



Minutes of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council Meeting

8th April 2021

Minutes prepared by Euan Donald.

Attendance - Phil Seymour, Kim Wood, Robin Duncan, Sandy Thomson, Stephen Johnson, Carla Sutherland, Morag Young, Euan Donald, Councillor Caroline Shiers, Councillor Tom MacEwan, Councillor Bob Brawn

Apologies – Chris Smith (Fire Scotland)

Members of the public - Clare Damodaran, Grant Laing, Tim Baynes, Billy Whytock, Lynne Michaels cottage), Wendy Symington, Ian Lowe, Christopher McCleery

ORDINARY MEETING

1. Adoption of previous minutes Proposed by Sandy Thomson and seconded by Robin Duncan
2. Laird Aggregates Ltd - Proposed Extension to Marlee Quarry, Blairgowrie - Proposal of Application Notice – update

Members of the Public Comments

Tim Baynes attended a meeting last week which was covered by the Blairie. Main issues are around timing. It has happened extremely fast, and the scale is much bigger. Application in next 3 months, still awaiting a lot of reports which need digested. Residents are very unhappy. He asked if it was possible for BRCC to help get the information which is outstanding and a copy of the plan.

There was considerable discussion about the actual application and consensus that proper discussions with Laird are needed. Time is short as comments must be in by 30th April and there cannot be objective assessment if all the reports are not in.

One property owner did have a conversation with Laing around their cottage and the proposed level of heavy traffic. Laing said that discussions should be through Dalgleish and Willie Booth for legal reasons. Most residents in the area affected were concerned about traffic on Essendy Road with lorries crossing Essendy Road against the traffic into Cleaves. This will add to all the traffic such as West Park. Wider community needs to be informed to understand the wider implications for the town.

It was pointed out that it was a relatively safe road, but the data used was from 2015. What was the latest rate of accidents?

There has certainly been at least one fatality. Palace Road is already a bit of a rat run with heavy lorries 2m wide on a 3m road. The question was asked- does PKC Roads Department think nothing is wrong? In addition, have the police and road traffic people been consulted?

There seems to be a significant difference in the way planners and the community get to prepare. The planners have been working on this for 6 years, but the community get 3 months to respond. This is not a public consultation as there has not been the facility for all stakeholders to engage. One resident received a letter was on 11th March which was little notice. Elderly people want to have a face-to-face meeting in a town hall or similar. It seems very unfair that this is limited to Zoom. The process must be made available to all. It must also be broadcast widely to ensure the whole community can respond. Clare Damodaran confirmed that there was a piece in the Blairie and that there will also be a piece in the Aberdeen Press & Journal.

BRCC comments

Councillor Brawn said that PKC is waiting for their application. Once received, it must be assessed within three months.

Phil Seymour noted that it is difficult to conduct a true consultation when we are in lockdown. The Scottish Government confirms that Zoom is considered an appropriate medium for consultation and that PAN lasts 3 months depending on receipt of specific reports.

Councillor Brawn reported that the applicant feels they have done the best they can in the circumstances, but he and Councillor Shiers said that they seem amicable to further discussions. However, Sandy Thomson thought it seemed beneficial to the Laird group that there is a delay until the reports come through. Councillor Brawn stated that the BRCC and residents can put that view forward. Grant Laing – once the PAN is submitted the applicant must bring mitigation to any issues. If there are more than 6 objections the applicant must listen to this and respond. Process is in hands of the developer. Anyone can object from anywhere in the country.

Bob – PAN already heard by planning and brought up air quality, transport and other issues.

Phil Seymour suggested that a wider consultation was necessary and that we need the reports before this element is closed.

There was general agreement about the need for a risk assessment on the extra traffic as Essendy Road is already very busy for school kids to cross and the Palace Road could become a rat run with all the new developments. We need to raise awareness. Some of the issues are already on the BRCC Facebook page.

Phil Seymour proposed we get in touch on wider impact and short timescales. We can also ask to lengthen timescales (consultation ends 30th April). There is no formal planning application in yet. Once application goes in there are three months to decide. If this goes beyond three months, the Scottish Government can impose a decision with no recourse. Morag Young suggested that a local lawyer could be enlisted. Grant was not too worried about consultation phase as it will be used as a fishing exercise to help mitigate risks. Both sides should be ready for the planning phase. PAN is warning for planning a

campaign. Councillor Brawn agreed that this is just the PAN. It is just a consultation. The important phase is the planning application.

It was agreed that the group should seek more time, prepare for the planning stage. BRCC is behind this plan. The support of the Blairie was recognised and will be needed. We should also use Facebook to publicise that this will affect the whole of Blairgowrie and we should contact West Park.

3. Subjects raised by members of the public.

- a. Clunie Loch – update great video for schools. Grant – persuasion not force is the best way to change behaviour.
- b. Other items – discussion on a letter of complaint from a member of the public about graffiti. There is not much that BRCC can do to address this directly. A reply will be sent outlining our thoughts and possible actions.

