

# **Minutes of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Minutes prepared by E Donald

## **Attendance**

Cllr Caroline Shiers, Cllr Bob Brawn, Cllr Tom McEwan, Phil Seymour, Robin Duncan, Kim Wood, Mr Mark Purrmann-Charles, Carla Sutherland, Sandy Thomson, Euan Donald, Steve Johnson

## **Apologies**

Brian Rickwood, Police, Fire

## **Members of Public** – 2 present

### **BRCC meeting**

1. The draft minutes from the August meeting were approved (proposed by Robin Duncan, seconded by Kim Woods)
2. B&R Coronavirus Coordination Group update – the group has been suspended as it has fulfilled its purpose. Individuals may “buddy-up” to help in specific situations but this is outside of the remit of the Group
3. Subjects raised by members of the public.
  - a. Cutting of verges petition – Cllr Brawn reported that PKC has received several petitions ranging from no cutting to regular, heavy cutting. No decision has been made
  - b. Recreation Centre – there was a lot of debate about: delays; changes to facilities and lack of planned facilities such as changing rooms, toilets, staff changing rooms, socialising area, space for children’s parties; is it still fit for purpose give the growth plans for Blairgowrie and Rattray; lack of consultation process; funding adequacy. Cllr McEwan reported that the completion date was summer 2023 which is close to the original date. There was general disappointment at where we are with the process. There is a capital project meeting due at PKC on 30<sup>th</sup> September where this is one of five major projects to be discussed. Cllr McEwan reminded the CC that this was primarily a school project so had a high priority. Questions were also raised about whether the project could be split into modules to allow money to be raised

locally to fund some of the build. For example, a significant sum of money (~£400K) was raised locally to fund the tennis courts. Cllr McEwan pointed out that the orientation of the building cannot be changed as it has to fit in with current and future plans for the High School. Cllr Brawn will try to arrange a Zoom meeting for before 30th September where all the stakeholders can discuss the many issues raised. Phil Seymour will follow up with a letter to the Chief Executive of PKC

- c. Clunie Loch – Carla Sutherland reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Steering Group. Topics being explored include: whether or not to place bins in strategic areas; potential bye-law to ban alcohol; expand clearway beyond the current section of the A923 to all round the loch which would require a drop off zone and nearby parking; a schools competition to design signage which focus on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The Community Council agreed to sponsor the Signage competition. The next meeting of the Steering Group is the beginning of October.

- d. Other items –

**Graffiti** is increasingly being seen around the town. Councillor Shiers reported that PKC is trialling special wipes which remove graffiti. The Community Council asked if these wipes would be available to the Community Council which could then deal with the graffiti quickly and without resorting to PKC employees needing deployed.

**The site at West Park** is very neglected and unsightly. Weeds are spreading to neighbouring gardens. Councillor Brawn offered to try and get the weeds cut back but didn't know if he could trace the owner

**The private land on Reform Street** has returned to its very messy state. It was cleaned by PKC a few months ago but there is extensive litter and dumping of larger items. There also appear to be gas cylinders abandoned at Marfield. There is nothing that can be done by PKC as these are private land. Councillor Shiers noted that there is funding which the landowner can apply for to help with waste removal.

4. Police Report. Fire Report - The Police and Fire Reports are attached to the end of these minutes.
5. Proposal of Application Notice - Land 220 m south west of entrance to Maple place Blairgowrie: Presentation by Scotia Homes. It was agreed that this was too big a topic to include in a BRCC monthly meeting, so an extraordinary meeting is to be arranged. BRCC will contact Scotia Homes and suggest that we can hold a Zoom meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm. This will need widely publicised. Euan Donald will follow up this with Scotia Homes.
6. Sub-committee updates:

- a. Christmas tree – as of 10<sup>th</sup> September, no update
7. Bendochy telephone box – BRCC has agreed to take on the public liability insurance commitment for the Bendochy telephone box used as a library. The annual cost is £25.20. Euan Donald will contact PKC to confirm.
8. Blairgowrie telephone box and defibrillator – There were over 90 responses on the Facebook page confirming that the local population approved of BRCC taking on ownership of the telephone box and installing a defibrillator. There was a discussion around how to fund the purchase of the defibrillator. Phil Seymour offered to explore some of the options and report back at the next meeting. He will also let BT know that we will adopt the phone box at a cost of £1.00. Annual upkeep of the phone box and defibrillator should be manageable through the donations from the well in the Wellmeadow. The committee will look at ways to highlight how the donations will be used. This may include signage at the Wellmeadow and an article in the Blairgowrie Gazette.
9. Treasurer's report – Robin Duncan submitted the Treasurer's Report and is finalising the Annual Report with the auditors
10. Local Councillor's reports –  
**Local shops** have complained that too many people are claiming to have an exemption to wearing masks. The local population and visitors alike have a responsibility to follow Public Health Scotland advice (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>).
- PKC Officers** have been working very hard during the pandemic maintaining urgent services. BRCC is very happy to recognise and praise the hard work done on our behalf
11. Planning session for councillors – as of 10<sup>th</sup> September, no update
12. Roads, parking and crossing issues –  
**Newhill School** - there was a wide ranging discussion on the subject of parking restrictions around Newhill School. Issues reported included: little or no communication from PKC (especially the Transport Division) with the local residents especially considering that this was first raised 18 months ago; covid-19 used to push the issue; just pushing the issue up the road a bit; school is landlocked so the problem will only get worse as the building initiatives are realised; many people use car as they are dropping children off at multiple locations such as nursery, Newhill and High School. It was recognised that it is good to encourage less use of the car but how will this be measured and will the cycle lanes recently created be kept and expanded. The possibility of using Hazelwood Road for drop-off was discussed but it was pointed out that the land between Hazelwood Road and the school is

owned by several different landowners. To date the landowners have not been able to agree on the development of this land. The Community Council agreed that Councillor Shiers and Phil Seymour would discuss this with PKC.

**Wellmeadow** – there are a lot of cars going through the lights when they are at Red. The speed alert sign at Rattray is not working. Councillor Brawn has already reported this to the Traffic Department.

13. Litter picking initiative – as of 10<sup>th</sup> September, no update

14. Community feedback –

**Increase visibility of BRCC**- it was suggested that the Community Council should contact other community groups to highlight the meetings to try to encourage more attendance at the monthly meetings

**Questionnaire** – Kim Wood suggested a questionnaire be sent out to the local community to find out what is important to the community and which issues BRCC needs to focus on

**Agenda** – Steve Johnson suggested that we include a “hot topics” overview of the agenda to try to hook people into attending the monthly meetings

15. AOB

**AGM** - It will be the AGM next month

**West Park** – no news on progress

**BRCC** – could Community Councillors create a short “bio” for publication on Facebook page  
Bench at the bottom of the Knockie – Kim Wood expressed her thanks for the installation of a bench at the bottom of the Knockie

16. Date of Next Meeting – the next meeting will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via Zoom. The meeting will also be the AGM.

**Distribution of Minutes by email unless specified:**

**BRCC:**

Mr Phil Seymour  
Mr Brian Rickwood  
Mr Euan Donald  
Mr Robin Duncan  
Mr Steve Johnson  
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

## Attachments

### 17. Police Commander Reports



Police Commanders  
Reports August- Sept

### 18. Fire Report



Fire Report.pdf

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