



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 January 2019

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

<p><u>ATTENDANCE</u> 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 A Donald (AD) Mr A Thomson (AT) Mrs C Thomson (CT) Mr L Seal (LS)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Mr G Darge (GD) Ms Hazel Harris (HH)</p> <p>Cllr T McEwan (TM) Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)</p> <p><u>ABSENT</u></p> <p>Mrs M Young (MY)</p>	<p>Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr B Brawn (BB) Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>4 members of the public</p> <p>Mr C Smith</p> <p>Sgt A Ness</p>	<p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Press</p> <p>Fire Scotland</p> <p>Police Scotland</p>
<p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies IR welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2019 and wished everyone a happy new year. Apologies were received from GD, HH and Cllr TM.</p>			IR
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes The draft minutes of the December meeting were considered for adoption. The date was changed. BS proposed the adoption of the amended minutes; AD seconded.</p>			All
<p>Item 3 – Matters Arising</p> <p>Christmas Tree – As MY was not present a discussion about whether there should be a permanent tree in the Wellmeadow was carried forward to the next meeting. IR recorded the community council's thanks to MY for all her hard work organising the tree this year. AD commented that the tree was better secured this year than last and had been well received by everyone. He also said that the Christmas lights would be taken down at the weekend.</p> <p>Wellmeadow well repair – RD said that he had been told the well had been repaired. AD said that the council's grounds maintenance team had fixed it. IR commented that that was very quick. RD said that the basket inside had been stolen and would be replaced. He also suggested putting up a sign at the well saying that the money was emptied regularly and that it was donated to local community groups and good causes</p>			<p>MY</p> <p>RD</p>

<p>in an effort to deter potential would-be thieves from breaking in again in the future and possibly encourage more generous donations. DC asked if the lock had been replaced. AD and RD didn't know. RD suggested DC's husband had a look at the well to see if he thought there was anything that could be done to make it more secure.</p> <p>Roads – SN received an email on the day of the meeting to say that due to the holidays no one could get to this meeting but that they would come to the meeting on February 7th.</p> <p>Recreation Centre – IR asked if there was any update. CS said not at the moment but that the capital budget process was under way ahead of the council's budget meeting in February. She said that the views of the community are part of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Car park extension, Back Brae – The idea is that now the garden centre has closed, the council could look at adding space to the car park. CS said that it was on Chic Haggart's list.</p>	<p>SN</p> <p>CS</p> <p>SN</p>
<p>Item 4 – Subjects raised by members of the public None</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Police and Fire reports</p> <p>Police report Sergeant Andrew Ness said that he had recently returned to a post in Blairgowrie and that it was an area he knew very well as he has probably spent half of his 29 years of police service in the town. Sgt Forrester was still the community sergeant and the new inspector was Emma Bowman who he said had a broad knowledge and experience of policing and was very proactive and interested in getting things sorted. He said that he knows there are ongoing issues around the primary school and that the inspector wanted to say that every single school will have a nominated officer that will be a single point of contact. Although there aren't very many officers they will be allocated to the schools. IR asked if that meant there would be more visits to the schools. AN said yes and that giving officers nominated areas will be a positive thing as they can take ownership of their areas of responsibility. They will continue to review the situation but hopefully it will mean more of a police presence at peak times and it will help officers to have more of an understanding of the issues. IR asked if they will be on-hand to witness the chaos. AN said that he would expect dedicated officers would spend some time to resolve issues and that they would like to educate people dropping of their children for example regarding the speeds that they drive at and parking etc, working with schools, and that enforcement is the final option. He said that he was pleasantly surprised by the decrease in crime matters in the town in the three years since he was last here. In December there were a couple of things including the break-in at Wellmeadow House as well as similar incidents in Alyth and Coupar Angus and that they had a couple of people in mind for these incidents who were from outwith the area and that they were following positive lines of enquiry. There had also been an attempted break-in at the Home Improvements shop on Coupar Angus Road and that they were following a potentially similar line of enquiry with regard to that incident. RD asked if the police had any contact with the traffic wardens about parking at the campus. AN said that it goes back to the education rather than enforcement issue and that once legislation around parking and speeding for example had been brought to people's attention they may understand the issues involved more than if they had just been fined and get upset about it. CT said that mums at the school were concerned about parking opposite the junction at Elm Drive. She said she brought it up with the traffic wardens who said it was a police matter and when she brought it up with the police they said it was the traffic wardens and that because no one had done anything about people were still parking there and it was one of the most dangerous aspects of the whole parking situation around the campus. AN said that parking was generally speaking a council issue but when it is a danger to the public then it is a police matter. He said that each individual situation is different and officers should look at it on its individual merits. BS said that he attended a meeting at the campus before Christmas about parking and would report back about that under AOCB. BB said that he had seen a young child trying to cross the road on its own and</p>	<p>AN</p>

