



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8th AUGUST 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 S Nichol (SN) Mr I Cruickshank (IC) Mr A Donald (AD) Mr B Rickwood (BR) Mr L Seal (LS) Mr A Thomson (AT) Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr R Duncan (RD) Police Scotland Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)</p> <p><u>ABSENT</u> Mr G Darge (GD) Mrs C Thomson (CT)</p>	<p>Chair Vice-chair Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr B Brawn (BB) Cllr T McEwan (TM)</p> <p>Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>Two members of the public</p> <p>Mr C Smith Mr C Sands</p>	<p>Councillor PKC 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 RD and Police Scotland.</p>			<p>IR</p>
<p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes The draft minutes of the July meeting were considered for adoption. BS proposed the adoption of the minutes. IC seconded.</p>			<p>All</p>
<p>Item 3 – Matters arising Road Repair priority – SN said that he had received an instant reply from PKC's roads department which had been circulated to all the community council members and to Euan Walker, the member of the public who raised the issue at the last meeting. Community Council elections – SN said that BRCC will probably have a meeting as scheduled in November but that may change as it is the day of the elections for</p>			<p>IR and SN</p>

<p>community councils. PKC has issued forms, posters and information leaflets which can be printed out and distributed around the town. IR said that BRCC was holding an information open day on August 19th in Blairgowrie Library to encourage people to get involved and nominate themselves to be community councillors. He asked for volunteers to help staff the event. CD said that they would publicise the event in the Blairgowrie Advertiser and do a story on the achievements of the community council.</p> <p>Citizen of the Year – IR said that Pete Ritchie and Maya Suchomska were very worthy winners of the awards. This year there was also a very popular nominee with people in the town, Alex Mulholland, who lives outwith the community council area and is therefore ineligible for the award. BRCC would like to present him with a special award in recognition of the contribution he has made to the local community. The awards will be presented at the Blairgowrie Community Market on August 24th. IR will recommend to the next community council that the system used in the past two years, while not perfect, has got the most interest. One recommendation he will pass on to the next community council is that they inform the nominees individually. The awards have been very well supported this year and it was pleasing that there were more nominees for the Young Person of the Year award in particular.</p> <p>Secretary – SN has agreed to take up the role of secretary of BRCC until the community council elections in November.</p> <p>Roz McCall – SN said that an invitation to Roz McCall from PKC to attend a meeting of BRCC has been issued but that no reply has been received, probably due to the council being in recess. He will remind her after the holidays.</p>	
<p>Item 4 – Police and Fire reports</p> <p>Police – There was no police report.</p> <p>Craig Smith from the fire service said that they had been mobilised to 29 incidents in July which is a bit of an increase on normal for the time of year. Incidents of note included a fire on the building site at Glenalmond Road, a water rescue at Dunkeld, a two car collision at the Meikleour crossroads on the A93 and flooding at Sainsburys caused by storm conditions. There had been no community safety events in July. 11 free home fire safety visits were conducted and the Blairgowrie crew was helping complete HFSVs in Alyth. Mr Smith introduced Cammy Sands who is the new liaison officer for the fire service locally.</p>	
<p>Item 5 – Subjects raised by members of the public</p> <p>Susan Lawson from Ardblair said that she wanted to ask the community council for advice as she had nearly been flooded in all the rain in the first week of August. She has had problems since 2011. The main drain for the street sits right at her gate but her house is lower than the drain and the rain forms a puddle. That week was the worst it has ever been. It was over a foot deep in the garden and had taken the gravel into the veggie patch, and the morning after everything had a grey mould over it. She phoned the fire service but they won't come until it is in the house. She phoned the council and they cleared the drain after the event. She had come to the community council to find out what her rights were and asked if the drains can't cope now what was going to happen when the West Park development was built. CS said she had been contacted by a couple of people who had this problem and had passed it on to the roads department. AD said that the drains had been cleared that Monday morning but that certain aspects of the drainage system were not coping with torrential downpours. He said that there is a lorry for that job based in Blair but that there are lots more drains for them to clear. IR said that PKC should be considering contingency plans to deal with the declared climate emergency. SN said that 44mm of water fell in half an hour and that it was an unusual weather event. SL said that as a community we should be telling the council they need to be prepared for these sort of events. CS said that she has asked for a camera check on the drains. IR asked if she could</p>	

