



## BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM AND ORDINARY MEETING** **HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

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)          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Mr A Donald (AD)          Mrs Kim MacBain (KM)          Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Mr A Thomson (AT)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mrs C Thomson (CT)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Mr B Rickwood (BR)</p> <p>Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)          Police Scotland</p>	<p>Chair          Vice Chair          Treasurer          Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr T McEwan (TM)          Cllr B Brawn (BB)          Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>3 members of the public</p> <p>Mr C Smith</p>	<p>Councillor PKC          Councillor PKC          Press</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>
<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies</b>          IR welcomed everyone to the AGM and ordinary meeting. Apologies were received from LS, IC, DC and the police.</p>			<p>IR</p>
<p><b>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes</b>          The draft minutes of the 2018 AGM were considered for adoption. SN proposed the adoption of the minutes. BS seconded.</p>			<p>All</p>
<p><b>Item 3 – Chair’s Report</b>          2018/19 has been another year of steady progress for the council, in addition to its regular monthly meetings BRCC also hosted a public meeting. They were generally all well attended with good public engagement on most occasions. This is always welcome and a good indication of community confidence in our council despite its very limited powers.</p>			<p>IR</p>

The last year saw BRCC welcome various key local authority officers to its meetings. These occasions are educational in the sense that councillors and attending members of the public become better informed about the roles, responsibilities and functions of their departments but they also allow exchanges of ideas.

Officers included Chick Haggart the Traffic Network Manager who took part in the Strathmore Cycle Network presentation, Clair Mailer and Michele Dow, Head of Housing and Service Manager Housing respectively, talking about local housing needs, Daryl McKeown on various safety issues around the town and in particular the Community Campus and on another evening our two Community Wardens.

We also enjoyed presentations and question and answer evenings with the Convenor of the Planning Committee and from Inspector Gordon Thomson of Police Scotland, who gave a particularly candid talk on modern policing.

The biggest issue during the last year had been the 2018 PKC budget proposal to significantly degrade the plans for our new recreation centre. BRCC hosted a very well attended public meeting in September when two PKC Officers presented the likely specification of the facility. They provided comparison table of the original and modified scopes. The most controversial element was the reduction in swimming lanes from six to four for the pool.

The public outcry over this was unsurprisingly huge, this facility would serve our growing community for decades and would need to match likely demand.

Individuals and groups, including BRCC, made strong representations to the political representatives that this simply was not good enough. A public petition of objection was also raised. By working together as one the objectors convinced the authority to re-consider and whilst the latest scope does not satisfy everyone it does at least ensure that we will have a state of the art six lane pool. The CC was delighted to be part of the coalition that brought this about. A public reference group will soon be formed as part of the process to finalise the specification.

Now that the dust has settled over the issue of large-scale social housing provision at Blackthorn Place, the Community Council has been very pleased to note that our new residents have been made very welcome and as reported by Michele Dow at our December meeting, the new families have been delighted with their new homes.

The need for such a high concentration was created largely by the cumulative effect of the council allowing developers to buy out their obligation to build 25% of any new development as social housing. BRCC has been alarmed to learn recently that GS Brown had been allowed to do this in their original planning application for the extension to Honeyberry Drive, this lapsed 5 years ago but the buy out has been allowed to carry over for the latest application. This flies in the face of what we had

