



## BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 November 2018

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

<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b>          Mr I Richards (IR)          Mr B Smith (BS)          Mr R Duncan (RD)          Mr S Nichol (SN)          Mrs D Cushnie (DC)          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mr A Donald (AD)          Ms Hazel Harris (HH)          Mr A Thomson (AT)          Mrs C Thomson (CT)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer          Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Cllr B Brawn (BB)          Cllr T McEwan (TM)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)          Mrs Bev Leslie</p> <p>2 members of the public</p> <p>Mr P Smith          Ms L Rumgay</p> <p>Inspector Gordon          Thomson</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Press          Head teacher,          Blairgowrie High School</p> <p>Fire Scotland          Fire Scotland</p> <p>Police Scotland</p>
<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies</b>          IR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from HH.</p>			<p>IR</p>
<p><b>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes</b>          The draft minutes of the October meeting were considered for adoption. The date on the draft minutes was to be amended to say October 2018. SN proposed the adoption of the amended minutes; RD seconded.</p>			<p>All</p>
<p><b>Item 3 – Matters Arising</b>  <b>Suggestion Boxes</b> – LS said that the community council had come up with 11 suggestions for places to put suggestion boxes. 10 of those locations had agreed to have the boxes and he was waiting to hear back from one. He had purchased nine boxes and was still looking for one for Scotmid which had requested one that could be hung on the wall due to a lack of counter space. Three boxes were in place, one at the High School, one at Tesco and one at the Recreation Centre. LS said that the next stage was getting the rest of the boxes in place. He thinks it is important to have an eye-catching display and maybe change the display occasionally to encourage people to use them. IR asked for a show of hands to approve the cost of the boxes which was £143.46, reminding those present that the community council had a duty to communicate with the community. The show of hands was unanimous. AD suggested that maybe pupils at the High School could come up with a design and make a box for Scotmid. BL said she would look into it if they sent her the dimensions they needed. SN said that the community council needed to be seen to be actioning any suggestions they receive. He suggested looking at how that is tackled should be</p>			<p>LS</p>

<p>added as an item on the agenda for the next meeting. LS said that he would collect any suggestions from the boxes before the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Commemorative Bench</b> – IC said that the bench had been delivered and installed in the Wellmeadow. He said that the community council was responsible for the maintenance of the bench. IR said that he would like to officially record the community council’s appreciation of all of IC’s hard work and that of those involved in the fundraising for it. IC said that BRCC wished to thank Sir William Macpherson of Clunie, the Rotary Club, the Bridge of Cally Post Office, the British Legion Scotland and everyone who donated through the JustGiving fundraising page for their support, enabling the community council to purchase and install a fitting reminder of all those who gave their lives during World War One.</p>	IC
<p><b>Cycle Racks</b> – CT said that she had sent round an image of the proposed cycle rack and that she thought it was quite eye-catching. It aims to highlight how many cycles can fit into one car parking space but the problem was where to put it as it is quite big. AD suggested Wellmeadow Corner. CT’s son had suggested by the Co-op on Perth Road. IR said that he thought it should be in quite prominent position n the town centre. MY suggested by Number 31s between the bus station and the toilet facilities and at the Scotmid in Rattray. AD asked if the council was giving the rack to the town. CS said Sustrans was paying for them. MY asked if they could be painted in the Berries and Cherries tartan. Following a vote it was unanimously agreed to go ahead with requesting two cycle racks for the town.</p>	CT
<p><b>Strathmore Cycle Network</b> – LS said that the survey had now completed. 274 people had responded online and 40 at the market. 178 supported proposals to make the Couttie Bridge a single lane for vehicle access, which would be controlled by traffic lights, as discussed at the last community council meeting. LS said that 55% of respondents said that they strongly supported the proposals. He said that they would be looking at the objections to the proposals but that most of them were not that difficult to respond to such as why the old railway line bridge couldn’t be reinstated. Some people had questioned the traffic flow figures from Perth and Kinross Council which Chic Haggart had said at the last meeting he would look into. LS said that he believed they were in a position to say to Sustrans and PKC that, following press coverage and the survey, the level of support for the proposals was enough to go ahead. He asked if the community council would offer their support. AD asked if the community in Coupar Angus had had a say on it. LS said that the survey was open to everyone and that there had been a public meeting in Coupar Angus about it which was attended by around 50 people. He said that the big issue for them was about Butterybank and that the bridge probably affects commuters from Blairgowrie to Dundee more. IR asked who was in favour of the proposals. Seven members of the community council voted in favour of the proposals, one was against due the number of representations he had personally received from members of the public who were against the proposals because of the delays on the route that they felt it would cause, and three people abstained.</p> <p><b>Recreation Centre</b> – Following a very full debate on proposals for the new Recreation Centre in Blairgowrie at the last meeting, the community council had written to the chief executive of PKC to register their objection to the decision to cut £3 million from the budget for the new centre. SN said that they had received a response saying that the council will consider all comments and act appropriately. The response also stated that decisions taken by the council have to follow due process. SN said that BRCC has made its position on the matter quite clear and now they just have to wait and see. ST said that Andrew Morse, the chair of the Eastern Perthshire Community Sports Hub had met with the Dolphins Swimming Club last week and sent a letter to the council’s chief executive saying much the same as BRCC’s letter. AD asked if the local councillors were involved in the process, adding that he would like to think that they would be supporting the community’s wishes on this fully. CS said that any changes to the budget would be through one of two ways, either the Strategic Policy and Resources (SPR) committee, which next meets on November 28<sup>th</sup>, or the capital budget which is decided in February at full council. She said that the Tay Cities deal is part of the budget process, and that the Tay Cities deal had been expected to be</p>	LS

