



## BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 June 2018

Held in the small Hall, Balmoral Road, Rattray, Blairgowrie at 7pm

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| <p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b><br/>         Mr I Richards (IR)<br/>         Mr B Smith (BS)<br/>         Mrs P McGregor (PM)<br/>         Mr S Nichol (SN)<br/>         Mrs D Cushnie (DC)<br/>         Mr I Cruickshank (IC)<br/>         Mr A Donald (AD)<br/>         Ms E Forrest (EF)<br/>         Ms Hazel Harris (HH)<br/>         Mr A Thomson (AT)<br/>         Mr L Seal (LS)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b><br/><br/>         Mr G Darge (GD)<br/>         Mr R Duncan (RD)<br/>         Ms Carla Thomson</p>  | <p>Chair<br/>         Vice Chair<br/>         Treasurer<br/>         Secretary</p> | <p>Cllr C Shiers (CS)<br/>         Cllr B Brawn (BB)<br/>         Cllr T McEwan (TM)<br/>         Ms C Damodaran (CD)<br/>         6 Members of the public</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>LEAVE OF ABSENCE</u></b><br/>         Mrs M Young (MY)</p> | <p>Councillor PKC<br/>         Councillor PKC<br/>         Councillor PKC<br/>         Press</p> |
| <p><b>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies</b><br/>         IR welcomed everyone including Georgie Kidd from the Strathmore Centre for Youth Development who has agreed to join the community council as an associate member. IR explained that although associate members cannot vote on community council matters their input is still very much valued and having associate members of the community council has worked well in the past.</p>   |  |  | <b>IR</b>  |
| <p><b>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes</b><br/>         Amendments concerning the omission of the venue of the May meeting and two members of the community council listed as having attended and in the apologies succession were noted by SN. BS proposed the adoption of the minutes of the May meeting and IC seconded.</p>  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Item 3 – Matters Arising</b><br/> <b>(Previous agenda item 7.1) Roads Issues</b> SN said that he had circulated an update from PKC to members of the community council and that it was six pages long he was not going to go into each point in the update. One point that was worth mentioning was making Lower Mill Street to upper Mill Street a one-way system. This was discussed at a previous meeting but the community council needs to formally vote on whether the proposals should go to a public consultation. ST asked if there had been a survey done on members of the public about the proposals or it was just on the basis of a suggestion by the residents of Ericht Court. SN said that when members of the public raised it, the community council raised it with Chic Haggart at PKC and they had already drawn up proposals so it was going to happen anyway. BS said that he had reservations about the proposals and pointed out that delivery vehicles to two pubs in the vicinity already reversed down the road as they can't turn round once they are down there and that he didn't think they would stop doing that even if the road was</p> |  |  | <b>SN</b>  |

one-way. The delivery vehicles also park on the double yellow lines. CS said that part of what Chic Haggart is proposing is double yellow lines at the white cottage so that no one can legally park there in order to allow emergency vehicles and gritters etc through. SN said that if the community council was to support the proposals they will go to a public consultation. IC asked what was happening with the loading bays outside Wetherspoon's and whether they were still going to be made in to additional parking spaces. SN said that one business had objected to the loading bay being changed to parking spaces. CS said that there has to be some way to resolve the issue rather than hold the whole process up for one business and that the council has to go through the formal procedures but that ideally they would find solutions to all of these issues and they can come and sort them out all at once. IR asked the community councillors if they agreed proposals for restricted parking and a one-way system should be consulted on and there was a majority agreement that they should. BS thanked TM and BB for coming to see the parking issues at Smithfield Avenue and Smithfield Crescent near to Blairgowrie Community Campus. He said that they visited when sports day was being held and that the police had moved seven cars that day. BB said that Smithfield Crescent and Smithfield Avenue were a mass of cars and that it was chaotic and difficult for cars to get down there. BS said that it emphasised the need for a safe drop-off point. SN said there is a proposal to deal with that. BS asked if he meant the layby and added that cars already parked there and that PKC needs to think big to resolve the problem. He mentioned a car park at the back of the cemetery and said that the council does not need to give planning permission for the houses there and could use the space to do something about the parking problems at the campus. One member of the public who lives in the area said that the problem was the amount of cars there as there are two schools at the campus and that something needs to be done. BS said that people are parking on corners, and let their children out of cars on to the road, and that it is dangerous. IR commented that it was a combination of a lack of facilities and selfish parents causing the issues and asked if the community council could make an official request that a car park is made there. HH pointed out that the school was built nearly 10 years ago and that these problems were brought up at previous community council meetings 10 years ago and that PKC was told then that they would need a traffic management plan for the site. SN said that they could say that observations were made 10 years ago that these problems would arise and it wouldn't work and that the evidence now is that it doesn't work.

