

<p>discussed. At the meeting SN mentioned that a variable speed sign in the Wellmeadow would be installed next week, and that they are getting quotes for a handrail for the bridge on the Rattray side, that new lines and signs were to be painted around the fire station, that a request for a pedestrian crossing at the rugby club on Coupar Angus Road was now included in the programme of work where it wasn't before. A variable speed sign would be going up on Balmoral Road during the week of March 26th. SN said that he was still waiting for drawings of the proposed pick up and drop off points on Hatton Road and at the campus from the council. Parking opposite the high school was discussed and CH said that he was going to check with housing about which regulations apply. At this point CS said that the housing department maintain it's a public road so she thought it will now be going to the legal department to look into. She added that she was going to a meeting with the High School to see if they can look at tidying up some of the grounds a bit with a view to squeezing more spaces in there.</p>	
<p>3.5 MY and AD had identified some timber from Forneth Estate for the memorial bench for David Bailey which the estate was prepared to donate. They now needed to get it cut and then Derrick Young would carve it and hopefully it will be in place in time for the anniversary of David's passing in August.</p>	MY
<p>3.6 Drive-It Day. RD reported that things were moving forward in terms of an arch for classic cars to drive through at the Wellmeadow as part of the Rotary Club's Drive-It Day event in Blairgowrie next month. MY had got a licence for an event at the Wellmeadow and PKC had been very helpful. Bob Ellis was going to organise barriers to stop people running out in front of the cars and they were hoping to have ten cars parked up in the town centre for people to look at. They were also hoping to get a bouncy castle. HRH Prince Michael of Kent would be in the lead car and MY had organised a piper for the morning. Posters have been put up in various places in the town promoting the event. RD said that it was likely to be a one-off event so people need to make the most of it and come out to support it. IR said that he hoped the weather would be kind and that there would be a good turnout, and that there would be a spin off for Blairgowrie from the Perth event.</p>	RD
<p>3.7 Blackthorn Place. SN said that after liaising with residents to make sure they were all on the same page, he had reported residents' concerns to the enforcement officer at PKC who had then visited the contractors on site. He confirmed that the planning consent barred work on the site before 7am rather than 7.30pm as some of the residents had thought. Temporary access to the site from Blackthorn Place was granted while a sewer was constructed but he had heard it was still being used after the three-week period. IR commented that 7am was still too early for residents.</p>	SN
<p>3.8 3G pitch. CS said that the original amount of money in the capital budget for the new recreation centre was set in June and that it is at the June meeting when it will be decided how the money is spent so up until then the community has a chance to revisit how they want the £17.7million spent and that as many of the aspirations of east Perthshire as a whole were met. CS added that she is working with officers to see if they can alter the scope of the project so that it is not just a replacement PE facility. All being well a report will go to full council which will include all additional facilities, and that she would ask if the completed report by PMR Leisure would be made available. She also commented that they don't know what effect this will have on timescales for the project.</p>	CS
<p>3.9 Funding for events outwith Perth. BB said that he had passed the response he received from PKC on to MY.</p>	BB
<p>3.10 SN said that the sub group that was pulling the new development trust together along with the community action plan had now got a number of community groups to sign up to the plan and that as a result the development trust and the community</p>	SN