<p>suggest PKC increases the number of lorries capable of doing the job. CS said she would ask.</p> <p>Jean asked if there was any update on when Lidl was coming to the town. IR said that BARBA had met with the developers and were told that they were expecting the first ground to be cut in January 2020 so it would probably be late next year. Lidl was one of the priorities for the development.</p> <p>Jean said that the temporary traffic lights in the town were great because they beeped and could be seen more clearly. IR said that he was disappointed that there had been no press report from PKC on that and would chase that up again. AD asked if PKC could take on board the experience from having the temporary lights and change their decision about not having any beeps on the permanent lights. IR said that he thought the community council had exhausted all the avenues they have but that if individuals wanted to take it up with PKC that was fine.</p> <p>Jean asked why the Wellmeadow was bland. CS said that the flowers were taken up because they were getting trampled on at events. There was a plan for more planting around the edges.</p> <p>Jean said that a lorry had gone up Allan Brae to Thomson's and got stuck. AD said that there was a car with a disabled badge parked on the double yellow lines outside the Royal which had blocked everything. CS said the number of lorries using that road has been reduced which seems to have reduced the number of complaints they have received.</p>	
<p>Item 6 – Update on defibrillators in the town</p> <p>BS said that he had circulated a list of defibrillators in the town to members of the community council. He was in discussion with Davidson's the Chemist who are willing to put some money towards a defibrillator on the outside of their premises which would be covered by CCTV. IC said that in Dunkeld there is a map which has the locations of all the defibs in the town on it. BS that it may be possible to include something similar in the next reprint of the Blairgowrie town map. He said that the Discover Blairgowrie site is hopefully being developed and the list should be on that but at the moment the most up-to-date list was the BRCC website. MY suggested BRCC could update the PKC website. AD suggested having a pull-out of the list in the Hub magazine.</p>	BS
<p>Item 7 – West Park plans and LDP2</p> <p>BR said that the LDP2 had 32 pages of revisions and was wondering when they would be enforceable from and how they would affect the West Park development. TM said that West Park will be passed but the council is not back until September. BR also raised a point about a primary school being developed as part of the West Park development. TM said that only education has been earmarked as part of the site, not specifically a primary school, and that was part of the third phase of the development. IR said that lots of time had been spent talking about West Park before BR joined the community council and that all the public consultations held on it seemed to suggest that the town was pretty much evenly split on whether it was a good thing or not. BB said that the whole development had been approved in principle and that phase one, which includes Home Bargains, Lidl and a block of three shops was expected in August. His understanding was that they had found peat in the ground which had delayed things. He had met with the developers and the businesses and it was very constructive, there was going to be lots of cooperation and there seems to be a determination to make it work. There is still lots to be sorted out such as the access roads and the entrance to Hazelwood Road. A market analysis had been done which seemed to conclude that it would be favourable for the town. Houses will be built there too, originally 400 but that has been reduced to 280. An area will be left for educational purposes and there will be space behind Ardblair Medical Centre if they need or want to expand. If planning does go through in August then Lidl would open in December the following year.</p>	BR

<p>Item 8 – Education in Blairgowrie and Rattray</p> <p>BR said that he had been approached by a member of the public about the state of education in Blairgowrie. Primary schools are overcrowded with some classes containing over 30 pupils which is difficult for teachers. He said specialised help for children with special educational needs is not available in Blairgowrie, the nearest unit is in Coupar Angus but it is full. IR said that he would challenge the claims made by BR. TM said that all the primary schools in Blairgowrie and Rattray were within capacity and that most children have their needs met within their classrooms. There is an enhanced support unit at Blairgowrie High School. Some classes may have more support provided as required. CS said that she is convener of educational services and is in schools all the time. She has seen an increase in the number of children presenting with additional needs and that parents' expectations of what will be provided is increasing. National policy suggests keeping children in class and provision in this area is of a high standard. If someone has a specific issue that they want to raise then she is happy to speak to them. BR said that it was a teacher who raised it with him as they were frustrated by the council not listening. CS said the three primary schools had three of the best head teachers in the area. She said that the community campus was designed so that it could be built on if required. IR said that the issue was beyond the remit of the community council and suggested to BR that he advised the teacher to take it up with their head teacher or union.</p>	BR
<p>Item 9 – Treasurer's report</p> <p>RD submitted a report that was read by IR in his absence. The current account has a balance of £2547.70 paying minute-taker fees of £35 for July and £35 for August as RD was away and would not be available to make the August payment. An insurance refund of £2.20 from PKC was paid in. £55.33 from the well in the Wellmeadow was also paid into the account and then transferred to the reserve account.</p> <p>The balance of the reserve account is £6627.16. RD will report on the allocation of the funds so that everyone is aware of what is in the fireworks fund, Christmas fund and the resilience fund at the next meeting.</p>	IR and RD
<p>Item 10 – Councillors' reports</p> <p>CS said that she had had a number of complaints about flooding and that she thought it would be worth the community council speaking to council officers about the issues. The Rattray BMX park was now open. PKC needs to look at spraying and a discussion needs to be had with the community about leaving some areas straggly. Greenspace people could speak to maintenance people. What was flagged up in the Blairie by Alan Ross was valid but what people are prepared to tolerate needs to be established. IR pointed out that there are jobs at the riverside which really need to be done but which aren't being done.</p> <p>TM said that he had about 20 different parents turning up on both days of the uniform exchange which probably clothed around 100 local children. A lot of clothes from the schools' lost property boxes were donated, including non-uniform items. The school branded items will be passed onto the relevant parent councils but he is looking at exploring a clothing bank in some form or another to support the school uniform voucher schemes. IR said that he would like to record the community council's thanks to TM for the work he had done on this initiative.</p> <p>BB said that Greenbank Garage in Rattray appeared to be fully licensed and he was checking with planning but assumed it was all in order too. The closing date for the next round of the Community Investment Fund is August 21st and he is looking to set up another panel to consider applications for the fund. RD and CT did it last time. IR suggested that RD and CT did it again this time. BB said that there is to be a meeting on September 23rd to ratify the changes to the LDP2. Proposals to set a cap on the number of houses that could be developed on any one site were objected to by</p>	BB, TM and CS