**(Previous agenda item 7.2) Castle Water meeting** IR said that he and Stuart Nichol had met with John Reynolds the CEO of Castle Water primarily to introduce the community council and Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust to him and explain what they do and what they want to do in terms of increasing the numbers of visitors to the town, which led to the issue of parking in the town. IR said that JR listened intently and that his knowledge of the town was very impressive. He said that JR said that he has instructed his staff not to park at the Riverside but that staff members have told him that some local businesses are parking there all day. IR said that he has asked Steve Johnston from the Blairgowrie business association to raise this at their next meeting. IR said that JR was keen to hear about the plans for the Riverside and the Our Heritage group and offered the services of his marketing team to local groups if they wanted or needed the help. He described it as a constructive meeting and that they agreed to keep in touch. Castle Water's expansion to new premises on Boat Brae has been delayed, 20 staff are expected to move there by the end of the month/beginning of July and IR understands that Castle Water has also bought the rest of the building. AD said that there should be parking for about 40 cars there and said that he had read a comment from PKC welcoming the expansion of Castle Water and referring to the company's green travel plan and asked why so many of their staff drove to work if that was so. IR said that there were a number of local people working there and that the affect it was having on local trade was only just beginning to have an impact. He said that parking was frustrating but that he thought JR was listening to concerns and that the community council should wait and see what happens when they move into the new premises. HH pointed out that many of the staff are using the buses. AD said that local businesses and residents were getting increasingly peeved

IR

that they are not able to park in their driveways. ST said that it was a difficult situation and that parking was a problem for the whole town but that bringing employment to the town was important. SN said that he met with David Stoker from PKC who had suggested that it might be possible to get LEADER funding to go some way towards creating a master plan to help the infrastructure cope with the planned expansion of the town but added that that wouldn't happen overnight. HH said that the businesses had suggested a park and ride scheme.

**(Previous agenda item 10) Living Streets** LS said that at the end of last year the Centre for Inclusive Living and PKC had organised a walk around of the town looking particularly at how it worked for people with disabilities. Richard Ferguson was one of the community volunteers who took part in the exercise and spoke at the meeting. He said it is quite a difficult town to walk around and that the Living Streets report looked at ways to make it more palatable. Things that were noted included badly placed bins, parking on pavements, speeding through the town with the 20mph limit badly abused and that the issue there is enforcement. Bad spots for crossing were the junction of Perth Street with the High Street and Reform Street, and Balmoral Road with Rattray High Street, but PKC needs to find money for these improvements and that the community council needs to keep pressuring the council to act on them, particularly as other towns in the region such as Crieff, Aberfeldy and Pitlochry were going through a similar process and had similar needs. SN said that the recommendations in the Living Streets report had been added to the list of works that Chic Haggart has. EF said that the vehicle activated signs on Boat Brae and the Wellmeadow seemed to be working and that she saw a lot of cars coming down there and slamming their brakes on to slow down. DC agreed that that they did make a difference. IR said it might be dangerous in itself if pedestrians are expecting cars to slow down in the 20mph and then they don't. He added that the signs can be programmed to record the speeds people are driving at which is powerful information to have to give to the police to press the case for the need for enforcement. BB said that they are looking into doing that and that at the moment he thinks the average speed through there is about 25mph. ST asked what the law was regarding what people are allowed to do in terms of having clothes rails, furniture and banners on the pavement. AD said that a leaflet setting out the law was available from the Blairgowrie roads depot. There was a discussion about the relative dangers of obstructions to pedestrians against the benefits to businesses in terms of marketing.

**Item 4 - Items raised by members of the public** One member of the public said that the proposed removal of the grass verges on Elm Drive was deplorable. The verges have been planted with hundreds of bulbs by Blair in Bloom. He said that PKC seem to have talent for getting things wrong and that it was a flagrant abuse of public money. People love the verges, they are spectacular and beautiful to look at and everyone he has spoken to is horrified by the proposals. BB said that there was going to be a consultation about this and that it was part of the parking issues at the campus. He said there was also going to be a consultation on a possible exclusion zone after the summer holidays. The member of the public said that he had been told by PKC that the verges were being replaced with a cycle path. He said that an exclusion zone was just moving the problems elsewhere and questioned why people should walk their children a greater distance to school in the middle of winter when the council should just build a car park. BB said that even if they stopped the building of the houses behind the cemetery the council still doesn't own the land. Another member of the public said that his objection to the cycle path was that it actually made it more dangerous for children going to school. ST asked if it could be clarified which verges were being discussed. The member of the public said that it was from Walnut Grove to Maple Place. CS said that the application for the Stewart Milne houses at the back of the cemetery was likely to go before committee for consideration in July and there is an opportunity for the community council to make a representation then. BS said that the community council had already written a letter saying that they object to the application. CS said that there is also the issue that at some point Elm Drive will link to the Perth Road and there needs to be some contingency for that as it is only going to