<p>been led to believe regarding new applications and in a community identified as having areas of social deprivation. A letter to Karen Reid, the Chief Exec of PKC, is being prepared asking for an investigation of the circumstances of this agreement, apparently not subject to democratic scrutiny.</p> <p>Members of the CC are involved in the continuing discussions about the possible provision of CCTV in the centre of town and also with Police Scotland deciding whether or not to become involved in the Community Speedwatch project. Both will be subject of public discussion prior to any implementation.</p> <p>I would like to thank my fellow Community Councillors for their support and hard work during the year, both around this table and more broadly within the community. Also, to thank Clare Damodaran for producing the excellent minutes every month. A big thank you is due to the public for their support, particularly to those who regularly attend our meetings.</p> <p>Thanks also for the support of our three Ward Councillors, also thank you to the representatives of the emergency services who attend and provide information about their activities.</p>	
<p><b>Item 4 – Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>A simplified copy of the year to March 2019’s accounts has been circulated to all members. BRCC received a grant from Perth and Kinross Council for £620 however expenditure was £871 as per the accounts which will be submitted to PKC so it is expected that the community council will get an increase in funds. The Rotary Club of Blairgowrie made a payment for expenses incurred by the Drive-It Day in 2018 and BRCC will receive a further payment for the 2019 event in the financial year 2019/20. BRCC successfully raised funds for the memorial bench which achieved a surplus of £354 which will go towards further costs associated with upkeep of the memorial. There was an income of £67 from the well in the Wellmeadow although there had been a theft and an unknown amount of money taken. The well has been repaired and £27 has been banked in 2019/20. Fundraising for the Bonfire Night celebrations realised £4967. Costs were £3865 so £1102 will be carried forward into this year. Cost for electrical work at Rattray Hall was £2134. RD has been operating activity for the wishing well, the bonfire and the memorial bench through the current account but has been advised that it would be simpler to operate such income and expenditure through the other account and will therefore transfer £1550.50 to that account. The end of year account balances stood at £3616 and £4956. The accounts as presented were proposed for adoption by AD and seconded by MY. RD also formally recorded his thanks to Graham Edwards which did the accounts for nothing.</p>	RD
<p><b>Item 5 – Demit of office bearers and election of new office bearers</b></p> <p>The current office bearers all stood down. BB asked for nominations for the role of chair. MY nominated IR. RD seconded. IR accepted and resumed chairing the meeting. He asked for nominations for the position of vice-chair. AD nominated BS and RD seconded. BS accepted. SN stood down from his role as secretary due to his commitments as chair of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust. IR thanked SN for all the hard work he had done and for creating a slicker secretariat role, complete with handover notes. MY nominated KM as secretary and data protection</p>	All

<p>officer. AD seconded. KM accepted. BS nominated RD as treasurer and KM seconded. RD accepted. IR declared the AGM closed.</p>	
<p><b>Item 6 – Adoption of the minutes of the April meeting</b>  KM proposed the adoption of the minutes of the April meeting, IC seconded. The minutes were approved.</p>	All
<p><b>Item 7 – Police and Fire reports</b>  There was no police report.  CS from the SFRS said that they had been mobilised to 22 incidents in April which is slightly up on what they would normally expect for this time of year. Incidents of note included a fire in Airlie Primary School, a light aircraft crash near Coupar Angus, a minor RTC at Sainsbury’s car park and a serious RTC at Woodside. Community safety events in April included the charity car wash which raised £860 and inviting the Contact the Elderly group to the Blairgowrie station for afternoon tea. 11 home fire safety visits were conducted in April, five were deemed high risk, three medium and three low.</p>	CS
<p><b>Item 8 – Matters Arising</b>  <b>Recreation Centre procurement process</b> – This was carried forward to the next meeting as CS was not present at the meeting.  <b>Cycle Racks</b> – IR said that the town will be getting a cycle rack. Lachlan McLean came to Blairgowrie last week and it will be placed by the corner of the Wellmeadow near the public toilets. It is not set in stone and could be moved but it is a good location. It will be in place for about two months and then reviewed. It will be a very bright red colour and will hopefully encourage people to cycle more. PKC will listen to suggestions about placing it in Rattray. IC asked if there was a choice of colours as Blair in Bloom’s planting theme this year was blue. IR said that CS had chosen red. IR said that it was hopefully going to be in place by the end of the month  <b>Bikes being ridden on pavements</b> – IR said that he had contacted Melanie Thomson and the fruit farmers at Rosemount Farm and that they had both agreed to take up the matter with their workers on behalf of BRCC. IR asked the member of the public who first raised the issue if they had seen any incidents since the last meeting. She said she hadn’t. IR asked her to get in touch if she did.  <b>Audible signals on pedestrian crossings in the Wellmeadow</b> – IR said that a meeting is planned on site on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am with Gillian Edwards from the Centre for Inclusive Living and Chic Haggart to look at the situation. He encouraged anyone with an interest in having audible signals on the traffic lights to attend the meeting. The placing of the pedestrian crossings no longer works now that the traffic lights are not there. IR has been told that this is the last opportunity to make a case for getting the audible signals. SN said that the continuous route from Tesco to Rattray with dropped kerbs, a new pedestrian crossing at Tesco and a new handrail was now complete and that it was great to see motorised vehicles using the pedestrian crossing. He would like to thank PKC for doing this at BRCC’s behest.  <b>Adult Resource Centre (ARC)</b> – KM said that staff at the ARC had raised the issue of getting automatic doors for the building on a number of occasions over several years but had taken it as far as they can. The centre is used by people who have walking aids, disabilities and of all ages – everything from the community council to the Men’s Shed and the town’s Duke of Edinburgh group. Blairgowrie Day Opportunities and Strathmore Day Opportunities are both based in the building and the oldest user of the centre is 104 years-old. More and more groups are using the centre and it could be opened up to even more. However, there is no security system in place, and the doors are heavy and retract very quickly. Sometimes service users have to phone to be let into the building. Staff have asked for automatic doors every year for five years but</p>	CS IR IR IR KM