<p>action plan will be officially launched on March 29 at 6pm in Blairgowrie Town Hall. Those involved are looking for more volunteers to get involved and help out.</p>	
<p>Item 4 - Subjects raised by members of the public. None.</p>	
<p>Item 5 - Police & Fire reports. No police report. CS from SFRS said that in January there had been 17 call outs, including 8 false alarms, 4 road traffic collisions and five special services – these include water rescue, assistance to ambulance and gaining entry. Incidents of note included a road traffic collision on the A926 at North Littleton Farm where firefighters assisted ambulance staff to remove two persons from car, sadly the passenger died as a result of injuries sustained. Firefighters had also attended a number of community safety events including 17 home safety visits. In February, they had 13 call outs, including 8 false alarms, 1 road traffic collision on the A9 at Dunkeld, 1 vehicle fire, 2 small house fires, 1 fire in the open and completed 16 home safety visits. Blairgowrie Dental Care has become a Fire-Fighters charity partner and will be collecting on behalf of the charity this year. Blairgowrie-based firefighters will be holding a fundraising car wash in Tesco car park on Saturday, April 7, and as they are tying in with the 1918 fund they are trying to raise £1918.</p> <p>SG introduced himself saying that he had replaced Jake Kitt as station manager for east Perthshire. He emphasised his commitment to coming to meetings where possible and asked to see the community resilience plan for the town. He said the fire service was looking for feedback on proposals for the transformation of the service and mentioned that the participatory budgeting event in Coupar Angus had gone really well and that they would be at the Blairgowrie event on Saturday, March 10 as well.</p> <p>ST asked if people were ever prosecuted for the false alarms. CS said that it was not an offence to have a false alarm and that they had found that if people were prosecuted they tended to turn off their alarms. Firefighters would rather go to 20 false alarms than miss one genuine one.</p> <p>ST also asked if there was any truth in the rumour that with the growth in the town the fire station was going to be too small and would have to move. SG said that the transformation of the fire service was going to be over four years but that at the moment there were no plans to remove or increase any fire cover. The model they are currently working on is from the 1940s and the consultation is looking at risk and identifying what changes need to be made. Further consultations would take place before any closures were implemented.</p>	<p>BS</p>
<p>Item 6 - Pending Planning Applications. GD mentioned the Castle Water planning application for the old garage in Rattray which was for the installation of some steps. He said that he thought there should be an application for a change of use of the premises and had asked PKC to confirm what their position is. IR said that no progress had been made on the parking issues and that he would contact the managing director of Castle Water next week and ask for a meeting. PM asked if Castle Water was moving out of their current premises on Lower Mill Street. IR said that he didn't think they are but that he would ask. AD said that two people had approached him complaining about the parking at Riverside, which has been compounded by equipment being stored there which is being used by Scottish</p>	

Water to sort out a drainage problem. AD asked if a business the size of Castle Water would be more suitable for a base at a retail park on the outskirts of town. ST pointed out that one good thing is that the cafes in the town were all busy at lunchtime. IR said that they are becoming more involved with the community and are at least making an effort. GD said that the West Park developers had identified various tenants for their proposed development, including Aldi and B&M but that no mention had been made of Castle Water. IR said that he hoped to have a report for the community council by the next meeting. HH commented that the council put block after block the last time someone wanted to develop the site until they just gave up. GD suggested that one of the reasons they might have got planning permission this time was because they only applied for a set of stairs. Castle Water's modus operandi seems to be to take over old buildings and put their staff in them. There was then a short discussion about various vacant buildings in the town. IR said that he would endeavour to get as many answers as possible.

IR

GD had emailed plans for an equipment store at the rugby ground. He suggested the material is not appropriate cladding as it would be clearly visible going down Coupar Angus Road. He suggested timber cladding while SN suggested white render. He recommended making a representation to the planners questioning the cladding. IR asked how big the building was. GD said not big and that it was going right on the corner by the road. ST asked if they were intending cutting any trees down, GD said no, just clearing rough scrub away. He said you can get cladding in virtually any colour you want but that he didn't think a metal shed was appropriate for quite a prominent location on an access road into the town. His suggestion to make that representation to the planners was unanimously agreed.

GD

GD said that the application in principle for the West Park development was due to go to the development management committee next week and that if they wished to speak at the meeting they had to inform the council by Friday, March 9. The planning officers report recommended the application in principle was approved. GD said that this was just deciding the basic structure of the development and was not looking at it in any great detail. He recommended that everyone read the report and got back to him with any feedback. He said the report was well written but that there were a number of issues with it not least was the quite flagrant uploading of documents online which had been causing quite a bit of consternation. GD said that he had been assured that those documents will not have a part in the application but had some scepticism about why they had been drawn up in the first place. He added that he personally thought that they should be opposing the out of town retail element of this. In the report council officers argue that the out of town retail element is in line with the Tay structural report and say that an 11% drop in trade for convenience goods in the town is "considered to be acceptable levels of trading diversion". GD said that as far as the rest of the development is concerned - the residential, education and landscaping aspects - are all okay but the commercial element is a matter of grave concern; 11% drop in trade could be the difference between a business surviving or not. He asked if the community council wanted him to make a representation at the meeting on the commercial element of the proposals. IC said that the community might want a Lidl. ST said that he had been canvassing opinions on this for the last year or so and it was about 50/50 - lots of people are for keeping things in town but lots of people would also welcome a budget supermarket. He said he would have to abstain in any vote. DC said that the High Street in Dingwall died when Tesco built there, and that a budget supermarket is not something you want to see on your approach in to the town, asking why they can't put it somewhere else. SN said that Lidl would have been encouraged to be part of the development by the developers. A member of the public said that it should go ahead as there is nothing at that end of the town, that anyone who lives at that end of Blairgowrie has to go into the town to get anything and that Tesco had a monopoly, their prices were going up and up and that another supermarket would be a good thing. SN said that as soon as you put something on the periphery the centre of the town is under threat, and that he thought there were plenty