<p>a child riding a bike in the dark without any lights on it and asked if there was a way to raise these issues with parents. AN said that he would like to think that parents would make sure children had lights on their bikes.</p> <p>Fire report Blairgowrie firefighters were mobilised to incidents 21 times in December. The total number for 2018 was 225, 20 less than in 2017. Incidents of note included crews searching the River Ericht for a missing person three times, a smoke cloak was activated in a shop, a forced entry to give medical assistance to a 92-year-old female, and forced entry for the police. There were no community safety events in December. Firefighters carried out eight free home fire safety visits (HFSV) in November, three high risk, three medium risk and two low risk.</p>	CS
<p>Item 6 – Cycle Racks CT said that she hadn't got anywhere with it so far despite emailing and phoning. LS suggested she tried contacting Brian Cargill at Perth and Kinross Council.</p>	CT
<p>Item 7 – Honeyberry Drive GS Brown development IR said that he and SN as well as some local residents had a very productive meeting with two representatives from GS Brown. SN said that the GS Brown representatives were quite accommodating on most of the objections to the site. He said that it has to be accepted that planning on the site is a given as this application is just a renewal of a previous application that has lapsed. The major issues is vehicular access and the junction opposite the school. The representatives from GS Brown said that they were aware of that but it was not in their jurisdiction. They have been requested to do a traffic impact survey which they have done and which seems to have satisfied the transport people at the council. The application for planning permission is likely to be submitted in the next four to six weeks. The layout won't change due to it being dictated by issues such as sewage. GS Brown was asked to like at different access at the public consultation event in December but different access was not practically possible due to the steepness of the slope at the alternative suggestion. Kirkland Road will be emergency access only. The build rate is expected to between five to eight with a maximum of ten properties a year. There may be some adjustment to the size and location of some of the properties but the development will not exceed 60 houses. Representatives from the community council at the meeting explained to the residents in attendance that individual objections to an application were more effective than a petition. IR said that one person is going to be most affected by this development as it is right on their boundary and that GD gave him advice on how to object. He also advised getting a group together of people affected by the application and drawing up a list of serious technical objections and then each individual writes objections based on all those points for greater impact. IR also said that at the meeting GD asked the representatives from GS Brown if they would guarantee that they would not but their way out of providing an affordable element of housing at the development and if they could spread the affordable housing throughout the site. GS Brown said that Hillcrest liked to deal with their properties in one block or area so spreading the properties throughout the site was unlikely to happen. SN added that the spreading the affordable housing through the site is unlikely to be practical at the build rate that was discussed. IR said that the representatives from GS Brown came to the meeting with open minds and that it was a sensible and mature debate that although doesn't stop the development may change the outcomes. AD questioned the build rate. IR said it was because GS Brown is a smaller developer compared with some of the others. IR said that GS Brown might reduce the size of the development after feedback from the public consultation but it would ultimately depend on the housing market. BB said that there had been a planning meeting after the last BRCC meeting and he asked if council policy was integration not segregation. The response was that council officers would be monitoring it but that on a small development like this one it is hard to do. IR also pointed out that the definition of affordable housing in this area is a property value of £105k.</p>	SN