<p>have been knocked back every time. There is a building warrant in place for the work. The combined service budget of Blairgowrie Day Opportunities and Strathmore Day Opportunities would maintain the doors but they have asked for £22,000 to pay for the new doors. The feeling amongst staff is that if the building had been in Perth then the work would have been done. The centre was built in the 1990s but doesn't even have pull cords in the toilets, the whole building needs to be modernised. Users of the building and Blairgowrie Day Opportunities and Strathmore Day Opportunities deserve better than this. KM said that staff were looking for support from BRCC to help them get new doors for the building. IR pointed out that fire risk was a big thing in terms of evacuating people in wheelchairs safely through the doors. KM added that users of the centre could also just walk out due to the lack of a security system. IR said that the council's budget for this year had been allocated but that BRCC would do all they can to support staff at the ARC in this request as it was a relatively small amount of money. BB said that he would look in to it to see what kind of money could be found and that it sounded as though it was in breach of disability discrimination legislation. A member of the public pointed out that PKC was saving money by using the building for offices.</p>	
<p><b>Item 9 – Subjects raised by members of the public</b> None</p>	
<p><b>Item 10 – Treasurer's report</b> RD said that costs incurred in April had included the secretary's fees and the rent for Rattray Hall. A deposit had been made from the well at the Wellmeadow. The current account balance was £3586 and the other account balance was £4956.33. A fee of £20 is due to Graphite Web Solutions and the community council is due to receive fund from the Rotary Club of Blairgowrie for the 2019 Drive-It Day.</p> <p>RD also thanked the community council for their help with the <b>Drive-It Day</b>. It appeared that the event has raised £17,000 of which 20% will go to local charities and organisations through the Rotary, with 40% going to CHAS and 40% going to SCAA. Discussions were under way about next year's event already and in particular making more of a town centre event. However, Blairgowrie Golf Course is very convenient. The lack of cars available for display in the Wellmeadow was due to the Drive-It Day event being a UK wide event and classic cars and vintage vehicles being in demand. AD said that the event had been a success but asked if the Rotary could look at giving more to local charities. RD said the money largely came from the cars taking part which came from all over the UK. The Rotary was told when they took over the Drive-It Day that it is the big charities that people donate to, but they have increased the percentage of the proceeds that go to local charities. RD said that the Rotary appreciates what BRCC has done to support the event and will try to get more of a town centre focus and look at splitting the proceeds three ways next year. RD said that although BRCC played its part, it was the Rotary who put on such a good day and it was very much enjoyed by those who were there.</p> <p>RD also said that PKC has insisted that the crocus bulbs in the Wellmeadow bed are uprooted so they can fertilise the bed. The council will also be uplifting the grass in the Wellmeadow and will plant crocuses there and re-turf it. AD asked if this would affect the community markets. RD said that he thought the crocuses flowered earlier in the year than the community markets.</p>	RD
<p><b>Item 11 – Councillors' reports</b> TM said that NF has figures on the number of people who have been recorded speeding in Coupar Angus through the vehicle activated signs and that he has asked</p>	TM and BB