<p>of opportunities closer in to town for possible competitors to Tesco to open up in, in Rattray in particular. IR said that MY had written to Lidl suggesting a site on Hatton Road but hadn't heard anything back. He added it was up to the community council to represent the views of the community and that opinion was split on this at least at the time of the last public event held by the West Park developers but that that was quite some time ago. RD said that he thought it was very sad and almost treasonable that the planners thought an 11% decline was acceptable and said that Perth was a perfect example of a ghost town. He said that the local shops needed to be supported so that they are not lost and Blairgowrie ends up a ghost town like Perth. PM said that she agreed with the member of the public and that if the new supermarket stopped people going elsewhere to do their shopping then that was a good thing. BS agreed saying that if it was simply the visual impact of the development then he could support the proposals. He said that his fear was that it was simply going to turn into a commercial development and that the rest of the proposals would be dropped or sold on. GD said that there were quite a lot of safeguards written into the proposals to try to prevent the developers from walking away from their obligations. AD said that he would have to sit on the fence – a lot of people like to go to Lidl to save money so if we can keep that in Blair then perhaps it can grow a bit. DC said that she had mixed views too and that he biggest problem in Blairgowrie was parking so perhaps an out of town facility would alleviate that. HH said that there was only one shop in Rattray at the moment and that more people in Rosemount had their own car to travel to supermarkets than in Davie or Ferguson Park. She said she didn't object to something like that happening but she did object to where it was happening and what it looked like, pointing out the Tesco in Riverside in Dundee didn't look like a big shed and that was because of its location. She added that Blairgowrie was surviving at the moment because of GrowBiz and if hadn't been for GrowBiz there would be a lot less shops in the town. EF said that she supported Lidl and that if people didn't support town centres then they lose them. There was a discussion about how many jobs might be created and whether or not they would be minimum wage jobs. There was also a discussion about whether the master plan could be altered to change the proposed location of the out of two retail element of the plan. GD said in principle says if there was a valid planning argument for that to happen. There was a question from a member of the public about why shops opened in Blairgowrie but never seemed to stay open for very long. IR said that was an important topic and one that the development trust and local councillors will be looking at but that was a different discussion to the one currently under way. The consensus was that no representation would be made at this stage but that it would be discussed again at the detailed planning stage.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – Treasurer's report.</p> <p>£22 Rattray Hall</p> <p>£35 Minute secretary</p> <p>£33.30 Stationery</p> <p>Balance £2421.15</p> <p>Admin £164.40</p> <p>B a/c no transactions</p> <p>Balance £7090.58 of which £856.70 is Christmas activities.</p> <p>AD asked if anyone was helping PM with the money from the wishing well and said that he had been thinking there should maybe be a sign put up highlighting its</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>AD, DC</p>

