



## BLAIRGOWRIE & RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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 S Nichol (SN)          Mr I Cruickshank (IC)          Mr G Darge (GD)          Mr B Rickwood (BR)          Mr L Seal (LS)          Mr A Thomson (AT)          Mrs M Young (MY)</p> <p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Mr R Duncan (RD)          Mrs C Thomson (CT)          Mr A Donald (AD)</p> <p>Cllr C Shiers (CS)          Cllr T McEwan (TM)</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Mrs Bev Leslie (BL)</p>	<p>Chair          Vice-chair          Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr B Brawn (BB)</p> <p>Ms C Damodaran (CD)</p> <p>Mr Paul Smith</p> <p>Four members of the public</p>	<p>Councillor PKC</p> <p>Press</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>
<p><b>Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies</b>          IR welcomed everyone to the penultimate meeting of this incarnation of the community council. Apologies were received from AD, RD, CT, CS, TM, BL and Police Scotland. Four members of the public were present.</p>			<p>IR</p>
<p><b>Item 2 - Adoption of minutes</b>          The draft minutes of the August meeting were considered for adoption. There were no amendments. MY proposed the adoption of the minutes. IC seconded.</p>			<p>All</p>
<p><b>Item 3 – Matters arising</b>  <b>Community Council elections</b> – SN has requested that all the community councillors not standing for re-election return their rule books and tabards. There had been a delay in getting the results of the nominations from Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) but IR had them now. There were 15 vacancies for BRCC, nine positions have been filled leaving six vacancies. The new community councillors who will take up position with effect from November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, are: Howard Chandler, Euan Donald, Robin</p>			<p>IR</p>

<p>Duncan, Mark Purrmann-Charles, Brian Rickwood, Phil Seymour, Carla Sutherland, Alexander Thomson and Kim Wood. IR offered his congratulations to Howard Chandler who was at the meeting, and thanked those community councillors who had stood for re-election, specifically RD, BR, ST and CT. The first meeting of the new community council will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> and it will be chaired by an elected member of PKC until a new chair is chosen. The current incarnation of the community council will meet for the last time on November 7<sup>th</sup>. If there are nine new members then three members are required to make it quorate. If two members step down, then there will need to be another election to stop it falling into abeyance. BR asked about co-opting new members. IR said they would need to clarify that but historically the position has been that no new members can be co-opted for six months after the election. SN has written an information pack for the new secretary and IR is writing one for the new chair and the plan is to give the new community council as much support as possible.</p> <p><b>Roads, hedges and bus stops</b> – SN said that he had received a very comprehensive email from PKC which he had forwarded to community councillors. PKC seems to have actioned everything the community council requested. White and yellow lines have been painted everywhere and PKC has received funding to install real time information at the bus stops in Blairgowrie by the end of March 2020. Benches within the bus shelters are the responsibility of the bus providers. The council has the power to cut back hedges and charge the homeowner for the work. They will check out the specific instances raised.</p> <p><b>Riverside car park</b> – IR said that he had not re-written the proposed sign for the car park as at the last meeting CS seemed quite confident that restrictions will be in place next year. BB will confirm.</p> <p><b>Recreation centre</b> – The community council has recorded its disappointment that the user reference group (URG) which should have met in August or September has yet to be convened. BB said that the project team are working on getting the URG set up. IR asked him to push the project team on this on behalf of the community council as it is a major issue.</p>	
<p><b>Item 4 – Police and Fire reports</b></p> <p>There was no report submitted from the <b>police</b>. BR said that the police had not been present for the last three meetings or so and that he would like to ask them what was going on with the police station. He said there was no reason why the station could not be open to members of the public on a set day of the week for people to hand in items of lost property or speak to police officers directly. He said he felt the town is being let down by the police. IR said that as far as he was aware the police station is still an assembly point for the police and that the issues raised by BR had been raised by the community council on many an occasion. He said the community council can drop a note to the community sergeant to make their continued disappointment known. BB said that he is meeting with the area commander and will mention it to them. He added that there are only six officers covering a very large area.</p> <p>PS from the <b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)</b> said that crews from Blairgowrie had attended several incidents in the last month, made up of a combination of RTCs, water incidents and fires. He said the weather at this time of year leads to an increase in RTCs. In terms of community engagement, they have just completed a six-week young firefighters’ course with the Air Cadets who have donated to the Firefighters’ Charity as a thank you which was much appreciated. They have also completed the course with Duke of Edinburgh Award participants and pupils from Blairgowrie High School in the past. They held a charity car wash recently at the new Cotly Garage premises which was well attended and raised £631 which was split between the Firefighters’ Charity and the Freedom Coach Association. They did a training exercise at the old Cotly Garage on Atholl Street thanks to Stewart Pitcaithly. If anyone has any buildings that are unused or about to be renovated, then the crew</p>	

