



BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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| <p><u>ATTENDANCE</u> Mr I Richards (IR) Mr B Smith (BS) Mr S Nichol (SN) Mr R Duncan (RD) 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></p> <p>Mr G Darge (GD) Mrs C Thomson (CT)</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)</p> | <p>Chair Vice-chair Secretary Treasurer</p> | <p>Cllr C Shiers (CS) Cllr B Brawn (BB) Cllr T McEwan (TM)</p> <p>Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>One member of the public</p> | <p>Councillor PKC Councillor PKC Councillor PKC</p> <p>Press</p> |
| <p>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies IR welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from GD, CT, BL and Police Scotland. One member of the public was at the meeting, Mark Charles, who has nominated himself for the new community council.</p> | | | <p>IR</p> |
| <p>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes The draft minutes of the August meeting were considered for adoption. IC said that on page 3, item 5 it stated that it was Blair in Bloom’s responsibility to look after the Wellmeadow planting. It was agreed to remove that line. MY proposed the adoption of the amended minutes. AD seconded.</p> | | | <p>All</p> |
| <p>Item 3 – Matters arising Community Council elections – IR said that he knew of two nominees and was going to ask Christine Grant if she can tell the community council how many nominations have been received. MY said that she had posted details on the BRCC Facebook page and website and will keep doing so. CD said another story would be in the Blairgowrie Advertiser next week. IR is to get some forms for the library.</p> | | | <p>IR</p> |

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| <p>Roz McCall – SN said that a second invitation to Roz McCall from PKC to attend a meeting of BRCC has been issued but that still no reply has been received. BB said he will see her and ask what is happening with that.</p> <p>Perth Road/Smithfield Crescent overgrown footpath – IR said that it has been commented on that it is very difficult to walk two abreast on many pavements in the town due to overgrown vegetation. CS said that council officers keep an eye on things and put cards through the doors of people whose gardens there have been complaints about. AD asked what powers they had to enforce it. IR said that he was waiting for a response from council officers.</p> <p>Hatton Road speed restrictions and Balmoral Road yellow lines – SN reported this to Daryl McKeown and had got a full response which had been circulated to community councillors.</p> <p>Overgrown vegetation on cycle route between Blairgowrie and Alyth – LS said that there had been a misunderstanding about who was going to maintain the new cycle path and that it had not taken long for it to become overgrown. Both farmers have cut back the verges but some more work was needing to be done with strimmers. A work party was being formed to do around a 400m section at the eastern end. The Strathmore Cycle Network development officer has been asked to ask the farmer at the eastern end to deal with the thistles that are coming up through the path itself. There had been some problems with water not draining and the farmer had dug a ditch on one side of the path and built up the other side so that has been dealt with. They are working on a plan with the farmers that will involve at least three cuts next year so the problem should not arise again. There is a counter on the path to find out how many people are using it and although they don't have figures from that yet, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is being well used.</p> | BB |
| <p>Item 4 – Police and Fire reports There were no reports submitted from the police or the fire service.</p> | |
| <p>Item 5 – Subjects raised by members of the public</p> <p>AT congratulated everyone involved in the Braemar Day celebrations and the Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games saying that it was a great event for the town and the area.</p> <p>AT had an enquiry from a member of the public about the banners that were put up around the Wellmeadow before Braemar Day and the Games. People were annoyed at the commercialisation of the events and wanted to know if they had to apply for permission to put up the banners or if anyone could just do it. AD said that most of the banners were from sponsors of Braemar Day or the Games and they had all been taken down by Sunday night. If the person in question wanted to contact the Braemar Day or Games committees to discuss sponsorship they would be more than happy to hear from them. Any banners that are put up at other times will be removed.</p> <p>MY said that two items had been raised by members of the public on the Facebook page. One person who lived on Harriet Row asked what was happening with CCTV in the town as her own personal CCTV had been kicked off her house last December and nothing had been done about it. CCTV in the town was to be discussed later on the agenda. The other question was whether there were going to be traffic lights at the end of Balmoral Road. CS said that there was going to be a consultation about options to manage the traffic at the bottom of Balmoral Road and one of the options will probably be traffic lights. MY suggested suspending parking outside the dog groomers so that people have more visibility at that junction, or a 20mph speed limit, or sleeping policemen. CS said that suspending parking outside businesses and where people live is not an easy option and it could be argued that parked vehicles slow the traffic down. There is no indication of timing for the consultation. LS said that traffic lights could cause the traffic to snarl up. CS said that the problems were at peak times such as ski season or on Braemar Games day so it is only a couple of times a</p> | |

