



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4th JULY 2019

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

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| <p><u>ATTENDANCE</u> Mr I Richards (IR) Mr B Smith (BS) Mr R Duncan (RD) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Mr A Donald (AD) Mr B Rickwood (BR) Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr L Seal (LS) Mrs C Thomson (CT)</p> <p>Cllr T McEwan (TM)</p> <p>Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)</p> <p><u>ABSENT</u> Mr A Thomson (AT) Mr G Darge (GD)</p> | <p>Chair Vice-chair Treasurer</p> | <p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr B Brawn (BB)</p> <p>Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>Two members of the public</p> <p>Mr C Smith</p> | <p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC</p> <p>Press</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p> |
| <p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies IR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from CT and LS.</p> | | | <p>IR</p> |
| <p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes The draft minutes of the May meeting were considered for adoption. IC proposed the adoption of the minutes. BS seconded.</p> | | | <p>All</p> |
| <p>Item 3 – Matters arising Castle Water – IR said that he had been somewhat alarmed by the tone of an article in the Blairgowrie Advertiser. As a community council they have to be welcoming to new business and try to find a solution that suits everyone which is not easy. He has had various meetings over the past few months and Castle Water has secured new land and are acting towards trying to resolve this. The community council had asked about the riverside car park and were told Castle Water was policing it although couldn't comment on whether that was happening or not. Castle Water's presence in the town is creating business for a particular type of business. One thing the</p> | | | <p>IR</p> |

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| <p>community council would like to know is how many Castle Water staff are local rather than from Dundee or Perth. A solution needs to be found. IR said he would have preferred it if the person quoted anonymously in the paper had talked to the community council or Castle Water rather than the papers. There was a discussion about the green travel element of a planning application and whether that could be enforced. CS said that it is clearly a big issue that's facing the town. There was a discussion about building a multi-storey car park in the town. A member of the public said that parking in Blairgowrie is completely unreal, that the town is never going to cope with all the new houses being built and that people are going elsewhere to do their shopping because they can't get parked. IR said that it wasn't just a matter for the community council. SN said that the problem had been exacerbated by Castle Water but that presumably employees from other businesses were doing the same. He said that Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust had met with the new chief executive of PKC. BS said it would be good to discuss the situation with the Blairgowrie and Rattray Business Association.</p> <p>Dog fouling – PKC's one dog warden is being helped by the community greenspace ranger. A fixed penalty notice has been issued. AD said that the police have spoken to the person who verbally abused a dog walker.</p> <p>Foodbank – BR said that someone from the foodbank had spoken to the Rotary and they were in discussions about how to turn financial donations into food donations. There was a discussion about whether there was an opportunity to work with people using the foodbank on cooking.</p> <p>Davie Park – CS said that they were looking at design options for the new facility and where it could go. Those involved were also talking with the NHS about the possibility of developing a health facility on that side of the river. SN said that Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Football Club is now an affiliate of the development trust.</p> <p>Multi-agency response exercise – IR said that he attended a multi-agency response exercise with the SFRS and the police at Craighall Gorge and that it was very reassuring that there is such a professional team there to help people if necessary.</p> | |
| <p>Item 4 – Police and Fire reports</p> <p>Police – There was no police report.</p> <p>CS from the fire service said that they had been mobilised to 17 incidents in June including an RTC at Bridge of Cally and a water rescue at Campsie Linn. They had done fire safety visits at Newhill and St Stephen's primary schools and a large multi-agency exercise at Craighall with the water rescue, line rescue and mountain rescue teams and members of the local press, the community council and the resilience group. 13 home fire safety visits were conducted.</p> | |
| <p>Item 5 – Subjects raised by members of the public</p> <p>One member of the public (Jean) said that cyclists are still doing crazy things on the roads and the pavements and that something has to be done. IR said that he was due to have a meeting with Sgt Nicky Forrester from the police and will raise the issue with her. BB said there was no definitive law about riding on the pavement and that if people are riding with due care then they are on the right side of the law and there needs to be a policeman there to do anything about it and its not top of their priorities at the moment.</p> <p>Another member of the public (Ewan) said that the state of the roads are a matter of considerable concern to the community as was the way repair work was done to certain roads and pavements and other areas are ignore. Rosemount Park was redone but is not that heavily used, and Upper Allan Street past the kirk but that road was not used that much. He suggested someone sits down with the budget holder to discuss priorities. He doesn't expect them all to be fixed but he does expect there should be some logic to it and that the contactors employed by the council are up to the task and wondered if the community council could find out how the money is</p> | |

