



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM AND ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

Held in the, Adult Resource Centre, Jessie Street 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 A Donald (AD) Mr L Seal (LS) Mr A Thomson (AT) Mr R Duncan (RD) Ms C Thomson (CT)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Ms E Forrest (EF) Mr G Darge (GD) Ms H Harris (HH)</p> <p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Police Scotland</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr B Brawn (BB) Cllr T McEwan (TM) Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>Kim O'Brien (KOB) Claire Smith (CS)</p> <p>No members of the public</p> <p><u>LEAVE OF ABSENCE</u> Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><u>ABSENT</u> Mrs D Cushnie (DC)</p>	<p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Press</p> <p>Community Warden Community Warden</p>
<p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies IR welcomed everyone to the AGM and ordinary meeting, including CT who has been co-opted on to the community council. He noted that the community council was now up to 15 members including MY who is on a six month leave of absence. SN pointed out for the minutes that all those who were eligible to vote for CT to join did so. IR also paid tribute to a former member of the community council, John Crerar, who passed away on Sunday. John joined the community council in December 2014 before leaving due to ill health and on behalf of the community council IR offered his heartfelt condolences to John's family.</p>			<p>IR</p>
<p>Item 2 – Chair's Report IR said that it had been another busy year not just for the community council but for the community as a whole. He said that the community council continued to have a very strong relationship with all the elected councillors, commenting that the community council is an apolitical organisation, and thanked CS, BB and TM for their efforts. He referred to the LDP2 saying that BRCC was fully engaged with the consultation process, encouraging the public both to attend the Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) presentations and also to make full use of the feedback facilities. SN had just had confirmation of a council meeting in August where concerns will be reviewed before going to the Scottish Government ministers for approval. IR thanked seasoned professionals GD and SN for playing a very full role in ensuring that the LDP2 was giving a good airing in front of the community and for helping the community to understand the technicalities. The next item that BRCC was heavily involved in was the Blackthorn Place development. BRCC hosted at least two</p>			<p>IR</p>

<p>meetings bringing together council officials and concerned members of the community. Whilst the outcome was disappointing, properties are now available to purchase and the community council welcomes the new residents and wishes them well. One success has been the naming of new streets working with the ward councillors and it is particularly pleasing to learn that the community campus end of Elm Drive is to be re-named after Hamish Henderson. Another major project is the town street improvements. The pace of work is glacial but thanks to SN for his tenacious attitude in dealing with council officers. The speed limit through Boat Brae and up to Reform Street is at last accompanied by speed indicators although only one of them seems to be working and there are still far too many drivers ignoring the 20mph limit. Another issue was the outbreak of vandalism in the town. BRCC has been working with the police and now the community wardens as well on this. The installation of CCTV is currently being investigated. One of the issues is that local young people have limited things to do, and that the Strathmore Centre for Youth Development has had a few issues securing continuous funding. BRCC should help in any way it can to facilitate improvements. The formation of the new Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust is a big milestone for the community and although it is not in itself a community council achievement, two BRCC members are also trustees and the community council will work closely with the trust. BRCC is also supportive of two other recent initiatives, the heritage group, which enjoyed great success with the pop-up museum over the Easter weekend, and the riverside group. BRCC also hosted a classic car event in the Wellmeadow in April in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Blairgowrie which it is hoped will become a regular event. One of the other successes was the Bonfire Night celebrations in Davie Park which were very popular and which will also hopefully become an annual event. IR also noted that he was pleased to have good support from members of the public throughout the year, commenting that the community council was always open to suggestions or criticism and would welcome any thoughts that the community might have to help BRCC further increase public engagement and improve its service to the community. He also thanked CD and Johnathon Menzies for their faithful recording of issues raised at the meetings and CD for being the minute secretary.</p>	
<p>Item 3 – Treasurer’s Report A simplified copy of the year to March 2018’s accounts has been circulated to all members and is available, if anyone wants to look at it. If proposed, seconded and agreed that the accounts are correct, then they will be sent to PKC and BRCC will get its top-up grant in due course. This month there have been payments for the maintenance of the website and email service £36; the payment for the taking of the minutes £35; payments for the administration of the car event on 22 April £282; payment for frames for the Citizen of the Year presentations in June £5.98; two flash drives £20.95 and a sympathy card £2.35. Total £382.28. There have been no receipts but a donation from the Rotary is expected. Bank balance is £2000.38; cash £6.98. Total £2007.36. Admin £5.99; Capital £1912.76; Wishing well £100.59. Total £2070.36. The accounts were proposed by ST and seconded by BS.</p>	PM
<p>Item 4 – Secretary’s report SN said that there was nothing of note to report AD proposed the adoption of the minutes of the previous AGM held in May 2017 which was seconded by SN.</p>	SN
<p>Item 5 – Demit of office bearers and election of new office bearers IR, BS, SN and PM stood down from their respective roles. BB asked for nominations for a new chair. ST nominated IR which was seconded by AD. IR accepted and resumed the role of chair. He asked for nominations for a vice-chair. AD nominated BS, seconded by PM. BS accepted. LS nominated SN for the post of secretary which was seconded by BS. SN accepted. He also said that he was prepared to take on the</p>	

