



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 March 2019

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

<p><u>ATTENDANCE</u> Mr I Richards (IR) Mr B Smith (BS) Mr R Duncan (RD) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mr A Donald (AD) Mr A Thomson (AT) Mr G Darge (GD) Mrs C Thomson (CT) Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Mrs D Cushnie (DC) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Mr L Seal (LS)</p> <p>Mrs Bev Leslie (BL) Police Scotland</p>	Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary	Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr T McEwan (TM) Cllr B Brawn (BB) Ms C Damodaran (CD) <p>3 members of the public</p> <p>Mr C Smith Mr C Wilkinson</p>	Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Press <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>	
<p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies IR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from LS, IC, DC and the police.</p>				IR
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes The draft minutes of the February meeting were considered for adoption. BB said that on page 3 of the minutes it stated that he had had a meeting with GS Brown. This was not true, he had met with Perth and Kinross Council (PKC). SN to amend. BS proposed the adoption of the minutes with the amendment, AD seconded.</p>				All
<p>Item 3 – Matters Arising Christmas Tree – MY said that she had spoken to Paul Summers from PKC and he said it would be okay but that the council can't authorise it and the community council had to talk to local groups in the town and members of the public and see how they feel about it. She is going to set up a poll on the community council's Facebook page this week to see if people are okay with the idea in principle and would like as many people as possible to have their say. MY said it would be a decorating tree for all kinds of events other than Christmas such as Valentine's Day and Easter for example. Recreation Centre – CS said that approval had been given at the council's budget in February for an additional £400,000 for the new recreation centre, to be used to help deliver a six-lane pool and an extension to the floor space in the gym and they just had to get on with it now. IR asked when that would be. CS said she had asked council officers for an update, but they hadn't got back to her. She said there would be a</p>				MY CS

community focus group. MY asked how different it would be from the proposals put forward by the consultant's report. CS said there would be no fixed cafe in the new centre but that they were looking at having a coffee point and there are discussions about that being run as a social enterprise. There will be no fixed soft play area but the inflatables that Live Active Leisure already use in Blairgowrie will still be available. There has been a reduction to the footprint of some of the areas. Live Active Leisure were keen to have an extension to the gym as they felt that would help make it more accessible. Lessons have been learned about being smarter in the way that Live Active Leisure and Blairgowrie High School use the space. GD asked if there was any opportunity to fight for the rest of the £3million cut to the original budget for the recreation centre to be reinstated. CS said that she was confident that they can deliver a recreation centre that is fit for the community within that budget. £500,000 has also been set aside for the new 3G pitch. She said that the project team met last week, and the community council and neighbours would be involved in discussions about the project development. MY asked if there were to be public toilets in Dave Park. CS said that the scope of the project was being worked on. AT said that there were lots of rumours about what is happening at Davie Park. Since the money was allocated a sub-committee has been set up by the community football club which has met several times. They are looking to use the money wisely, it is not just about the installation of a 3G pitch, it's a basis to enhance the whole Davie Park area. The project is now likely to take two to three years to complete but will hopefully be a lasting legacy for the whole town. To have the sum of £500,000 allocated by a council for this sort of project was unheard of in Scotland and is fantastic. Once they have some proposals then everyone will have a chance to look at them. Hopefully in the next couple of months they will have a firmer idea of where they want to go. CS said that the council was looking at the recreation centre and Davie Park as a split leisure facility for the town and leveraging in other money as well. PKC's contribution has opened the doors to other avenues of funding. IR paid tribute to AT for all his work with Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Football Club (BRCFC) following his decision to stand down as chair to concentrate on the 3G pitch project.

Cycle Racks – CT said that she had contacted Lachlan from PKC and will continue to press him for a date for when he is in Blairgowrie to discuss the cycle racks. Referring to an email about a covered cycle rack at the bus terminus she wondered if it was still appropriate to place the new cycle racks just across the road. She also said that they are only going to get one of the new cycle racks but that it is moveable.

