR said that one issues that has almost been forgotten about is that the floods two years ago exposed the old dump on Stuart Nicolson's ground. PKC had taken full responsibility for this and will be digging it out in May and putting it back and building some kind of barrier to make it safe and able to withstand any erosion. It is a very substantial piece of work that is thought will cost in the region of £120,000.

12.2 A member of the public said that they had heard that dogs were falling ill after being walked in the field between Essendy Road and Dunkeld Road.

12.3 HH mentioned the concerns about medical provision in Blairgowrie just now saying

that everyone she has spoken to said it was a horror story and that people were suffering. IR agreed to contact the practice manager at Ardblair Medical Practice and see what their response was.

12.4 MY asked BB what provision there was for funding for events outwith Perth from PKC, specifically for money for the town's fireworks, which had been turned down by the East Perthshire Community Action Partnership for participatory budget money. BB said that he would try to find out.

12.5 MY suggested getting Tracie Dick to run a refresher course for members of the community council who wished to know how to post things on the website. This was agreed.

12.6 MY had contacted Carol Taylor about the new Recreation Centre and was told that there was not a programme in place yet for its replacement and won't be until there is a completed design. The design and build of the new centre is likely to take between three and four years and would be 2021 before it is complete at the earliest.

12.7 AD was looking for people to volunteer in the charity shop being held in April to raise funds for Blairgowrie and Rattray Access Network (BRAN). BRAN is also trying to organise a fun run to raise funds, which was like to take place on the evening of May 15th and involve an eight-mile route.

12.8 AD said that forms for nominations for the Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year were now available.

12.9 A member of the public questioned the point of having defibrillators in the town commenting that by the time someone has collapsed and you have found a defibrillator it is usually too late for the person.

12.10 A member of the public said that the new charges being introduced by PKC to empty garden waste was likely to lead to all sorts of problems including bin lorries taking longer to complete their rounds as they have to check each of the bins, and an increase in fly tipping, and even a rat problem. IR said that BRAN was very conscious of the fly tipping problem in Blairgowrie and Rattray. Another member of the public asked about whether the council would be charging to collect waste from householders who cut back council owned hedges and grass.

Date of Next Meeting

8th March 2018 in Rattray Hall on Balmoral Road at 7.00pm

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

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

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers
Mr B Brawn
Mr T McEwan

External:

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

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