<p>presence and encouraging people to donate. AD volunteered to look into getting a sign made. DC also volunteered to help with getting a sign made as her partner is a welder.</p>	
<p>Item 8 – Local Councillor reports.</p> <p>CS said that the main thing recently had been the budget and that probably the main aspect of interest to the community council was the allocation of funds for the community and in particular the £1.2million community investment fund which will be coming down to community councils and development trusts to work together to do what they want to do. CS said that she was looking forward to seeing how it works and that it is made as easy as possible for communities to take projects they want forward. Another aspect of the budget that would be of interest would be the retail façade fund which it would good to encourage take up of. CS said that she would circulate details of the budget but that is very much about communities telling the council what they want. CS also mentioned that there was a consultation under way about possible changes to the 57 bus on a Saturday, which would see it run 10 minutes earlier to allow people to get to work on time. CS and ST had met with John Beveridge about the Town Hall. The annual Blair in Bloom litter pick is on Sunday, April 15 and as it is the 40th anniversary of Blair in Bloom it would be good to get 40 volunteers along to help on the day. She also suggested that the community council did something to recognise the work Blair in Bloom does for the community in its 40th year. The British Legion had asked if there was a possibility of getting some sort of rack for the wreaths at the War Memorial. PKC are keen to do something to help but the community council might be the organisation to look into it. IR said that he would arrange to see Jim Gibb about it.</p> <p>BB said that as part of the budget process they had to fight to keep the public toilets in Blairgowrie open. He said that it was a case of use it or lose it. AD said that he had concerns about closing the toilets in a rural town, particularly when they were trying to encourage visitors to the town. CS said that it was one of those issues that was not going to go away but added that the toilets’ proximity to the bus terminus was a positive thing.</p> <p>TM said that there was to be a walkaround in Rattray with residents next week and that they were encouraging residents to go along and have their say on what issues need to be addressed. The walkaround had been postponed from the previous week due to the snow.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>IR</p> <p>BB</p> <p>TM</p>
<p>Item 9 – Secretary’s correspondence. None that hadn’t already been circulated.</p>	<p>SN</p>
<p>Item 10 – Chair’s report on follow ups since last meeting.</p> <p>IR said that MY had asked for a leave of absence from the community council for five or six months while she set up a new business venture. He said that she had been part of the community council since it started in its current form and had been a figure head for it from the start. She has always been one of the hardest working members and it was sad not to see here smiley face at the table. He would like to record the community council’s thanks for her efforts and wished her well with the new venture. PM suggested keeping a diary of members of the community council who were on extended leave of absence. The council unanimously approved MY’s leave of absence for 6 months from 8th March 2018 until September 2018.</p> <p>IR said the new development trust was a new phase for the town and that it was a great tribute to all those people who have been working to bring this into existence. He said that there are an awful lot more eyes on what the town is doing and what it is</p>	<p>IR</p>

capable of. He reiterated the appeal for volunteers, especially calling on young people to help out with some of the groups working in the town.	
<p>Item 11 – AOCB.</p> <p>GD said that the appeal by the Green Burn wind farm developers ABO had been upheld by the Scottish Government. He said that £4.5million had been allocated to a community benefit fund over the lifespan of the wind farm, and that discussions had taken place between ABO, BRCC, Alyth Community Council and Mount Blair Community Council as to how that money should be divided up. He said that MBCC wanted all the money and weren't going to give way so ABO stepped in and said that they would give a percentage to GrowBiz, Blairgowrie High School and Perth College, and that the rest would still be allocated between the three community councils. Abo reportedly is keen to direct the money to community councils to redirect to community development trusts to decide which projects the money would go to. He suggested that he should get in touch with ABO about what happens now and report back to the community council at the next meeting.</p> <p>IR said that he had nothing to add about the future of the Post Office in Blairgowrie but that it was an important issue for the town to have a Post Office and that it was going to continue in its current location for the time being. Both Pete Wishart and Murdo Fraser have been to see Sandy Sarwar in the proposed new location for the Post Office.</p> <p>TM asked for the community councillors' opinions on proposed new street names for Rattray. ST, HH and DC suggested some from the list TM had from the council.</p> <p>RD said that the Rotary Club would have a classic Jaguar at Tesco on Saturday, April 4 where people could make a donation to have their photo taken in the car as part of the fundraising efforts for the Drive It Day later that month.</p> <p>ST asked if it was true that PKC was going to employ someone to stop and search dog walkers to make sure they had poo bags with them.</p> <p>PM advised everyone that the end of this month is the end of the financial year and all receipts for claims had to be submitted by the end of the month.</p> <p>HH mentioned that getting an appointment at GPs surgeries was still an ongoing issue and that new NHS contracts were shifting more appointments on to nurses and nurse practitioners.</p>	<p>GD</p> <p>IR</p> <p>TM</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, April 12, 2018.</p>	<p>All</p>

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