CCTV – IR said that he had circulated information from a meeting with Roddy Ross (RR) that was facilitated by Nikki Forrester from Police Scotland. RR is to put together an initial proposal that will go to the community action partnership which decides these sorts of things. He said RR and the local police support the idea of CCTV in the town. One possible problem which was raised was the possibility of putting in a pole. The light that illuminates the War Memorial was not tall enough. At least a third of the cost would be the installation of a high pole. They also need to demonstrate public support and support from local businesses for the idea. IR said that he has had an initial discussion with the secretary of the business association. Estimated cost is £10,000 and little to no maintenance is required. It will need a power supply but everything else is done through Wifi and it would be compatible with the system in Perth. There is no other CCTV coverage in Perth and Kinross other than in Perth city centre so Blairgowrie would be the first. There was a discussion about where it could be located and how big an area would be covered. If it was suitable to mount it on one of the buildings in the town then that would save around £3000 and could possibly fund another camera. IR said that concerns had been raised that having CCTV in the town centre would displace antisocial behaviour to other parts of the town but that he has been assured that research indicates that this does not happen. CS said that there was already some antisocial behaviour along the riverside and in Davie Park and that she didn't like the idea of just giving up on expecting the police to be around. MY said that the police know about the issues but don't do anything about it. TM said that the community action partnerships had criteria for funding and that he wasn't sure that CCTV would necessarily meet that criteria, and that if it did and money was allocated

CT

IR

<p>to it then that money was being diverted from other projects. IR said a community consultation on the CCTV would establish what the community priorities were. CS said that £10,000 for CCTV was a lot cheaper than a police officer and that there may be sources of funding from Police Scotland that they could look in to applying for.</p> <p>Cycle Maps – IR said that as LS was not in attendance, he couldn't give an update other than to say that the maps have now been made public.</p> <p>Community Speedwatch – IR said that this initiative was very much down to Nikki Forrester (NF) from Police Scotland. It doesn't just involve Blairgowrie and Rattray but neighbouring communities as well. It would be a reporting exercise only with no powers of arrest. Volunteers would be trained and have hi-vis vests. They would observe speeds and record registration numbers and the police would then contact the drivers and let them know that it has been noted that they have been speeding. MY said that she has given information to the police before and nothing has been done. IR said that they had to have faith that it would be acted on and that there would be a public outcry if nothing happened. The scheme is designed to reduce speeding. The police are putting their reputation on the line in some way with this. BS said that he had sent the police photos of people parking inconsiderately on Smithfield Avenue and the police were there within a few days moving people on. They were also in the area with a speed gun. There was a discussion about the police using cut outs of children and putting them at the side of roads to slow vehicles down. CT asked how people were going to record the number plates saying that some people might victimise others, reporting them for speeding when they haven't been. BB said the equipment that will be provided will record the speed and the number plate. He has met with the new inspector for the area and she very much has a traffic issue agenda and that the police are very keen to get this initiative off the ground. TM said that it is about speed awareness not pressing charges. IR said that when more information comes out, he will share it.</p> <p>Bridge Safety – SN had emailed the council following concerns raised by a member of the public that there maybe some safety issues with the bridge across the Ericht but at the time of the meeting had not had a response.</p> <p>***** Subsequent investigation revealed a misplaced email response from the council that confirms no concerns about the bridge structure. It states: I would confirm that both the bridge and the weir immediately downstream are subject to regular inspections; currently we have no concerns regarding scour to the pier supports or weir. I also confirm that we will continue to monitor and take all action required to safeguard the travelling public. *****</p> <p>Car parking and Castle Water – IR said that this was an ongoing issue. He has a regular meeting with Castle Water's utilities manager. Castle Water has had four different proposals about obtaining additional parking facilities, but they have all come to nothing. One issue is that when people find out that a company like Castle Water are looking for land the price of the land rockets. Another issue is that some of the new car park at the Haugh Road premises is currently being used by work vehicles for the expansion down there. MY asked what was happening with the land by Tesco. IR said he didn't know. He said that PKC had withdrawn an offer to provide season tickets for Castle Water employees and that the problem was only going to get worse when the weather improved, and people were visiting the town and the riverside area and that they were aware that it was affecting other organisations and businesses in the town.</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>IR</p> <p>SN</p> <p>IR</p>
<p>Item 4 – Subjects raised by members of the public</p> <p>Christine Chandler said that the people had been parking on the grass on the lane down to the riverside car park and that delivery vans were having difficulty getting along Lower Mill Street due to all the parked cars. SN said that the one-way system had been approved but would presumably have to go through TROs before they can be put in place and enforced. There is a plan in place for the improvement of the whole area around Lower Mill Street which will presumably be implemented when the one-way system comes into effect. CS said that the riverside car park was discussed at a</p>	