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| <p>allocated and the jobs prioritised. IR suggested getting the relevant council officer allocated to this area to come to speak to a community council meeting. CS said it was Stuart Dahl. AD said that the man with the budget in Blairgowrie is Brain Milne. SN said that there is a statutory requirement for all councils in Scotland to assess the roads in their area and that most councils were 40 years behind schedule. It was agreed SN would contact Stuart Dahl.</p> <p>Jean asked if there was anything that could be done about speeding on the Alyth Road. IR said he would discuss it with the police when he met with them.</p> | |
| <p>Item 6 – Lessons from Europe</p> <p>RD said that as a society we should be naming and shaming people, and filming or photographing them if they drop litter or let their dogs foul in an effort to get a grip on people’s bad behaviour. He said in Slovakia they have plain clothes policeman who issue on the spot fines to anyone they catch dropping litter. He suggested that the community council needed to do something to tackle the issue from the bottom up. CS said that PKC staff had had to start wearing body cameras because of the way that they are spoken to and since that has been introduced the level of abuse they receive has been reduced.</p> | RD |
| <p>Item 7 – Community Market</p> <p>IR said that last year there had been a few issues and complaints from the Strathmore and the Glens Partnership about a lack of help with the community markets but that this year it seems to be working well and they are getting more stalls and there seems to be a real buzz about the markets. CS said that a request from stall holders to be able to use the public toilets has been granted by PKC.</p> | IR |
| <p>Item 8 – Industrial units in Rattray</p> <p>BR asked that with more and more houses being built in Rattray and the changing complexion of the area were people paying the right rates or have the right permission for industrial units there. He highlighted the Greenbank Garage by Parkhill Road and asked if the work that was being done there could be dangerous or affect the neighbours. AD said that he had to have a trader’s licence and that he had been there a long time. BR also highlighted Murray Blair’s premises on the High Street. He said that in the States they have discovered that chemicals used in dry cleaning had been found to seep into the ground and can travel up to a quarter of a mile and that a high level of arsenic had been found in the GS Brown field at Honeyberry. This could have come from agricultural pesticide but it could also have come from the laundry. AD said the laundry was not there and said that he was sceptical about people’s livelihoods getting slated. BR said that he was only asking if what was going on was legitimate. CS is to look into whether Greenbank Garage had the right licence. IR said that Murray Blair’s property had been raised before and there is nothing that PKC can do as it is private property. BR said that he had heard there was propane gas in the vans. BB said that the vans had been converted to run on LPG and were being kept for spares. BS said that he was not aware that dry cleaning chemicals used in the UK contained arsenic. IR said that the chemicals that are used are very volatile and more likely to go up in the air rather than seep into the ground. BB offered to go and speak to Murray Blair.</p> | BR |
| <p>Item 9 – Advance notice of community council election on November 7th, 2019</p> <p>Nominations for members of community councils across the PKC region will be accepted from August 15th. If more than the maximum number of nominations are received for a community council area then an election will be held on November 7th, the date of the BRCC meeting that month. IR understands that it will be postal voting and not electronic voting. For the last community council elections BRCC held an open</p> | IR |