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| <p>year. Nothing is going to happen imminently. BB said that there were currently over 600 traffic matters on PKC's list.</p> <p>Suggestion boxes – Someone had asked about ownership of the wasteland on Hatton Place where the hotel used to be and whose responsibility it was. MY said that a map to see who owns what land is going to be published within the next couple of weeks and if no one knows who owns a piece of land then there may be a possibility of doing a community asset transfer for that land. If land is left and it causes harm then it could be the subject of a compulsory purchase.</p> <p>Other comments from the suggestion boxes were: there are not enough benches at the bus terminus compared to Alyth; the signs at the bus stops don't always say what route it is; drivers cutting the corner of the junction of Perth Road and Dunkeld Road; mini roundabouts that have lost their paint and are not very visible; putting up information posters highlighting what services are available if you are depressed. MY said that there is a questionnaire on the BRCC Facebook page and one of the questions has a list of the services that are available if people would like to check that out.</p> | |
| <p>Item 6 – Riverside parking</p> <p>IR said that this issue has been going on for long enough. He had a good conversation with John Reynolds from Castle Water a couple of weeks ago but it seems to have got worse again. He has been in touch with PKC about possible restrictions at the riverside car park but the feeling is it's not going to be popular. The community greenspace team suggested putting a notice up at the car park and said that it would be more meaningful if it came from the community council. The wording of the sign can be discussed. Mr Reynolds said that one-third of Castle Water staff were local and did not commute. However, some people who live locally have been seen driving to work. IR said that there been occasions when the new Castle Water car park at Tesco had spaces in it and the riverside car park had been packed. SN commented that it was human behaviour that was the issue and that Castle Water had made an effort by providing parking for its employers. IR said that if BRCC produced a notice he would be more than happy to monitor it. It was agreed to proceed with a sign and that a form of words would be agreed. TM said that the roads department wanted to have a parking metre in place at the riverside by the Easter holidays next year. CS said that they were going to redesign the car park so that it had designated parking bays and there would be a free ticket for a certain amount of time and no return within a certain amount of time. Three hours was suggested. It is included in the council's schedule of work. There will be new signage and brown signs to emphasise its status as a car park for visitors. TM suggested that two of the PKC car parks in the town should be long stay car parks rather than just one.</p> | IR |
| <p>Item 7 – CCTV</p> <p>IR said that it was generally thought inappropriate to have a very long high pole in the Wellmeadow and that it would be more appropriate to have a number of cameras when wifi comes to the town centre and that therefore it would be more appropriate if the Blairgowrie and Rattray Business Association (BARBA) took this matter on. Steve Johnson has said that he will raise it at the next meeting of BARBA. BR asked how members of the public felt about it. IR said that it had not gone to consultation yet. What people want is more and better policing. CCTV will not stop crime but it may help provide lines of enquiry or convictions. MY said that online people broadly support the idea. BR asked if businesses were allowed to put cameras on buildings in a conservation area and asked if this discussion was a knee-jerk reaction to a couple of incidents in 2018 and whether there had been any incidents since. CS said that Sgt Nikki Forrester has asked for the mobile CCTV van to be based in Blairgowrie. IR said that he will await the official response from BARBA.</p> | IR |