<p>Item 8 – Taxi ranks</p> <p>CT said that she had got a taxi at the taxi rank recently which she had booked in advance but there was a couple who were there who hadn't booked and were waiting for a taxi unaware that the taxis don't wait at the rank as they don't get any business. CT wondered if there was anything that could be done to highlight this. ST said that trying to get a taxi in the town was unbelievably difficult but there was a small sign at the rank with numbers to call on it. BB said that he would look into it as it was a licensing matter. CS said that quite a lot of money was spent on putting in the one-way system and that there was a budget for signage at that time. BB said that a new test for taxi drivers was being introduced in Perth and the idea was that it could be rolled out in other areas in the region.</p>	CT
<p>Item 9 – Treasurer's Report</p> <p>RD said that there had been very little movement in the accounts at the moment other than the admin fee for the minute taker.</p>	RD
<p>Item 10 – Local Councillor Reports</p> <p>BB said that the Community Investment Fund panel had been set up and will meet in February for the first decisions before passing their recommendations to the council's strategic policy and resources committee for a final decision. There was also a discussion about CCTV in the town centre. A camera on a property by the river was mentioned which had come to light during the search for a missing person recently. RD said that CCTV was not just about stopping crime but also about finding the whereabouts of missing people. ST said that there are certain activities round about the Wellmeadow pertaining to drugs that CCTV might stop. CT said that in Singapore they have CCTV everywhere and it is one of the safest cities in the world. CS said that the difference is that the CCTV is everywhere whereas if it is just one camera in the centre of town it will just move issues somewhere else. ST said that there were lots of food outlets, licensed premises, hotels etc in the centre of town, and CS pointed out that lots of them have their own security cameras. IR said that this should be added as an agenda item for a future meeting and asked who the best person to speak to in the council was. CS said it was Roddy Ross.</p> <p>CS said that the proposed one way system on Lower Mill Street was going to go the next meeting of the environment and infrastructure committee with a recommendation to proceed with it. Croft Court is the subject of a major improvement plan incorporating lighting, footpaths and vegetation. There have been complaints about horse muck on the new cycle path. Funding is in place for the BMX track so it should be up and running by the Easter or at latest the summer holidays. AD asked if there could be a path from the caravan park to the Bonnington Road junction. CS said she would add it to Chic's list. CS encouraged everyone to spread the word about the Contact the Elderly initiative which is looking for volunteers and is a lovely, simple idea where people invite elderly people to their house for a cuppie once a month or so. She said the council is working on its budget for the coming year and that they are facing a 2.6% reduction in budget and that the impact on service delivery is going to be quite brutal. AD asked when this was going to stop. CS said it affects expectations what the public has about what the council can deliver. She said it was a good opportunity to look at maybe making things more efficient, and to say to communities "here's the money, what are your priorities?" SN said that it would be useful to have a conversation with BRCC and the development trust about how they could work together on the provision of services. CS said that the council's new chief executive was very much the type to look at ways to make things work from the bottom up. SN said that the 2.6% cut would not be across all services, and that some departments would have larger cuts and some would have less. ST asked if there was a resolution to the extension of the nursery at Rattray Primary School. CS said she had to contact the new chair of the parent council with an update first but that some of the suggestions made by parents have been accommodated. The big question is the connection between the school and the community connect building. IR asked if there would be a review of the charges at the community connect building. CS said that's</p>	CS and BB

<p>coming in. She said the nursery has to be built as they are obliged to deliver it by August 2020. A member of the public said that a lot of area was allocated as a car park for teachers and asked why they should have free parking. CS said that was a conversation for the parent council and the teachers but that removing the car park would have a knock-on effect on parking in the surrounding area. CS said that the good news is that the extension to early learning care means that two to three year olds will have care that has been invested in. ST asked if there was a possibility of improving the existing playground. CS said there was and that they looking at for example, mapping out a cycling proficiency track or creating a space like at the new Alyth Primary School for older pupils. CS said that it was unfortunate that the council had got the communications around this so completely wrong. Years of frustration had built up. A major programme of work was planned and would be a dramatic facelift for the school. There would also be access to the new facility at Davie Park through Honeyberry. CS said that work has not started on improvements to the school yet although some of the most urgent jobs such as repairing the toilet seats for example may have been completed.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – Pending Planning Applications None. AD asked about the situation regarding the house at Kinloch and if they could apply for planning permission n retrospect. SN said that they had and it had been refused.</p>	
<p>Item 12 – Secretary’s correspondence SN said that all correspondence has been dealt with by email as it came in. IR said that he had received a communication from Hazel Harris that was going to sept down from the community council with immediate effect. IR said that he was sorry to see her go as she had made a valuable contribution to the community council. SN has notified Perth and Kinross Council. IR said that that leaves the community council with three vacancies and that if anyone knew of anyone who would be interested in joining they would be keen to hear from them. Elections for the community council are to be held in November.</p>	SN
<p>Item 13 – AOCB CT said that there was lots of dog fouling on the grass right outside the community campus so it would probably be good to get CCTV there. DC said that the dog warden would be the better person to approach. CT said that she would get in touch with the parent council and advise them of this. CT asked if it would be sensible to charge for the car park at the Riverside to stop people from Castle Water parking there all day. CS said that one of the things they were looking with Chic Haggart was maybe paying for two hours to get a balance. CT said that she had heard the Cornerstone Deli was up for sale and she was concerned about the possibility of another empty shop in the town. Vitality hairdressers and the CATERAN Café are also for sale. ST asked who was responsible for clearing the sewers and drains. AD said that it was PKC’s responsibility. He said that there are only three machines in the whole of Perth and Kinross, one of which is based in Blairgowrie and that the Blairgowrie machine has to cover from Kinloch Rannoch down to Scone. ST said that he had watched the machine empty some drains but not others. AD said it had probably emptied the others at a different time and that sometimes some get missed due to parked cars or whatever. ST said that lots of them were clogged in the town. AD said that there was an inspector in the town, Alan Finlay, and that it has been a mild winter so far so they were doing work that they would not normally be doing at this time of year. He also said that clogged drains should be reported and that it is helpful to get as much detailed information as possible on locations, and contact numbers for the people who report the incidents. RD said that the lights in the Wellmeadow were very important in terms of making the own safer and asked how much it would cost to have the pea lights on all year. CS said she would ask.</p>	