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| <p>day where people could come and find out what being a community councillor entailed and could nominate themselves if they wished. As well as doing this MY suggested making a feature of it at the next couple of community markets. CD suggested doing a piece in the Blairgowrie Advertiser about everything that this community council has achieved. IR said that the length of service has changed from five years to three. BS said it was important to get as many people to nominate as possible as a significant number of current BRCC community councillors would not be seeking re-election. CS said that the statutory role of community councils particularly in terms of planning notice for example was very important and that they were a conduit for getting things done. She also mentioned that Bendochy would be included in BRCC from November. There was a discussion about what members of the public know about what the community councils do. IR said it was also important that community councils find out what the communities they represent want to do for the town. It was agreed to hold an open day as well as highlight the work and successes of BRCC at the community markets.</p> | |
| <p>Item 9 – Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year IR said that there had been more interest this year to the point that they were now receiving enquiries on why things were done the way they were done. Next year it needs to be clear that only people who live in the BRCC area are eligible to be nominated.</p> | IR |
| <p>Item 11 – Treasurer’s report RD said that the current account has a balance of £2615.50 for normal expenses after receiving £700 from PKC and paying minute-taker fees of £35. The balance of the reserve account is £6571.83. This account has funds for the fireworks, public furniture, Christmas costs and the resilience fund. BRCC has been asked to pay a fee of £57 to PKC for the use of the Wellmeadow for the Drive-It Day. The Wellmeadow was not used so RD is querying this with PKC but has yet to hear back. A charge of £65 that has already been paid appears to have been a charge for the change of licence from Davie Park to the Wellmeadow. BS asked what specific amount was available for the Resilience Group. RD is to find out.</p> | RD |
| <p>Item 12 – Secretary role IR appealed for someone to take over the role of secretary until the elections in November since Kim MacBain had had to step down from the community council for family reasons. Office bearers are not allowed to hold more than one post. There was a discussion about the role of secretary and minute taker. No one stepped forward to take on the role.</p> | IR |
| <p>Item 13 – Councillors’ reports CS said that full council had approved the Cross Tay Link Road which had an anticipated completion date of 2023. She said she thinks it will make a significant difference to this part of Perthshire. Proposals to change Lower Mill Street to a one-way street have been delayed following a complaint. It will likely go before the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee in September. Traffic calming measure will be installed on Hatton Road during the first week in August as part of the 20mph zone trial at the school. Councillors and community councillors have been asked to consider proposed puffin crossing sites on Coupar Angus Road. Members of the public will be consulted during a public consultation. There are also crossings proposed for Elm Drive and Berrydale Road. Comments should go back to Chic Haggart at the council. BS asked if the vehicle activated signs would be set at 30mph, which is what they are</p> | BB and CS |

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| <p>all set for, even though they were to be placed in a 20mph area. CS said Tayside Mountain Rescue was having a fundraising lunch on July 14th. BB said that following the fire at Blackthorn Place there was to be a public meeting with the SFRS, Hillcrest and hopefully the police and Stewart Milne. It was likely to be held at the end of July or beginning of August. He said that elected members had been given training on placemaking and that there would also be a training session for community councillors probably in September. SN suggested that it would make more sense to hold off until after the community council elections in November. BB said that he would feed that back. He said that Ros McCall had still not received an invitation from the community council to come back to a meeting to discuss planning. He said that the police are going to be looking at speeding in rural areas and are allocating 1300 hours of time to it. A new head of road policing in Tayside has been appointed and is going to meet with BB, Inspector Emma Bowman and Sgt Nikki Forester and they are hopefully going to concentrate on the A93. IR said that his impression was the road was getting busier. There was a discussion about motorcyclists on the road.</p> | |
| <p>Item 14 – Pending Planning Applications None but GD had made a comment on the proposed dog walking area in Rattray.</p> | GD |
| <p>Item 15 – Secretary’s correspondence None</p> | |
| <p>Item 16 – AOCB RD asked if Blairgowrie could have traffic lights like the ones in Coupar Angus which were set to red and only changed to green when drivers slowed down to 20mph. CS said that there had been complaints from local residents about the noise of vehicles braking there but that the change in driver behaviour had been phenomenal. MY said that the Christmas cube project was ongoing and that there will be a new addition to the festivities this year. She also wanted to thank Mike Proudfoot the electrician who had helped with the tree lights a couple of years ago and was helping with this latest project. She said that a Glenalmond Road resident had complained about trades vehicles speeding up there and that she was going to speak to Springfield Properties about it. MY asked about town Wifi. CS said she had not got an update on that as the person was on leave. AD, SN and GD are all now admins for the BRCC Facebook page. AD asked if anyone from the Rotary Club could get in touch with the Highland Games committee about the Kiddies’ Games. He also asked by PKC was giving every pupil at the new Bertha Park school and iPad. CS said the school was one of 10 Microsoft academies in the world and the pupils needed to be able to access the programmes they would be using. She said it was also part of a research programme. MY asked about the radiation from the technology. CS said it was all being taken care of. PKC is paying for the iPads but it is subsidised and is part of a whole new way of teaching and virtual classrooms.</p> | All |
| <p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, August 8th, 2019, 7pm in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie, Street, Blairgowrie</p> | All |

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank
Mr G Darge

Local Councillors:

Mrs C Shiers
Mr B Brawn

Mr A Donald
Mr R Duncan
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

Mr T McEwan

External:

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

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