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| <p>Item 8 – Tesco lorry access problem AD said that Tesco delivery lorries are parking across the pavement while they wait for the gate to the store site to be opened and that people therefore have to walk on the road to get past. AD took this up with Tesco and the drivers will now have to phone ahead 10 minutes before they arrive so that the gates can be opened for them. If this doesn't work then the gates will have to be moved further into the site to accommodate the length of the lorries.</p> | AD |
| <p>Item 9 – Yellow lines on Park Drive They have been done but people are still parking on the double yellows.</p> | AD |
| <p>Item 10 – Treasurer's report</p> <p>The current account, the number 1 account, is used to pay in the sum given to BRCC by PKC and then the community council debits expenses from this account running down what is given. There is a float of £700 given by PKC and each year they top this up. They gave BRCC £700 in June 2019 after expenses were reimbursed for last year however they require the year-end to change from 31st March to 31st August and a set of accounts will be approved and submitted to PKC shortly. They will again top-up the fund and the new BRCC expenses year will start from 1st September.</p> <p>Since last month expenses of £22 for hall hire and £30 for the Citizen of the Year presentation have been paid. £600 was paid from the number 2 account into this account and a cheque for £600 has been paid to the British Heart Foundation as part of the cost of the defibrillator to be placed at Davidsons. The balance in the current account is £3095.70 but this will be £600 less when this cheque is presented.</p> <p>The number 2 account has been credited with £55.33 from the well at the Well meadow. The balance now stands at £6027.16. RD that he believes there is £2682 left from the SSE grant in this account, the rest having been fundraised for events such as the Bonfire Night celebrations. BS said that there should be more money than that left over from the SSE grant. RD says that he can't find the 2016/17 accounts for the number 2 account and will follow that up with BRCC's former treasurer, Pat McGregor before reporting back. He will also ask her for a list of groups in the community that expressed an interest in receiving funds from the well in the Wellmeadow.</p> | RD |
| <p>Item 11 – Councillors' reports</p> <p>BB said he had been approached by a member of the public about people speeding on Woodlands Road. The road safety officer looked at it on Tuesday and suggested putting speed cushions along the straight part of the road. When this came up in 2017 it was suggested that the road was made one way but no one wanted this so they are suggesting consulting with the community on the speed cushions through the community council. IR said that BRCC could easily write to each of the houses and businesses on Woodlands Road. BB said that nine applications had been received for the £25,000 available from the community investment fund. The decision panel was hopefully going to meet early next month in the Rattray Community Connect building.</p> <p>CS said that PKC and Rapier Systems have done surveys on the installation of wifi in the town and that as a result Blairgowrie was going to be the first town in Perth and Kinross to have open network public wifi, some four years since MY first raised the issue. CS said that Wetherspoons were looking at fundraising for a friendship bench. Blair in Bloom had received a gold medal at the Beautiful Scotland awards. The</p> | BB, TM and CS |

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| <p>community council recorded its formal congratulations to Mary Birch and the rest of the team of volunteers. Blair in Bloom has suggested uplighting the new sculpture on Golf Course Road and Perth Road and wondered if BRCC would take on the fundraising for that? The A926 High Street in Rattray is to be closed for eight days. The social work office building on the High Street has been condemned. It has been closed for a while and has been declared not fit for purpose. The only alternative that is suitable for the staff is the Rattray Community Connect building. The social work team will be located in the rooms to the right of the main entrance and the rooms on the left will be available for community use. Longer term there may be other options such as using rooms in the police station for example. CS said that the school has said that the new arrangements work well for them and that public use of the building was sporadic. She does not know what is going to happen to the old building. ST said that this was a cost-saving thing and asked if there should have been a consultation. The Community Connect was built as a community building. It is under-used because it is not open at weekends and because people are priced out of using it. This was forced on people. He asked how safe it is for users of the building when some people are visiting the social work offices. He said he was not sure that the school was happy about it. CS said that when Community Connect was built she was not sure there was a clearly defined purpose for all of the space. They needed to find somewhere for social work to go, it was an operational decision and there is nowhere else at the moment but if buildings do become surplus in the future such as the police station for example then they could be looked at. The safety of children and other users of the building is paramount and this pretty much just office space for social workers who are often out in the field. ST said that he had been led to believe there had been one or two incidents recently where the police have been called and that some groups have been told that they won't be able to use the space. CS said it was not ideal that voluntary groups are having to pay for rooms at Rattray Primary School, the community campus and Blairgowrie High School or that these buildings were closed over the summer. ST asked if this was the thing end of the wedge. CS said that it was three rooms and that the rest were still categorically for community use. It is not necessarily a permanent situation. It helps the case for creating a space in the town for public services. LS asked if the community could get a timescale for when the situation will be reviewed.</p> <p>TM said that the fence at the Wellmeadow had been damaged. A member of the public had owned up to it and it was to be repaired with the costs covered by insurance. The Macular Degenerative Society had invited councillors to a meeting and a number of issues had been feedback to both councillors and council officers regarding signs, dropdown kerbs, overgrown hedges, a lack of crossings.</p> | |
| <p>Item 11 – Pending Planning Applications None</p> | GD |
| <p>Item 12 – Secretary's correspondence None</p> | SN |
| <p>Item 13 – AOCB RD said that the Rotary had been in touch with the Forestry Commission about the Beech Hedge at Meikleour and whether it was going to fall down. The Forestry Commission can't do anything until PKC get in touch with them and he would like BRCC to press PKC to do this so that everyone can get round the table and get something done about the state of the hedge. He said they are spending a fortune getting the Stone of Destiny back to Perth and once again it is all about Perth. The Beech Hedge is a national treasure and something has to be done about it. TM said that the landowner has said that he is not going to do anything about it as there is no</p> | All |