<p>role of data controller and was waiting to hear back from PKC whether he was allowed to hold both positions. There were no nominations for the post of treasurer.</p>	
<p>Item 6 - Adoption of minutes IC pointed out three typos. BS said that on page 5, item 12, there was one vote against the proposal and one person abstained not two votes against as stated. SN proposed the approval of the minutes and RD seconded it. RD suggested that typos are highlighted when the draft minutes are circulated rather than bringing them up at the meeting.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – Matters Arising</p> <p>7.1 – Roads Issues. SN said that he nothing to report. He has contacted Chic Haggart at PKC on at least two occasions for an update on all the issues in the town and had had no reply on either occasion. IC suggested inviting him to come to a community council meeting. ST said that he has conducted some surveys of his own around speeding on Boat Brae, noting that he has seen speeds of 37mph recorded on the new flashing sign there, slowing to 26mph in the 20mph limit. ST said that quite a lot of people are doing 30mph on the way down the hill and that the signs are working in that people are slowing down there but they are speeding up again once they get across the bridge. He said that now the signs have been installed the police need to enforce the 20mph speed limit. BB said that the signs can record the speeds that people are going at, but they can't identify the vehicles. IR said that is still very powerful info to have to put in front of the police and suggested writing to the police and saying that BRCC has done an unofficial survey and is alarmed by the amount of speeding that is occurring there. BS asked if painting 20mph on the road would help, SN said he would add it to the list of suggestions for Chic Haggart.</p> <p>7.2 – Castle Water IR said that he would be meeting the CEO of Castle Water, John Reynolds, on Monday, May 21, partly in recognition that they are one of the biggest employers in the town now and they are continuing to grow, and that that brings with it certain responsibilities. IR said that he would talk about the development trust at the meeting and all the things that they are involved in in terms of bringing visitors to the town, all of which need parking in the town.</p> <p>7.3 – Drive-It Day RD said that the event was a huge success, describing it as a magnificent spectacle, and thanked everyone in Blairgowrie who supported the event for their generosity. He said that the Rotary Club will not be holding the Perth event again and that current estimates for how much the event raised were in the region of £20,000. At the moment they are considering the possibility of having a two day event in Blairgowrie next yearThe Rotary Club of Blairgowrie is having an open night in the Royal Hotel on May 30 at 7pm showing a DVD of the classic car festival as part of efforts to increase membership and awareness of the Rotary, highlighting some of the work it does, some of its achievements and how every penny given to the Rotary goes to charity. Other ideas for raising awareness include perhaps sponsoring a trailer that local groups could use to collect rubbish.</p> <p>7.4 – BRCC laptop Calutech confirmed that the operating systems on it were obsolete and wiped all the files and destroyed it.</p>	<p>SN</p> <p>IR</p> <p>RD</p> <p>SN</p>
<p>Item 8 - Subjects raised by members of the public No members of the public were present.</p>	
<p>Item 9 - Police and Fire reports No representatives from the police or fire service were present. Community wardens Kim O'Brien and Claire Smith were at the meeting. IR said that BRCC was keen to work with the community wardens and that there were some issues in the town. BRCC has also spoken to other officials such as the dog wardens and one of the senior community warden team at PKC but were keen to touch base with the people on the ground. KOB explained that the community wardens don't have any powers of enforcement. They are based in Blairgowrie two to three days a week and on different days each week and are hoping to get more weekends. CS said that if people don't</p>	