<p>developers and refused by the Scottish Government's reporter so the numbers for a site will still be indicative only. IR said that was completely unsatisfactory. BB said that an infrastructure report has concluded that the proposed developments for Blairgowrie and Rattray can be accommodated by existing infrastructure. IR said that it appears that whatever developers want they get.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – Pending Planning Applications None</p>	GD
<p>Item 12 – Secretary's correspondence None</p>	
<p>Item 13 – AOCB ST said that progress on Davie Park was slow. Discussions were ongoing. BS said that the footpath from Perth Road to Smithfield Crescent was almost impassable due to overgrown vegetation. IR said that the new Scheme of Establishment for community councils will come into effect on November 7th. The financial year will change from August to September. Community councillors are only to be appointed for three years instead of four. There is another opportunity to name streets as part of the new Stewart Milne development at the community campus. Seven streets are to be named. MY said she would speak to former community councillor Pat McGregor about suggestions. She also suggested asking people for suggestions on Facebook. LS suggested asking people at the next community market. IR said that the state of the newsagents on the Wellmeadow was a disgrace and shames the town. BB said its private property and there is nothing the council can do. IR said that there has been another complaint about the state of the cemetery and that he has been informed that it is a particular area that's a problem. He spoke to PKC and they said it is cut every two weeks and strimmed every two months in the growing season but they are a week behind this year. IC said that the Beautiful Scotland judges were in Blairgowrie the previous Thursday and on the Thursday morning someone had wheeled the berry cart around the corner. Then on the day of the Take a Pride in Perthshire judging someone let their dog foul the Meeting Place. AD asked why Tesco increased its fuel prices during trades fortnight. He also asked about the criteria for the permits for dumping waste at the tip in Blairgowrie as a BRAN volunteer was told he needed a permit for a six-foot trailer with a single axle. He said that if the criteria has changed it needs to be publicised more. PR said that there was a new member of staff from Perth on the site who was enforcing it. IR said he would contact Nigel Taylor at the council about it. AD said that any volunteers who could help out with the Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games on Sunday, September 8th, would be appreciated. LS said that the boards in Rattray which had been used as an informal notice board were on a building that was being turned into flats and should the community council be looking at getting a new notice board in Rattray. MY suggested the Balmoral Hotel might be a good place. LS said he would speak to the owner. Member of the public Peter Ritchie asked if there could be speed restrictions along Glenalmond Road similar to what was being installed on Hatton Road. He said Glenalmond Road is a long, straight road that people can drive at up to 50 or 60mph on and that there are children crossing the road to get to the park. IR said that he will write to Daryl McEwan at PKC to ask. MY asked if there could be double yellow lines on the south side of Balmoral Road. TM said that he thought that had already been requested and refused. IR said that there had been complaints about the cycle network path to Alyth being overgrown and that responsibility for maintaining the path was currently being discussed.</p>	All

Date of Next Meeting Thursday, September 12 th , 2019, 7pm in the Small Hall, Rattray Church, Balmoral Road	All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Mr I Cruickshank
Mr G Darge
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

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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