her to contact the Blairgowrie Advertiser about doing a story on it. IR said that the signs are certainly very effective although they cannot record speeding they just indicate speeding. AD said that the one on Coupar Angus Road needs to be fixed. TM said that he had had lots of comments from people about traffic issues. TM said that he saw from the minutes of the April meeting that BB had suggested the community council invite **Roz McCall** to attend another meeting and explain her comments about the planning process at an earlier meeting. He asked if that invitation had been issued. It hadn't. **KM** will write to Cllr McCall before the next community council meeting. TM said that the plans for the nursery extension at **Ratray Primary School** had been approved by the council's planning committee. He said the plans were not going to fail planning but that parents were very angry about it. The community had not been involved at the start of the process which he described as a systematic failure. The issue is how the council engaged with the community, it seems that they presented a fait accompli. The officers came forward with complete plans and at no point engaged with the community. They don't have to build it where they are saying. One parent was going to be asking if he could move his children to Newhill Primary School as the disruption to the school will be so much. MY asked why they did not build up instead of out. BB said that you can't have two storeys for early years childcare. RD said that it appears that the elected politicians were not involved in the decision process which seems to be a fundamental flaw. BB said that two departments were involved, education and planning. He was at one meeting in September but because he is on the planning committee he could not be more involved.

KM

BB said that he will email IR background on the application for the development at **Honeyberry** which goes back to the 1990s. Planning has been rejected, then approved and then lapsed. IR said that he spoke to Bob Ellis about the suitability of the site for affordable housing and Mr Ellis said that neither he nor Caroline Shiers had been involved in those discussions. BB said that the next round of the **Community Investment Fund** launches on Monday. He said that he had spoken to Chief Inspector Scott about the **community speedwatch** initiative who said that the police would be introducing it slowly. There was to be a pilot project set up first in Meigle initially for probably six months and it will be taken from there. BB has also emailed the TSB about their opening hours. Regarding **Ratray Primary School** and the nursery, he said that the committee only had one option presented to them and that they had to work with that. He proposed a deferment of the decision so that they could see plans for the other options and for officers from the education department could explain clearly why those other options suggested by the parent council were not acceptable but that was not seconded or deemed competent so it did not pass. He said it was quite obvious that the committee were going to go ahead with the proposals. He said that he thought TM should have been allowed to speak but that the convener of the committee, Roz McCall received legal advice that he was not allowed to. He said that the parent council had said that the playground was going to be cut in half but that was not entirely true. He has asked if the playground can be taken into the common ground surrounding the school so that they can get the square footage back. The staff car park is going to be used for the construction traffic. BB also said that new charging points are to be installed at the car park at Blairgowrie Library. MY pointed out that it was free to charge and park electric cars in Dundee. BS said that you pay to park in Aberdeenshire even if you are charging. TM said that free parking for electric cars was in the SNP budget and that all new houses should have charging points built into them.

IR said that he had received an email from CS with an update that he will circulate to the community council.