<p>Blair in Bloom meeting and it had been suggested that boulders or something are placed along the verge to stop people parking there.</p> <p>Peter Ritchie from Ferguson Park raised the issue of the goal posts that had been removed from Ratray Common and that the council had said they would not be replacing. He also asked about the plans for a MUGA on the football pitch on Ratray Common. CS said that there is money for investing in play parks and that noting has been decided about the MUGA yet. She said that the concern from members of the parent council at the school was that if it was available for public use then they would have to clear it from dog poo for example every time they wanted to use it for the school. She said that the response the council press office had given to the Blairgowrie Advertiser on this issue did not reflect the can-do attitude of the new chief executive. PR said that there was no reason why the kids should do without just because someone broke the posts. TM suggested the community greenspace budget could be used to replace them. There was a discussion about the price of goal posts. AT said there used to be loads of posts lying round council yards and that it wasn't a big job to reinstall them. He said there were some at Davie Park they could have. TM said he would contact Andy Clegg at the council about it. He said that the survey about the MUGA had come to an end and would be discussed at the next meeting of the Eastern Perthshire Community Sports Hub on Thursday, March 14. He thinks they had received about 189 responses with lots of suggestions from members of the public.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Police and Fire reports</p> <p>Police report – There was no report.</p> <p>Fire report - Blairgowrie firefighters were mobilised to incidents 24 times in February, including two incidents of food fires, one in Blairgowrie and one in Coupar Angus, and a car hitting the Co-op in Coupar Angus and setting off the smoke cloak. They also attended a fire in Moyness park Drive. They had given a fire safety talk to Blairgowrie Boys Brigade, a home and fire safety presentation as well as CPR instruction to Blairgowrie Parish Church Guild, neighbourhood visits in the Moyness Park Drive area and had published fire safety advice in the Blairgowrie Advertiser. Firefighters carried out 20 free home fire safety visits (HFSV) in February. CS also answered questions about fire hydrants from a previous meeting. The Fire Service Water Planning department considers where hydrants should be placed when a building application is received. Building contractors usually install the main hydrant according to specifications laid out by Scottish Water. The SFRS has adopted responsibility for the majority of hydrants within the Scottish network and bear the cost of repair. A three to five-year inspection programme is in place. SFRS is working towards centralising all records of locations of hydrants. If a hydrant is on private ground, then it is the responsibility of the land owner to maintain it.</p>	CS
<p>Item 6 – Dog Fouling</p> <p>MY asked if the council had cut its funding for free dog poo bags and if so, can they just reverse that decision because lots of people do use them. There was a discussion about how many dog owners used the bags to pick up after their pets. She also asked where the dog wardens were and why were they never seen in Blair. TM said that the dog wardens act on reports from members of the public rather than sit in potentially the wrong place. MY wondered if they could be as proactive as the traffic wardens as there is dog poo all over the place and it was a step backwards on the part of the council to stop funding the bags. PR asked if anyone had ever been caught and if you could report people. IR said someone had been caught a few years ago. TM said that you could report incidents on the council website. CT said that there weren't enough dog poo bins in the town. IR said he disagreed, saying that you could have litter bins on every corner and some people still wouldn't use them. MY said that it wasn't just dog poo, there were incidents of human excrement in Davie Park. There was a discussion about the community wardens and the fact that they are based in Perth. MY has asked Kimberly O'Brien to come to the next meeting and she has agreed.</p>	MY