<p>report that there is a problem then the community wardens won't get put there. Once the community wardens are allocated an area they patrol the streets looking for antisocial behaviour and work with other council departments and services such as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to try to sort any issues and stop them before they go any further. KOB said that the sole purpose of community wardens is to make sure people are safe, that they are not out to get anyone into trouble and that young people in particular relate to them better than to the police for example. CS said that they were going to be volunteering with SCYD to try to help out there and were trying to set up a street sport initiative with St Johnstone as part of efforts to engage with children to find out what they want and emphasise that the more money that is spent clearing up vandalism the less money there was to spend on services. KOB said that they were trying to engage with Blairgowrie High School about litter in particular, and IR mentioned the litter pick organised by four schools as part of the rights respecting schools initiative. KOB said that they had put in a request for the community payback team to clear ground at the former Marfield site. CS said that they were looking for a solution to make the site secure so that people don't just come back and start dumping stuff again. There was a discussion about who owned the land. TM said that council officers were aware of the site as part of a recent walkabout with local residents. BS suggested that TM pass on to council officers that the community wardens would like to speak to the owners about securing the site long term. TM said that the council was keen to do something due to the risk of fire and vermin, adding that it was on the action list and that the community payback team would clear it. CS concluded by saying that the community wardens covered Alyth, Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie and Rattray and that they needed people to tell them what the problems were that needed addressing. RD commented that the council seemed to be totally ineffective in coping with landlords who don't care about their properties and that it was baffling that they get away with it. TM commented that dealing with such issues was part of the Scottish Government's Land Reform bill. AD raised the issue of vandalised cars on land opposite McConnechy's. IR said that that had been formally reported. SN said that going back to RD's point it would be worth looking at the power of well being legislation with the caveat that local authorities need funding to put things into place.</p>	
<p>Item 10 – HEAT Project</p> <p>LS reported that the first year of the Home Energy Advice Team project covered the glens and Rattray and that the final report was published a few weeks ago and is available to read. There were a lot of encouraging results in the first year which led to the successful bid for a further two years funding. As part of the project they had to set targets and all but two were achieved. One that proved difficult was helping people to move out of fuel poverty but he added that they now better understand what the barriers are. The two main changes for the project for the next two years is that it will now include Blairgowrie as well as Rattray and the Glens which means a bigger team and a third team member has now joined and they are hoping to appoint a fourth in the not too distant future. One idea that has been explored with the town's business association is some form of loyalty scheme across all business, not just shops, to encourage people to shop locally. They also want to set up a 'food assembly' where people can order food or other items which can be collected after the shops are closed, helping people who don't work in the town to still shop locally. The loyalty scheme is still at quite an early stage and the SCYD events team have offered to help. Organisers will be looking for advice and ideas at the community market. The HEAT team is also moving to new premises in the Wellmeadow which are managed by the Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust which will also have a presence there. The property has great potential as a focus for community events. The lease has been signed for two years but they are hoping that it will be possible to find funding to keep it going. There will be an official opening on Wednesday, June 6, from 3pm to 6pm where there will also be displays from local groups. It will also be an opportunity to have something about the community action plan and the development trust in</p>	<p>LS</p>

<p>general. The HEAT project is also continuing to work with schools and the Climate Challenge Fund project in Coupar Angus.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – Cycle tracks LS said that a group of people had been working for about 18 months to create safe routes and new paths linking up Blairgowrie, Alyth and Coupar Angus. The first stage is to link Alyth with Rattray. The land owner had applied for planning permission to improve the path which was granted last week and they have got funding through the Scottish Government and hope to start work by next month with the aim that the path is cyclable and walkable by August. Planning and negotiations have already begun with landowners as far as the Bendochy crossroads from Coupar Angus but there is quite a lot of technical engineering due to the topography to take into consideration and consultation with the community so it might take longer.</p>	<p>LS</p>
<p>Item 12 - Local Councillor reports TM highlighted the consultation of the A9 dualling which is currently open and can be viewed on the project website. He said that he and BB had been working with the high school on the parking issues. He mentioned work on the snow roads that will be undertaken and his concerns that the snow roads route has been heavily promoted but the A93 is being poorly maintained. He said that he has added items to Chic Haggart's list including speeding flashing lights at Kirkmichael and the fallen wall on the Essendy Bridge. He will share the estates walk report when it comes out but added that the fact that some properties in blocks are privately owned is preventing important work being done and that this is a big issue that the council's housing team is having to deal with. Concerns have been raised about the peacocks, which the new owners of the Altamount don't want to take responsibility for. The peacocks are a non-native species and are not protected so no one can be prosecuted. On the issue of speeding he said that Police Scotland's Commander's Bulletin had called for any hotspot areas to be reported to Community Sergeant Nikki Forrester. BB reported that the tool re-use collection service in Blairgowrie where people can help themselves to tools that have been donated by other people is going to be closed imminently. Responding to a letter in the Blairgowrie Advertiser he said that PKC had no statutory obligation to collect garden waste and it was not the recycling bins that were affected by the new £25 charge. He added that he has been told that so far the levy has raised £700,000 for the council. He has had a meeting with the council's road safety people about Elm Drive near the community campus and a layby is going to be built there, paid for by Stewart Milne. They are also looking into the concept of an exclusion zone and there is going to be a consultation on that. BS commented that that will just push the problems further out especially when the road becomes a through road when the West Park development goes ahead, that it wouldn't improve anything and the only solution is a proper car park at the school. BS said that the problem in Blair is that people seem to think that they have the right of way to get to the school, and that there are people in Smithfield Avenue who are frightened to say anything for fear of reprisals, it is dangerous and with the development at Blackthorn Place the layby will just turn into another car park for residents. BB asked where a car park could go, BS said behind the cemetery. TM pointed out that PKC doesn't own the land and that the more access you give to cars the more cars will use it. He said the exclusion zone is not trying to solve the problem of parents driving to school but is about trying to create a safe environment for children to go to school. BS said that this was a national problem not just a Blair problem and that every school built in the last 25 years has the same problem. CT said that it's not safe for children to cycle to school and an exclusion zone will have the same problem. PM pointed out that once Lidl is built people will just use that car park as an unofficial car park just like they use the ATV Engineering ground now. BB said that resources were limited and that Stewart Milne will fund the layby, which is an option that most parents prefer so will go with that. TM said that there is never going to be a solution but there might be things we can do to make it better. BB said that crossings at Elm Drive were also discussed and one on Coupar Angus Road at the JJ Coupar Recreation Ground and that he will keep chasing that. Speeding traffic is another issue and safety on the snow roads.</p>	<p>TM, BB and CS</p>