**Item 12 – Pending Planning Applications**

<p>There is a meeting on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5.45pm in the Angus Hotel between the developers of the <b>Westpark development</b> and the Blairgowrie and Rattray Business Association (BARBA). IR was going to represent the community council. Steve Johnson from BARBA was in the public gallery. He asked what BRCC's position on the development was. IR said it was neutral and that consultations had indicated that majority of the public was in favour of the development. <b>GD</b> has written to the developers but mainly raised technical points about the design. The community council does have some concerns about the development drawing trade away from the town centre as free parking at the site will give it an unfair advantage. Mr Johnson said that he agreed but that BARBA were of the opinion that the development was going to go ahead so the best option was to work with them. BB said that only one objection had been submitted to the planning application. A 58-page impact assessment report has been submitted by the developers. The application is likely to go before the committee in August.</p> <p>The planning enforcement issue regarding a house in St Fink is to be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	IR
<p><b>Item 13 – Secretary's correspondence</b> None</p>	SN
<p><b>Item 14 – AOCB</b> <b>MY</b> wanted to thank BRAN and Blair in Bloom for their work as the town is looking really nice at the moment. She said that two things were raised at the community market, one of which was <b>the old clock from the train station</b>. IR said that the Civic Trust had the clock in storage and that things were moving in the right direction for getting a permanent museum for the town so it was being kept safe for that. There were issues with the size of it though and the mechanism to make it work. One member of the public said that when this was raised years ago the possibility of making it electric had been discussed. Where to site it was also an issue. MY said that the other issue raised was the grass was not being cut properly in the <b>cemetery on Perth Road</b> and that some of the headstones were falling over. IR said that PKC had raised some of the stones at the Hill Kirk and made it safe. BB said he would follow it up.</p> <p><b>BS</b> said that Tayside Contracts had been patching paths on Smithfield Crescent but that work was also needing done on Smithfield Avenue. AD said they only do what's on the list and that BS should speak to Alan Findlay about it as he does the inspections. BS also said that there is a sign pointing people to the Antiques Centre and Cargill's, neither of which exist anymore. AD said to speak to Alan Findlay about that too.</p> <p><b>IR</b> said that a sub group had been formed after the last meeting to look at the <b>community speedwatch</b> initiative but that they had a lot of concerns about it that they have put to the police. The general consensus was that they were less keen on the idea than they had been at first and feel it is a bit of a cheek to ask the community to pay for it. There were also concerns about the volunteers being known to the community and whether volunteers had to be community council members or not, and whether the police would come to rely on community speedwatch more and more. Once they have answers to these questions from Sergeant Nikki Forrester they will look at it again. BB said that Mount Blair Community Council and Mount Blair Community Development Trust were keen to share costs and cover each other's patches. CD said that Alyth Community Council would not be progressing with the initiative as they shared many of the same concerns that BRCC has. IR also has a meeting with the utilities manager at <b>Castle Water</b> on Friday next week to see if anything can be resolved about <b>parking</b> in the town. Castle Water staff take up most of the free parking in the town at the moment. However, if the parking is freed up by Castle Water staff then it would need</p>	All

<p>to be ensured that shop workers didn't then start using the spaces to the detriment of visitors to the town.</p> <p><b>IC</b> thanked Blair in Bloom for their contribution to tidying up the <b>Berries and Cherries bed</b> in the town and for financing replacement plants. BRCC is responsible for maintain the bed and is looking for more volunteers to help out with that.</p> <p><b>AD</b> said that he had a received a message from a dog walker who had been verbally abused along the <b>riverside</b> for asking a man to put his dog on a lead and pick up after it. IR gave AD the number for the community wardens to pass on to the person who had contacted him. AD said that his father had been asked to remove his sheep from a field at <b>Honeyberry</b> so that investigation work can take place. He has also been asked if there is any provision for <b>cycle storage</b> at the bus stops at the Wellmeadow. SN said that LS was pursuing that. The <b>BRAN fun run</b> is on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.</p> <p><b>KM</b> is working with the Time Bank and SCYD on a <b>new men's group</b> which meets fortnightly on a Monday in the ARC from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. It is a drop-in session open to anyone over the age of 16. It is funded by SCYD who will provide a male worker. Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust have also donated £500 to support the initiative which is very intergenerational and may involve trips. The next session is on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>TM</b> said that the person who owns land next to Honeyberry has written to PKC and GS Brown to say that they are willing for their land to be used for access to the site which makes sense but there could be a possible problem in terms of who pays for the road.</p>	
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7pm in the Small Hall, Rattray Church, Balmoral Road.</p>	All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank  
Mr G Darge  
Mr A Donald  
Mr R Duncan  
Mrs K MacBain  
Mr S Nichol  
Mr I Richards  
Mr B Rickwood  
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  
Mr B Brawn  
Mr T McEwan

External:

PKC Community Councils  
Clare Damodaran (Press)  
Mrs B Leslie Blairgowrie High School

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