get busier there. IR said that the community council should suggest a meeting with PKC officers and members of the public. CS said that they can do that now. A member of the public asked if anyone realised that all the green space in that area, which is very important for wildlife and for children who play there, and which is so important for civic amenity, is going to go. He said that it is appalling that the council are thinking about building there, that hundreds of children have been playing there in the good weather recently and does anyone in the council ever consider that sort of thing. He said that he felt that the community council has to take a stand on this development, that a portion of the land could be used for a car park, and that he had met the countryside ranger there recently who was planting in the area and that he was outraged by the plans. If PKC don't care about it he would like to think that the community council does. BS said that he wasn't to doubt that the community council was behind them but added that they need members of the public to make a stand too. DC said that other areas in the country seem to be promoting open spaces and encouraging kids to enjoy the countryside and asked why the same couldn't be done here. IR said that one of the problems is that these things are acknowledged in PKC's own reports but are then ignored. He added that the community council will do all that it can to preserve these spaces. HH said that a public campaign might help. LS asked if the planning application included an environmental impact assessment and ST said that he thought that area was designated as a wildlife area. IR said that he would speak to the countryside ranger. HH said that maybe this was the development to say that they have had enough and were taking a stand. IR suggested members of the public could perhaps get a petition going. LS said that if there were mature trees there they should contact the tree officer and see if they could get a preservation order on them. BB said that the site was approved for building on in the LDP1 which was approved in 2014. ST said that the whole town was more active now and aware of issues such as this. One member of the public said that the council and builders have run roughshod over the community council and that the numbers of houses that are being built at Blackthorn Place for example far exceeds what was initially approved and that it was time the people fought back.

Another member of the public said that he was concerned by the imminent flooding problem in Rattray. He said that he has written to John Swinney and Barbara Renton about it. Two new houses have been built on the right of Parkhill Road and Rattray Burn has been funnelled through a tiny diameter pipe. Building of the second phase of the Springfield Properties development on Glenalmond Road has started and they have stripped all the top soil away on the site which used to soak up the water and the area is now at risk of flash flooding with the first deluge. The qualified quantity surveyor said that everyone he has written to agrees with him but nothing has been done. He said they need to connect the Springfield drains with the new pond, increase the depth of the pond, and they need to get a bigger pipe for the Rattray Burn. IR asked if these concerns were raised at the time. CS said yes. HH said that the planning reporter had been out but it was a farce and he ignored everything that was said. CS said that it sounded as though it was a planning enforcement issue. The member of the public asked if it would be possible to have a meeting with council officers up there and suggested that residents should be warned to check their insurance. BB said that he would pass it on to the enforcement officers at the council.

Another member of the public asked if there was any progress with the parking issues at Beeches Road, claiming that some teachers at the High School had left their cars in the residents' parking for up to a week while they went on a school trip. CS said that there was no update at the moment but that the capital budget was to be set on June 20<sup>th</sup> and that hopefully work on the new recreation centre would start soon and something will be done then to address the parking and that it had not been forgotten about. The member of the public said that they had been fighting this for years and would like some answers. TM said that if the residents' wanted parking it could be done but it would need to be enforced which costs money which the residents would have to pay for. The member of the public asked if that would still be the case if