<p>BS gave an update on the list of defibrillators in the town saying that there is one at Blairgowrie Bowling Club on the wall facing the green but that it is ineffective. There is one at Rattray Bowling Club which is open to members of the public. He said that if there was one at Davidsons Chemist it wasn't obvious.</p> <p>BS said that he went to a meeting about parking at the community campus with the new head teacher at Newhill Primary School who is also the campus manager. A number of things were suggested but the main emphasis was on where the parents drop off their children. BS suggested a care park but there isn't the money. They are going to try to deal with the way that people drive in the areas around the campus and look at the possibility of a school exclusion zone but unless people are there to enforce it it is not going to work. Other suggestions were to try to make it safer for pupils to walk or cycle to school by for example making the path on Elm Drive wider and stopping people driving to the campus. The layby on Elm Drive is going to happen but BS thinks it will just be taken over by residents from Blackthorn Place parking there.</p> <p>There is going to be a public meeting on February 20th from 2pm to 7.30pm at the campus for anyone to go along and have their say on this. There is no land available for a drop off zone. CT asked if the turning circle could be modified. BS said it was originally a drop off zone but got choked up very quickly and buses got caught up in it. He also said that it wasn't just dropping off children that was the problem but picking the children up after school and that people often parked in the area from 2pm onwards just to make sure that they got a space. CT said that she did this. BB said that one idea was to put a loop around the whole school. BS said that he was a bit disappointed that the conversation was about keeping cars away from the school as it is just moving the problem elsewhere. CT said that another issue was the lack of a pedestrian crossing on the Coupar Angus Road. IR said that had been agreed. BS said that there was talk of a puffin crossing at the roundabout on Elm Drive but no help with regards to taking cars to the school. AD asked if there was any point in just widening part of the path on Elm Drive.</p> <p>IR said that there would be a meeting in the next couple of weeks between himself, DC and AD about this year's Citizen of the Year awards.</p> <p>IC asked what was happening with the ABO wind farm. BB said that it had got planning permission but that it was in limbo at the moment as the developers can't make it viable at the moment due to cuts in subsidiaries.</p> <p>IC asked if the council had any power to enforce tidying up private premises. He mentioned the garage on Rattray High Street. CS said that that site had been reported but that there are no powers.</p> <p>AD said that part of the building by the Ericht had been washed away. CS said that as far as she was aware the whole building was owned by the Scotts who are aware of the problem.</p> <p>AD said that any helpers to take down the Christmas lights on Sunday, January 13th would be most welcome. He also said that there would be another Blairgowrie and Rattray Access Network fundraising fun run on May 14th.</p> <p>IR said that the chair of the angling club said that the dump site on the side of the Ericht had been exposed again despite the council spending lots of money reinforcing it. CS said she would look into it.</p> <p>LS said that there is to be a new map detailing the new safer route between Blacklaw and Lochlands and that it is currently with the designers. He has asked for it to be ready for distribution by the end of the month and suggested part of it could make up part of the route of the fun run. He said there was some signage on the route but more was needed and had been commissioned by PKC and would hopefully be in place this month.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, February 7th, 2019, 7pm in the Adult Resource Centre, 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
Mr S Nichol
Mr I Richards
Mr L Seal
Mr B Smith
Mr A Thomson
Mrs C Thomson
Mrs M Young

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