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| <p>benefit to him from doing so. TM said that Meikleour is not within the BRCC catchment area, it is Spittalfield community council's area but that community council is currently in abeyance. CS said that discussions have been re-opened and are more cordial than they were before. She will follow it up with Angus Forbes who is convener of the environment services committee.</p> <p>ST said that not much had been said about the Recreation Centre. IR said that the last he had heard was that there were problems with getting the user reference group together and that was now due to meet in November rather than August as initially suggested.</p> <p>BS said that a defibrillator had been purchased for £600 from the British Heart Foundation. It comes with a training video and six training dummies. A box to put it in has yet to be purchased and so far he has had pledges of money for this from three local businesses. It is expected to cost around £500 as it has to be heated and secure. He has also said to the British Heart Foundation that six members of the public will be trained how to use the defib every month. He expects community councillors and development trust trustees to do the training. He said that as he is standing down from the community council at the elections he will no longer be able to be the coordinator of the Resilience Group. There is a Resilience Group meeting on September 25th if anyone would like to go along with him.</p> <p>AD asked about speeding on the Dunkeld Road. There are lots of houses along that road, and some of them don't have any fences which means children could potentially run out on to the road.</p> <p>LS said there is a petition being started up to get recycling bins in the town centre for plastic bottles, tins etc and asked if it could be promoted on the BRCC website and Facebook page and in the Blairie. A Big Climate Conversation event is being organised by the Blairgowrie, Rattray and District Climate Café on October 18th from 3pm to 7pm at the Royal Hotel in Blairgowrie.</p> <p>MY said there was a consultation on Blairgowrie's housing stock currently under way and asked everyone to fill it in. The link is on the BRCC Facebook page and website. The bonfire night celebrations will take place on Saturday, November 2nd. To future-proof the BRCC Facebook page she suggested inviting more people to be admins of it and has invited Tracie Dick to be an admin. BR raised concerns about non-members of the community council having access to the Facebook page. It was suggested that any decision on that should be left to the new community council which was approved by a majority of those present. MY suggested getting chess boards for the benches at the Riverside and Coronation Corner which BS said was a good idea if they could get Funding for it. MY said that notwithstanding the controversy over parking she would like to congratulate Castle Water on their refurbishment of the building on Haugh Road.</p> <p>IR said that he would like to encourage Castle Water to be get involved more in the community.</p> <p>SN clarified that the current members of the community council will hold meetings in October and November to ensure as much continuity as possible with the new community council.</p> | |
| <p>Date of Next Meeting Thursday, October 10th, 2019, 7pm in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie Street, Blairgowrie</p> | <p>All</p> |

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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:

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