<p>would love to hear from them as it is very helpful for firefighters to use real locations to train in. The Blairgowrie crew is also working with pupils from Blairgowrie High School to raise money for the Anthony Nolan Trust and are looking to run an event after the October holidays. Local firefighters have also attended a ‘working with helicopters’ course with the SCAA. They work with them quite regularly so it was good to make sure they know what they do and will look to do something in terms of raising money for them.</p>	
<p><b>Item 5 – Subjects raised by members of the public</b>  One member of the public said that people have been complaining that the police station is closed. IR agreed that it was farcical and almost encouraging people not to hand items of lost property which was a frustration felt by everyone.  <b>Suggestion boxes</b> – LS said that there weren’t any relevant suggestions in the boxes this month.  <b>IC</b> said that he had received one comment at the community market asking why there were two post boxes by the TSB and could one of them be moved somewhere else.  <b>LS</b> said that he has been trying to use the Scotlist website to find out who owns the piece of land opposite Scotmid on Hatton Road in Rattray but can’t get a reference number for it. MY suggested trying the Assessor’s office to see if they have an address, or a GPS reference or an Ordnance Survey grid reference.</p>	
<p><b>Item 6 – Tree planting proposals</b>  LS said that the Rotary Club has given some money to the Climate Café for some apple trees to make a start to the community orchard. Having consulted with an expert it seems that between the Cuttle Bridge and the steps at the riverside would be a good place to start. The trees have been bought.  Additionally, a proposal has been made by a forester who lives in the area and who contributed to the development of the UN’s Sustainable Goals. He wants to work with several landowners and get members of the public to plant trees on several hectares of ground in an effort to reduce carbon. The Climate Café is gauging public interest in the proposals and will go public once they have got land. He wondered if that was something that the current community council would support. BR offered to take this forward with the new community council. SN said that the proposals had also been shared with the development trusts in the area and there was an interest there.</p>	LS
<p><b>Item 7 –Treasurer’s Report</b>  IR said that he would circulate the report that RD has submitted in his absence:</p> <p>The accounts are at the accountant for approval for the five months to end August 2019. The accounts plus a claim for five months expenses will be put into PKC when they will update to give a sum of £700 for the forthcoming year expenses.</p> <p>Current Account No 1 - Expenses.  When I receive PKC expenses, I will leave a balance of £700 in this account and transfer all surplus funds into the No 2 account. This account will only then be used for BRCC expenses and all other financial transactions will be in the No 2 account.  Currently there is £2460.70 in this account and having had a meeting with Pat McGregor (the previous treasurer), I realise that there are funds that were collected previously for the fireworks, nativity etc.</p> <p>No 2 Account</p>	IR and RD

<p>Currently there is £6098.04 in this account having recently deposited £100 from WM Coupar as a donation towards the defibrillator box, and another pay-in from the wishing well of £70.90.</p> <p>Balances identified in this account are as follows -</p> <p>Resilience fund remaining - £3599.63 (includes net amount for defibrillator)</p> <p>Bonfire Fund - £1959</p> <p>Bench Surplus - £354</p> <p>Wishing Well - £324.44</p> <p>You may notice that this will leave a negative balance of £139.03 which will be more than replenished from the balance to be transferred from No 1 account. There is also a balance which is required for the nativity which is being put together by MY. These funds will also come from the No 1 account.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Councillors’ reports</b></p> <p><b>BB</b> said that there had been some correspondence about possibly developing links with Blairgowrie in Australia. IR said that the issue of furthering links with Blairgowrie’s existing twin towns had been raised previously and at that point there had been no appetite in the town for that. Steve Johnson from the Blairgowrie and Rattray Business Association who was at the meeting suggested that it might be something they could take on.</p> <p>BB said that the police had carried out a speeding operation on the A93 between Perth and the Spittal of Glenshee on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. 52 vehicles were stopped including seven bikes and eight commercial vehicles. 11 warnings were given, two for careless driving. One person was reported for having no insurance. There were 15 tachograph offences. There were only 12 speeding offences that day which BB said the police consider to be relatively low. He is pushing for it to be done again.</p> <p>BB is also the new convener of the housing and community safety committee.</p> <p>The Community Investment Fund panel had met. RD and CT from the community council sat on the panel. Nine applications had been received in total requesting a total of £136,000. The fund has £50,000 to distribute this year and was to be split equally over two application periods £25,000 each tranche. However, it was agreed that £30,000 be distributed this time leaving £20,000 to be allocated in the next round, all within this financial year. All the applications were scored against the criteria. They have been submitted to the Local Action Partnership (LAP) with recommendations. The LAP will submit those to PKC’s strategic, policy and resources committee which will make the final decision. The committee meets in November and until then the recommendations are confidential.</p>	BB
<p><b>Item 9 – Pending Planning applications</b></p> <p><b>GD</b> said that an application had been submitted for change of use for the former Co-op premises from retail to industrial for a builders’ yard. A number of members of the community council had suggested that this was not an appropriate use for the centre of town, and he wanted to know if the community council wanted to submit an objection to the application. IR asked to clarify that it is a trade counter and distribution centre. ST said that Howden’s was basically trade only but that they do have people coming in off the street. GD said that it was the change of use that was important as it changes it to industrial use. LS said he had mixed feelings about it if the alternative</p>	GD