4. Planning

- a. layby/drop off zone on Elm Drive – update. Has the playpark been abandoned? No response to Kim Wood's questions. Sandy Thomson said that it is still on the planning submission. This might be just an overview for marketing. Kim Wood will chase it again. Site has planning approval, but specific house layout not submitted. Steve Johnson noted that the West Park plans changed as they were called indicative.
- b. space for people review 20mph. Morag Young worried that it will just make criminals of many people over a non-issue. Kim Wood thought it was good in some areas but a waste of time in others. If you make it too wide ranging, it might lose its relevance. Grant pointed out that many villages and hamlets want 20mph and that the speed limit should not be thought of as a "speed target". No residents in villages want the speed limit restored to 30mph. Councillor Brawn noted that 20mph limits do slow people down, most residents want to keep them. Police caught a lot of people doing over 20mph. Morag was concerned that if it is used too often, the focus is lost on the areas where they are needed. Phil Seymour noted these points and suggested that BRCC waits for PKC survey and reflect on its conclusions.

5. Police Report. Fire Report These reports are included at the end of these minutes.

6. Sub-committee updates:

- a. Christmas Tree – details are included in the Finance Report. Unfortunately, the Lights Committee has no money either.
- b. Bonfire night – hoping carpark at Davy Park due for tarmac. Sandy Thomson confirmed that the only area which will get tarmac will be the area for disabled spaces.
- c. Blairgowrie telephone box and defibrillator – Kim Wood has asked for kid's drawings and received two drawings already. Kim also suggested that we could also spruce up the bench by the phone box which was agreed as an action depending on cost. Phil Seymour informed BRCC that Blair in Bloom intend to add a planter. We should acknowledge people who have helped.
- d. Resilience Group – Power for Town Hall. Electrician has retired, no details of the plans. Need to start from scratch. PKC now on the case. John Beveridge is investigating. Steve Johnson asked

if there is still power at Rattray Hall and does it have a generator. What happens if the hall is sold? It does not have a generator but has facility for a generator. The connector belongs to BRCC.

- e. Pleasanton links – ask the community what their view is. Get a group of people to create a group. Morag suggested Steve Johnson sends out an eblast to businesses to see if there is interest.

7. Treasurer's report – lock on the well needs replaced.

8. Local Councillor's reports

- a. Councillor Brawn – library carpark electric charges still not live, Ferguson Park work started, tenant's association interest expressed, Marfield looking to build on the site, West Park, Lidl and Home Bargains start work 12 may, Lidl Feb 2022, Home Bargains May 22. Interest in other three blocks but no names. Drive through may be Starbucks. Morag Young asked if local businesses could take space and can the sizes be reduced. Councillor Brawn said that they can but pointed out that they are big. Councillor Brawn said that there has been no discussion about a visitor centre. Steve Johnson thought that Lidl were happy to support something. Sandy Thomson noted that the core paths had been moved. This was for drainage requirements. It will not be a natural path but a walkway/pavement which is better for wheelchair access. Councillor MacEwan noted that there were no detailed plans for after phase 1.
- b. Councillor Shiers – Firstly have had confirmation that a handrail will be installed from the top of Brae Rd down to Davie Park, long overdue to help folks down those steps, need to get the date for the meeting with Chris Martin for greenspace discussion, Sgt Duncan has allocated an officer to investigate the ongoing issues with vandalism especially around Lower Mill St, Huge thanks to all those who turned out for the litter pick. A huge amount of litter collected. I have asked officers to look at Ashgrove Road as it needs attention as there is a lot of fly tipping/litter etc. along there and it is a very well used walking and cycling route that links into the Strathmore Cycle Network so does need some improvement.
- c. Councillor MacEwan – nothing to add.

9. AOB

- a. Project promoting the rich history of Blairgowrie and area - Robin made a plea for many parts to be included. Caroline promoting digital promotion. Grant suggested several areas which would fit well with this project.
- b. Charging of companies for use of PKC Recycling premises – is this causing fly tipping? PKC has not prosecuted people for fly tipping ever. Councillor Brawn said that not charging would be very expensive...far more than the cost of fly tipping. He will get some costing to show the issue.
- c. Meet with PKC Dept. responsible for care of council houses to explore policy on repairs and upkeep. Robin to give dates to Bob for a meeting.
- d. Sir William McPherson memorial – Sir William did a tremendous job with support to Blairgowrie. Can we mark his passing? Two proposals
 - i. rename the Riverside Park as McPherson park

- ii. create a memorial, Phil had a meeting with local sculpture David Wilson. Bob...need to approach planning department.
- e. Kim Wood was asked to report that some permanent static caravans have appeared in fields near Burnhead Road, are they legal? Councillor Brawn will investigate this.
- f. Morag Young asked about 3 bronze age sites on the area subject to the Laird PAN. Councillor MacEwan said they will be protected.
- g. Wi-Fi - Morag Young and Steve Johnson will investigate how to promote the Wi-Fi in the town centre.

Next meeting – 13th May 2021 @ 6:30pm. Meeting via Zoom.

Distribution of Minutes by email unless specified:

BRCC:

Mr Robin Duncan
Mr Sandy Thompson
Mrs Kim Wood
Miss Carla Sutherland
Mrs Morag Young
Mr Steve Johnson
Mr Euan Donald
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

10. Police Commander Reports



Commanders Bulletin
24032021.pdf



Commanders Bulletin
31032021.pdf

11. Fire Report



03 BRCC March 2021
Report.pdf

12. Treasurer's Report
Available on request