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| <p>parking was included in the title deeds of the properties. TM said that the council denies it is in the deeds so it would have to court to resolve it that way. There was then a discussion between TM and the member of the public about when and why the parking spaces were provided.</p>   |            |
| <p><b>Item 5 – Police and Fire reports</b><br/>None were provided. AD said that his father had had six lambs stolen and reported it but was out when the police came to speak to him and that they haven't been back. He said that for the police to say they are doing their best for the town is rubbish. IR said AD's father should complain to the police because otherwise these issues go unrecorded. CS said that she has had quite a number of complaints along these lines over the last 10 days saying that it was not an isolated incident and that low level issues that are not addressed can become bigger issues. ST said that as a large town Blairgowrie should have a police presence.</p>  |            |
| <p><b>Item 6 – Appointment of treasurer</b><br/>Pat McGregor stood down as treasurer at the AGM in May. IR said that RD has volunteered to take on the role but needs to be officially appointed, which can be done even in his absence as he has already agreed. AD proposed his nomination. LS seconded and it was agreed unanimously by those in attendance.</p>   |            |
| <p><b>Item 7 – Bus Timetables</b><br/>As GD was not at the meeting there was no update.</p>   | GD         |
| <p><b>Item 8 – Treasurer's report</b><br/>None</p>  |            |
| <p><b>Item 9 - Local Councillor reports</b><br/>TM said that if the Castle Water parking issue isn't resolved, then installing parking meters might need to be considered. He said that the countryside ranger was getting a group together to look at looking after graveyards in the area. The Common Good Fund committee is to meet next week and has received one application for funding from the Hamish Matters festival. PM asked for the accounts of the Common Good Fund to be sent to RD.<br/>BB said that Craig Beattie has been looking at the Riverside from the point of view of access for emergency vehicles and will go back when the Castle Water offices have opened to see if there is any improvement. He said that speeding is still an issue and that enforcement is the problem, commenting that there are only 17,000 police in the whole of Scotland compared to 31,000 in London and that if people know there's no one there then they will speed. He is meeting with the police on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, and is trying to get mobile speed monitoring vehicles in the area although there are only two in the whole of Perth and Kinross.<br/>CS highlighted the Blair in Bloom 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party the previous weekend and mentioned that the judging for the bloom competitions will take place in August. She mentioned that the drainage issues at the BMX track were getting sorted. The new chief executive of Perth and Kinross Council starts in September and is very proactive and said that they should aim to get her out to visit Blairgowrie as soon as possible. CS has also met with the dog warden in Davie Park and with residents of Ashgrove about parking issues there. The council's SP&amp;R committee approved a community investment fund of £100,000 over two years for projects in the community that local people want to bring forward; the community council will be part of the panel that determines how that money is spent, and this money is different to the participatory budget money. BS asked how people could apply for the money, TM said that it would be like the wind farm community benefit funds.</p> | CS, BB, TM |
| <p><b>Item 10 - Pending Planning Applications</b><br/>None</p>  |            |
| <p><b>Item 8 – Secretary's correspondence</b></p>   |            |

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| None that hasn't been circulated   |                        |
| <p><b>Item 9 – Chair's report on follow ups since last meeting</b></p> <p>IR said that a decision has been taken that community organisations are to responsible for the management of the funds in the participatory budget process, which has so far been administrated by council officers. IR said that the community council, which is all volunteers, is here to act on behalf of the community and not to do the work of council officers. He said that it is not a decision that has been taken locally and that they have a month to register a note of interest in becoming an administrator of the budget. IR said that £750,000 was involved and that worthy groups can't be deprived of the opportunity to access the funds but that it is the local authority that has all the experience, the staff, the communications and marketing teams required to do this. AD asked in the development trust could do it, BS said that he thinks they would have the same objections as the community council. Following a discussion it was agreed that someone could go to a meeting to find out more about what was involved.</p>  | IR                     |
| <p><b>Item 10 – AOCB</b></p> <p>PM said that there are problems with people driving down The Croft the wrong way from the car park. CS said that she would take that up.</p> <p>DC said that her husband had done a rough drawing for a stand for the wreaths at the war memorial and that he was willing to give his time building it for the community but asked if it would be possible to get funds to pay for the materials required.</p> <p>LS asked what had happened following last year's review of benches. SN said that he hasn't heard anything about the one at the TSB and that he will follow up with Blair in Bloom what is happening with the one at the Cateran Café.</p> <p>IC said that Blair in Bloom had asked if the community council could replace the plaque at the berry bed but that as it says the site is a gift from the burgh it should probably stay there and the community council could add a plaque saying that the site is maintained by BRCC. IC will continue to look into this.</p> <p>AD said that following on from discussions about parking on Riverside that there had been problems at the entrance to Little's.</p> <p>AD said that nothing had been mentioned about the loss of the Post Office and that Blairgowrie needs a Post Office. He suggested that perhaps VisitScotland and the Post Office could work together to provide the service in the Information centre in the Wellmeadow. IR said that they will have to wait to see what the outcome will be one the Post Office closes in August.</p> <p>The announcement and presentation to the Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year has been postponed until the July community market due to the unavailability of the Citizen of the Year for the June community market.</p> | CS<br><br>SN<br><br>IC |
| <p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Adult Resource Centre on Jessie Street, Blairgowrie</p>  | All                    |

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank  
Mrs D Cushnie  
Mr G Darge  
Mr A Donald  
Mr R Duncan  
Ms E Forrest  
Ms H Harris  
Mrs P McGregor  
Mr S Nichol  
Mr I Richards  
Mr L Seal

Local Councillors:

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