<p>There have been complaints about parking on Riverside Road and the council's road safety team is going to go down and inspect it. One solution would be to paint white 'H' bars across the drives. An electric charging point is being put in the car park by Blairgowrie Library which should be operational by August. They will also realign the existing charging point so that two vehicles can be charged at the same time. They are looking at putting more chargers in, possibly at Kirkmichael, and if anyone has any suggestions for locations they should let BB know.</p> <p>CS submitted a report by email with her apologies, which IR read out. She said that she and BB had met with council road officers and agreed a proposal for consultation around Rattray Primary School and Blairgowrie Community Council. With regards to parking at the high school, as the new recreation centre comes on track and goes out for planning consultation (which is still on target for the agreed earlier date) that should ease the parking on Beeches Road from teachers. In the meantime she will continue to ask Bev Leslie to encourage staff to park elsewhere. CS is also trying to organise a clean up of Back Brae and referred to developments at the pavilion at Davie Park which ST went on to elaborate on.</p> <p>ST said that the work had been three years in the offering but that work was finally due to start on Monday, May 21, and that he thinks they may be getting a children's toilet and changing area. The upgrade is going to cost in the region of £90,000 and once it is completed it will be a "phenomenal" facility. ST also said that he was concerned about the new reccie and the schedule for completion, saying that from the very first meeting over a year ago when Bob Ellis and CS said it was going ahead it is now at least nine months behind schedule and there has still not even been a public consultation on the plans. The full council meeting on June 20th will decide how the money is spent in terms of whether there will be a 3G pitch at Davie Park and St added that he hoped the local councillors would vote the right way – everyone agreed that a section of the money should be spent on the pitch and that Blairgowrie and Rattray is the only town in Perth and Kinross not to have such a facility, which he described as absolutely ludicrous.</p>	
<p>Item 13 – Pending Planning Applications GD confirmed before the meeting that there were no outstanding planning applications for consideration.</p>	GD
<p>Item 14 – Chair's report on follow ups since last meeting Nothing further to add to report for the AGM</p>	IR
<p>Item 10 – AOCB ST said that the Blairgowrie Town Hall Association was trying to bring first class events to the town so that people didn't have to travel and mentioned three upcoming events in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>BS said that the latest with regards to the two plug-in systems in the town hall and Rattray church hall was that they had had a quote from Mike Proudfoot and had taken the decision to say yes to that. It will be a big chunk out of the figure in the treasurer's report and probably leave about £1000 which he is not sure will be enough for a defibrillator at the Angus Hotel so he suggested starting a collection for that, with a bucket at the community market for example.</p> <p>IC said that the weeds at the Elm Drive roundabout had been sprayed and the site re-seeded with wildflower seeds.</p> <p>AD mentioned the Blairgowrie and Rattray Access Network fun run event and reiterated an appeal for volunteers for the Blairgowrie Highland Games, which although will take place this year is likely not to take place next year without more volunteers and committee meeting. IR said well done to AD for stepping forward to take on the role of chair in the interim. AD said it was only until September as it eats in to his grass cutting time.</p>	

<p>LS said that Kay Seal had offered to attend the Living Streets exercise in Perth and report back to the community council. PM said that the Scotmid car park has a big hole in it and wondered if DC would be willing to contact the owner about sorting it again. IR said that he thought the owner had agreed to sort it once only but it was worth asking.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, June 14th, 2018 in the Small Hall, Rattray Church, Balmoral Road, 7pm</p>	<p>All</p>

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 H Harris
Ms C Thomson

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers
Mr B Brawn
Mr T McEwan

External:

PKC Community Councils
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Mrs B Leslie Blairgowrie High School

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