

Minutes of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council Meeting

6th August 2020

Minutes prepared by E Donald

Attendance

Cllr Bob Brawn, Cllr T. McEwan, Phil Seymour, Robin Duncan, Brian Rickwood, Kim Wood, Mr Mark Purrmann-Charles, Euan Donald

Apologies

Councillor Caroline Shiers, Carla Sutherland, Sandy Thomson, Police

Members of Public – 4 present

BRCC meeting

1. **Minutes from BRCC meeting** 5th March 2020 proposed by Euan Donald & accepted Kim Wood. Due to the length of time since the March meeting, any continuing topics will be itemised below rather than considered under Matters Arising.
2. B&R Coronavirus Coordination Group update
Phil Seymour updated the meeting on the activities carried out and informed the meeting that most of the activities had reached their natural conclusion. The structure of the group has proved effective so there are discussions about how to use the group for continuing support in the town. There were over 150 volunteers. Phil Seymour thanked all the members and contributors for their efforts. Fraser Bissett from Blairgowrie Rugby Club and Willie Donaldson from Blairgowrie Bowling Club were praised for their exceptional efforts throughout the last few months
3. Subjects raised by members of the public.
 - a. Cutting of verges petition (pics) It was suggested that the verges for many roads should be left to grow wild and encouraged to grow wild flowers to increase biodiversity and to brighten up the roadsides around Perthshire.
Councillor Bob Brawn offered to approach PKC about this and look at how to

- get feedback. Brian Rickwood gave examples of successful implementation of wild verges within other councils and Mark Purrmann-Charles reported that the Climate Café had raised a petition on this matter
- b. It was raised by a member of the public that the woodland between Riverside Park and Kirk Wynd which is part of the conservation area seems to have been neglected. Councillor Tom McEwan reported that this was subject to a preservation order and that the Greenspace Officer was currently re-assigned to help deal with the current Covid-19 issues as were many others in PKC
 - c. graffiti has appeared in Mill St and other areas. PKC is aware and will deal with it as staff are released from Covid-19 duties
 - d. two birches in the front street side which overhang 21 Riverside Park. This will be dealt with as PKC staff return to their normal duties
4. Police and Fire Reports. The Police Commanders reports for July – 5th August are collated and appended to these minutes
 5. Sub-committee updates:
 - a. Citizen of the Year - The two winners were Mary Birch from Blair in Bloom and Kay Seal from the Climate Cafe.
 - b. Christmas tree – intention is to provide the Christmas tree this year
 - c. Bonfire night - decision to be made by next meeting, will depend on Scottish Government and PKC advice.
 - d. Fireworks display will not go ahead due to current social distancing advice
 - e. Resilience Team – no update
 6. Berries and Cherries Bed – agreement that this should be taken on by Blair in Bloom
 7. Bendochy telephone box – more information needed from Coupar Angus Community Council on responsibilities. Euan Donald to follow up
 8. Blairgowrie telephone box and defibrillator – no decision made
 9. Treasurer's report – Robin Duncan presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy is available on request.
 10. Local Councillor's reports Councillors
 - a. Councillor Bob Brawn explained that there was a lot of redeployment in PKC to deal with the Covid-19 issue. There will be a budget review in September. Councillor Brawn also praised the efforts of all the volunteers and encouraged the community to support the local businesses. Pupils would be returning to schools and this would be a key focus for PKC

- b. Councillor Tom McEwan agreed with the comments from Councillor Brawn and added his praise for the NHS workers as well as the 150 volunteers in the Blairgowrie and Rattray area. How do we get that community spirit to continue? The focus is, and will remain, on Covid-19 with specific effort to support people who may be shielding or supporting vulnerable people.

11. Pending Applications

- a. Altamount Development Mr Fraulo discussed an possible upcoming planning application for Altamount Park to permit the expanded use of 10 cottages on the site through the withdrawal of Condition 6 which had been imposed by the planning authorities when the cottages were built in 2010. There was discussion about the changing circumstances during the past 10 years. Mr Fraulo is keen to get the support of the local community in his planning application for the withdrawal of Condition 6 under Section 42 to remove the planning condition relating to occupancy
- b. Piggy Lane development. The Community Council received a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) from Scotia Homes and Petrie Family for a proposed development on land 220m south west of entrance to Maple Lane, Blairgowrie. The PAN relates to the proposed erection of 109 dwelling houses, garages and associated works. BRCC will engage with the developer to ensure there are opportunities for public consultations. Details of the PAN can be found on the PKC website

12. Planning session for councillors – no action taken

13. Roads, parking and crossing issues

- a. The many changes to parking and crossing roads in the area were discussed. There has been an increase in the use of 20mph zones. Parking has been changed and pedestrian routing has been introduced to encourage social distancing. The pedestrian crossing sequence in the centre of Blairgowrie has been amended. There was discussion around the parking exclusion zone set up around Newhill School. The changes made by PKC currently have a maximum life of 18 months. If they prove impractical, they can be withdrawn earlier.

14. Spaces for people update – no actions due to current Covid-19 issue
15. Litter picking initiative – Phil Seymour is exploring how this could be done within social distancing guidelines
16. Culture Perth & Kinross Covid-19 Collecting Project - Culture Perth & Kinross is the charitable trust that looks after the region's Museums, Archives and Libraries. They are creating a Covid-19 Collection which reflects how people, business and communities across Perth & Kinross are affected by the pandemic. The collection will become available to current and future generations to understand the impact of Coronavirus and learn from our experiences. They would like to hear from anyone who might have something of interest to contribute. Details are appended to the minutes.

Phil Seymour, Steve Johnson and Kim Wood to approach the Business Association.

The request will be added to the BRCC Facebook page

17. Community feedback – carried over to next month's meeting
18. Future meetings: physical or virtual, when do we return to "normal"? – Take advice from Scottish Government and PKC
19. AOB
 - a. Recreation Centre – concern was expressed about the very tight timescales for public discussion via URG. There will also be a review of budget priorities by PKC at the end of September. PKC recognises that the Recreation Centre is integral to the High School requirements and is seen as an important project
 - b. No update on the West Park plans
 - c. Clunie Loch – Carla Sutherland has agreed to be the BRCC representative on the Clunie Loch Steering Committee. There were discussions around applying for a Clearway around the loch (initially A923) to prevent parking, a competition to be run by BRCC for primary school to design signs to promote responsible use of the site, a litter pick. Since the meeting, the clearway has been implemented by the local authority
20. Next meeting – 10th September. Note: BRCC meetings will revert to the 2nd Thursday of each month

Distribution of Minutes by email unless specified:

BRCC:

Mr Phil Seymour
Mr Brian Rickwood
Mr Euan Donald
Mr Robin Duncan
Mr Steve Thomson
Miss Carla Sutherland
Mrs Kim Wood
Mr Mark Purrmann-Charles
Cllr Caroline Shiers
Cllr Bob Brawn
Cllr Tom McEwan

External:

PKC Community Councils
Clare Damodaran (Press)
Mrs B Leslie (Blairgowrie HS)
BRCC Website
Blairgowrie & Rattray Development Trust

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Attachments

3. Letter concerning verge cutting



Verge Cutting Letter

4. Police Commander Reports



Commanders
Bulletins July-August,

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