<p>was an empty building. BB said that he has asked if it is in a retail zone and that CS has raised the issue of access suggesting it would have to be on the road at the back of Tesco. Any objection would be on the grounds of inappropriate use and losing retail space. A vote was held, and the majority agreed that GD should submit an objection on behalf of the community council.</p> <p>GD said that an application had been received for signage on the A93 right across from the cemetery for Lidl. BB said that the planning application for the development had not received permission yet and was not on the agenda for the committee for this month. It was noted that while they were not keen on the idea that the first thing people see when they arrive in Blairgowrie is a big sign for Lidl there is not much that can be done about it.</p>	
<p><b>Item 10 – AOCB</b></p> <p><b>MY</b> said that she wanted to congratulate ST on his award as volunteer of the year, Blair in Bloom for their efforts this year and Nick and Sue Cole for organising the community markets again this year which seemed to be doing better again. She has also spoken to Alistair Macleod the Community Greenspace ranger about the steps at the Loon Braes which are getting deep furrows along the edges from kids on scooters and bikes which makes it difficult for parents pushing buggies up there. She wants to know if it is possible to make it wider or to create a series of longer ramps to make it easier. Alistair is going to get a landscape architect out to look at it. She also suggested getting water jets along there like they have in some cities. MY will remain as the contact for the Canadian Pipes and Drums even though she will no longer be a community councillor. She will also consider continuing to organise the Bonfire Night event and will liaise with Blairgowrie and Rattray Development Trust regarding potential possible funding sources for the event. She said that all community councillors need to help out as stewards on the night from 6.30pm. The Rotary Club has donated £250 to the event. She is looking at streamlining the process for getting the Christmas tree set up in the Wellmeadow and will revisit the idea of getting a permanent tree in the Wellmeadow with Alistair Macleod but that needs to be thought about quite carefully as there are a lot of pipes under the Wellmeadow.</p> <p><b>BS</b> said that he met with the Community Greenspace architect who will come up with some drawings for the adult exercise equipment at the riverside. They are still working towards a completion date of February next year. He said that they have not yet received the defibrillator for the Wellmeadow. WM Coupar and No 31s have each donated £100 towards the box for housing the defibrillator.</p> <p><b>BR</b> suggested that everyone read a report entitled “State of Nature Report 2019” on the effect on flora and fauna in Scotland of too much urbanisation and not doing enough to mitigate the impact of the climate emergency.</p> <p><b>LS</b> said that the Climate Café was holding a Big Climate Conversation on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> which would see a whole range of information tables and talks at the Royal Hotel from 3pm to 7pm. The idea is to encourage people to come up with ideas and suggestions on what can be done to mitigate the impact of the climate emergency which will then be forwarded to PKC and the Scottish Government.</p>	RD
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7pm in the Adult Resource Centre, Jessie Street, Blairgowrie</p>	All

Distribution (email unless specified):

Community Council Members:

Local Councillors:

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

Mrs C Shiers  
Mr B Brawn  
Mr T McEwan

External:

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

Approved Minutes Distribution:

Website  
One Voice  
Blairgowrie Library  
Discover Blairgowrie  
Police Scotland  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Community Wardens