<p>signed off but has been held back due to the announcement this week that the Michelin factory in Dundee is to close. CS said that she sits on the SPR committee and that all three councillors are involved in the capital budget. She said that the councillors are reading what's in the papers and listening to what's being said. TM added that the Recreation Centre is for the whole catchment area of Blairgowrie High School which includes councillors in the Strathmore and Strathtay wards as well. RD said that if there's no budget then is it clear or not whether the community would be willing to accept a trade-off to get six lanes for the swimming pool. CS said that at the public meetings earlier in the year council officers gathered together all the opinions and priorities about what people want to see. IR said that there was no doubt that a six-lane swimming pool was everyone's priority. ST added that everything else was also a priority. CS said that there had been quite a lot of discussions about what could be developed from this budget and what could be potentially developed at a later date.</p> <p><b>Bonfire Night</b> – MY said that it all managed to come together in the end and thanked the 'Fantastic 500' group of donors: Hodge Solicitors; Proctors; PKC; Castle Water; Trade Solutions, and an anonymous donor, who had saved the day and ensured that the fireworks went ahead. Their donations came to £4250. The fundraising page had been fairly disappointing this year. Collection buckets on the night raised £318.25. Charges to the vendors this year will help pay for the licenses etc next year. MY suggested that next year a small committee organises the event as it is a lot of work for one person to do. She also suggested maybe starting to look at organising it from around the AGM in May so that things like collecting pallets and wood etc was not quite so last minute. She thanked the community councillors for all their help on the day. IR officially recorded his thanks to MY, saying that without her enthusiasm it would never have happened. AD said that he thought the ground had been cleared but would check again at the weekend. MY asked the councillors if they could ask the council officers if they could streamline the application process, commenting that there is no need to have to fill in a dozen forms saying mainly the same thing for one event.</p>	<p>MY</p>
<p><b>Item 4 - Fire report</b> PS said that the Blairgowrie-based crew were mobilised to incidents 24 times in September, including primary fires, secondary fires, false alarms due to cooking, road traffic collisions (RTCs) and standbys at other stations. Incidents of note included extricating a male trapped by a forklift, an RTC at Craighall Bridge, a special service where a horse was trapped and an RTC on Perth Road between a bus and a car. Community safety events included a visit to Rattray Primary School as part of their topic work on 'people who help us', and attending the Blairgowrie and Rattray Timebank event at the town hall. 16 Home Safety visits were carried out in, four high risk, seven medium risk and five low risk. PS said that Blairgowrie crews had attended some calls in Dundee which had been informative and that their training would be focussing on RTCs throughout November, including an incident simulation at Robert Smith's premises in Rattray. MY asked how firefighters were treated when out on calls. PS said that they were generally well-received when they were out in the community.</p>	<p>PS</p>
<p><b>Item 5 – Subjects raised by members of the public</b></p> <p>One member of the public said that they had tried accessing a document on PKC's planning website but were not able to. It was related to the proposals by GS Brown to develop 60 houses at the Honeyberry site in Rattray. The reference number in question was 18/01615/SCRN (closed). BB said he did not know why that would be the case but that he would look into it. The member of the public said that he had made various enquiries to the council and that it seems that it might refer to the consultation.</p> <p>Another member of the public asked why they couldn't re-instate the beepers at the pedestrian crossing at the Wellmeadow, adding that you can't see the green man from one side. ST said that the member of the public was absolutely right and that the community council had brought it up numerous times with the council. MY said that the beeps were supposed to be instated and that Chic Haggart had said he would do it last year. She said that people drive through the red light at the crossing and that the</p>	