<p>There was a discussion about the role of the social work department and the police when it come to vulnerable people.</p>	
<p>Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report RD said that there had been no movement in the resilience account which had a balance of £4956.33. In the main account, fees of £22 for Rattray Hall had been paid and secretary fees of £35. The balance was £3721.60. A refund of £69.60 had been made to the British Legion as agreed. RD said that the end of March was the year-end for the accounts and asked for any pending expenses before the end of the month.</p>	<p>RD All</p>
<p>Item 8 – Councillors’ Reports CS left the meeting at 8.30pm. TM said that following the consultation at the community campus about traffic issues he had asked the council to send him the consultation forms so that he could distribute them to ensure that as many people as possible responded. He said due to the process involved he didn’t think PKC had got the best budget possible. Council officers have to make suggestions how to save money and these proposals are made public but 80 per cent of those cuts never happen. Councillors have been talking about doing things differently. RD asked why the press was included in the process. SN said it was the nature of public procedure. BB said that the new chief executive wanted to change the way things are done, and there are 22 new councillors who want to change it, so the momentum is building. BB said that fly tipping had been reported in Bridge of Cally. He said that he had spoken to Gillian Edwards from the centre for inclusive living about the beeps on the traffic crossings in the Wellmeadow and that she wanted a meeting with community councillors and Chic Haggart from the council’s roads department. IR suggested that some disabled people attended too. He thanked RD and CT for coming along to the community investment fund panel. 13 applications were received. The final decision lies with a sub-group of the council’s strategic policy and resources committee which meets on March 20. He can’t say for sure, but he thinks they will just rubber stamp the recommendations the panel has given them. MY asked when the next round of funding was open. BB said he thinks now.</p>	<p>TM and BB</p>
<p>Item 9 – Pending Planning Applications None to report. GD said that he wasn’t receiving the list from the council anymore but that he was going on to the website to check.</p>	<p>GD</p>
<p>Item 10 – Secretary’s correspondence None</p>	<p>SN</p>
<p>Item 11 – AOCB CT mentioned the sustainable development of mountain biking at Blackcraig Forest in Bridge of Cally. This is not within the boundaries of Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council and is to be discussed at Mount Blair Community Council. CT asked why there were two disabled parking bays on one side of the High Street and if one could be located on the other side of the road. SN said that he would speak to the council’s roads department. GD asked about the lighting at the junction of Leslie Street and the Croft. AD said he would report it again. BS said that the big guns were till at Fort George and that Historic Environment Scotland was trying to get them to a commercial facility to be restored. BS has suggested to Historic Environment Scotland that the guns are brought to Blairgowrie and asked for suggestions for somewhere dry to store and conserve them. Several people have said that they will be willing to help with the conservation work. RD said that DC’s husband had finished the well at the Wellmeadow and had done a good job. He wanted to officially record the community council’s thanks to Alan for his work.</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>RD asked about the arch for the Drive-It Day. IR said that is in Pitlochry and they can use it again. AD's brother will lend them the blower again and Davidsons will supply the power.</p> <p>RD asked if the pea lights would be staying on after the clocks change. IR said he didn't think so.</p> <p>AD asked about extending the yellow lines on Beeches Road from the junction with Park Drive. People are parking across a resident's gate. SN said that he would check if it is on Chic Haggart's list.</p> <p>AD said that the BRAN fun run was on Tuesday, May 14. Walkers leave at 6pm, runners at 6.30pm. Registration is from 5.15pm. The eight-mile run starts and finishes at the pavilion at Davie Park. He asked for volunteers to help marshal the event and put up markers etc.</p> <p>MY said that she had signed up to be part of a firework consultation in Perth.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, April 4th, 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

Associate Members:

Ms T Dick

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers
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