beeps would act as an audio reminder to drivers as well. SN said that he would contact Chic Haggart.	
<p><b>Item 6 – Inspector Gordon Thomson</b></p> <p>Inspector Thomson informed the community council that he would be moving on from Blairgowrie. There then followed a discussion about various policing issues affecting the community. Inspector Thomson urged members of the community to report issues to community officers. IR thanked him for his time. TM urged members of the public to read the Community Justice Partnership’s annual report. BB commented that Blairgowrie was a fairly safe community in which to live at the moment. IR commented that he was concerned about the potential rise in private policing. GD said that might not happen in Scotland as policing is by consent here. CS said that it might be worth making the point at a high level of Police Scotland that every time they move an inspector they lose the wealth of local knowledge and intelligence that they have.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 – Santa’s Helpers</b></p> <p>AD said that Santa’s tour of Blairgowrie and Rattray would be taking place from December 10<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup> and that the Blairgowrie and Rattray Illuminations Committee was looking for volunteers to help collect donations. Santa would be out from 6.30 in the evening to 8.30pm. The Christmas lights in the town are entirely funded by donations and organised by volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering could contact AD.</p>	AD
<p><b>Item 8 – Replacement Recreation Centre</b></p> <p>ST said that this had already been covered earlier in the meeting.</p>	ST
<p><b>Item 9 – Taxi Ranks</b></p> <p>CT asked if this could be deferred to the next meeting as she had to leave. This was agreed.</p>	CT
<p><b>Item 10 – Defibrillator locations</b></p> <p>AD suggested having a card or a list with all the defibrillator locations in the town on it that people could cut out and keep. MY said they could put a map on the website and Facebook page. BS said that the Resilience Group should have a comprehensive list of the locations and would look into it.</p>	AD
<p><b>Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>RD said that there had been a lot of activity in the main account this month due to donations for the WWI commemorative bench and for the fireworks display. The account balance as of the day of the meeting was £5592 however there is some income to come in and expenses to go out of this for the fireworks. Approximately £4493.25 was collected from donations for the fireworks which were likely to cost around £4000. RD said that MY had done a fantastic job leading this project and that the community council was aware of the community spirit the fireworks event fosters. The WWI bench appeal raised £1355.20 with costs so far of £1066.80. RD thanked IC for being the instigator of this valued project. The Resilience Group account has a balance of £5456.33 but £500 will be transferred to the main account as it was donated for the fireworks and credited in error to the Resilience Group account. RD added that the Wellmeadow was broken in to. It was due to have been emptied just before the theft so it can be estimated what was taken. The damage to the locking mechanism was considerable. It has been reported to the police and will be repaired.</p>	RD
<p><b>Item 12 - Local Councillor reports</b></p> <p>TM said that Claire Mailer, the head of housing at PKC, would be attending the next meeting.</p> <p>CS encouraged people to take part in the consultation on library services.</p>	TM, CS and BB

<p>BB said that there were no objections from the council to proposals for CCTV in the Wellmeadow but that they just need to get the money for it. It was going to cost £10,000 and is part of a new system being installed in Perth and Dundee. It won't be monitored initially but it will be recording so if there are any incidents the recordings can be accessed. It will be one camera but it will be moveable. He also mentioned efforts to encourage young people and children to carry photos or mementoes of their relatives who fought in WW1 as part of the centenary commemorations. The new frame for wreaths will be place in the Wellmeadow after the Remembrance Day services.</p>	
<p><b>Item 13 – Pending Planning Applications</b>  GD said that there had been a planning application for new industrial units on Welton Road and asked whether the community council would like to make representation on the application. GD said that he personally thought it was a good idea and would bring in business and that the community council should support it. The community council agreed to support the application. GD also said that he had received an email from the council's planning support services department that said they would no longer be communicating with hm and would only be communicating through one email address per community council. TM said that this was to do with cyber security. IR said that he would speak to Steve Johnston who manages the community council's emails to see if there was some way planning emails could be automatically be forwarded to GD from the secretary's email address and that if he couldn't do anything they would email PKC to express their annoyance.</p>	GD
<p><b>Item 14 – Secretary's correspondence</b>  None</p>	SN
<p><b>Item 15 – AOCB</b>  RD asked for details of the Community Investment Fund to look at for possible sources of funding for the CCTV.  AD asked if there was any update from Chic Haggart at PKC on the various issues he had said he would get back to the community council on. SN said there wasn't and he would ask again.  AD said that the sign at Lochy Park had been damaged again and Tayside Contracts had been asked to take it down. CS said that she would take it up with the people who fixed it last time.  DC said that the fly-tipping she highlighted at the last community council meeting had been cleared. She also said that the lights on Hatton Road were out; AD said that had already been reported.  CS said that there was a problem with the pea lights and water in the Wellmeadow but that the council was looking into it.</p>	
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7pm in the small hall, Rattray Church Hall, Balmoral Road</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 H Harris  
Mr S Nichol

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers  
Mr B Brawn  
Mr T McEwan

External:

PKC Community Councils

Mr I Richards  
Mr L Seal  
Mr B Smith  
Mr A Thomson  
Mrs C Thomson  
Mrs M Young

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick  
Mr Georgie Kidd

Clare Damodaran (Press)  
Mrs B Leslie Blairgowrie High School

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