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|  | **BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL** |

Agreed Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 13th October 2022 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via ZOOM.

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| **ATTENDANCE**  BRCC Members  Scott MacGregor (SM)  Gina Purrmann (GP)  Samantha Stewart (SS)  Pete Richardson (PR)  Lesley McDonald (LD)  Jamie Louise Morrison (JLM)  Steve Johnson (SJ)  Laura Rodger (minutes) | Chairperson  Secretary | Councillors  Bob Brawn (BB)  Press  Clare Damodaran (CD)  5 members of the public (in person/online) | **ABSENCES**  Ian Ewan (IE)  **APOLOGIES**  Tom McEwen (TM) Caroline Shiers (CS)  David Cuthill (DC) Robin Duncan (RD)  Police and Fire Service | |
| **Item 1:**  SM welcomed everyone to the meeting. Proposed recording for minute taker. No objections. AGM commences as part one of the meeting. Fire exits are pointed out, as well as toilets. Apologies from RD, DC CS, TM, Police and Fire. | | | |  |
| **Item 2 – Adoption of draft minutes of 9 September 2022 meeting**  The minutes were proposed by SJ, PR seconded.  Decision: September minutes approved with no amendments. | | | | **Actions**  SM  GP  PR  GP  SS  SM |
| **Item 3 – Matters raised by members of the public**   1. Wellmeadow Flag Pole  Four people contacted the secretary about the absence of the Saltire immediately after the mourning period for the Queen. Two people raised the issue of the Ukrainian flag not being put back. The members of the public didn’t mind that the flag had been taken down, it was just the time that was taken to put it back up that had left them disappointed. SM explained that the delay was due to the flag being dry-cleaned. Dealing with the Wellmeadow flag is done on a voluntary basis. A member of the public was worried that political issues caused the delay. SM highlighted the need to be mindful of different points of view in the town. The member of the public has volunteered to help with flag changeovers. SM pointed out that there would soon be three flagpoles in the Wellmeadow, so there will no longer be the need for flags to come down and be replaced. Flagpoles will be further away from the trees. SM said the reason the Ukrainian flag hadn’t gone back up, is because extra clips were needed. Also, there is the Ukrainian flag just behind, at the Chemist’s. But if everyone is in favour of the Ukrainian flag going back up, he is happy to do so. A member of the public opposed the Ukrainian flag going up, as there are wars all over the world. LM said that there is a difference, as we are hosting Ukrainians at the moment. GP pointed out that there is also the other difference that Europe is getting together and we are part of Europe. Another member of public backed this up saying that it demonstrates our support.   Decision: If more people contact BRCC re the Ukrainian flag going back up, we can reconsider.  b) Tree Removal – Howes Yard, Rattray  A member of the public expressed concern that mature trees around the edge of the yard are being removed. BB made enquiries with PKC, but has not yet received an answer. SJ suggested that we ask Howes about what is happening. Action: GP will write to Howes. | | | |
| **Item 4 –** **Matters arising/reports back**  **4a. Resilience/Flooding (CS/PR)** PR explained that the funding has now been received. Items will be ordered tomorrow. Flood sax should be here next week. Everything is in hand. PR will put first aid manuals into the resilience rucksacks. Training will be given on utilisation of the rucksacks. A tabletop exercise with the police and fire services to take place. Resilience team must be Community Councillors because they will then be covered by PKC insurance. PR explained that Floodsax are the size of a pillow. When in contact with water, they become big and heavy, can hold up to 25KG of water, and barriers can be built with them. If there is sudden flooding, people can act for themselves very quickly. Telephone numbers of SM and PR are on the container, so they can be contacted if necessary.  **4b. Climate Action (DC/GP)**  Tayside Climate Hub contacted us. They will attend the next meeting to talk about how various climate actions can be coordinated. Member of the public had information about funding for e-bikes, and this was passed on to the team looking into this. JLM mentioned concern was raised about the brightness of LED lights on bats, and this is still under discussion with PKC.  **4c. Twinning (GP)**  There is an article in Brebières magazine this month about their trip here. They sent thanks yet again. Contact has been made with new groups in the towns.  The Chieftain emailed about a plaque from Pleasanton that he has been holding. He proposed that it be displayed somewhere in the town. A display case, also for the gifts from Brebières, in the library or the town hall were suggested. SS believes the library will be the better option as the town hall is used for more lively events, so a glass cabinet should not be placed there.  Action: GP to ask the library about this. The Pleasanton fire truck was also brought up. The truck belongs to the town, but the original committee disbanded 20 years ago. It was possibly owned by the fire service, but there is no paper trail. Everyone says that it belongs to “the community”. The family who look after it need some financial support to maintain it. There needs to be an organisation that agrees to take on the fire truck, look after the admin and apply for funds. Possibly BRCC or BRDT; a conversation will need to take place. BB thinks that this would come under the BRDT.  Decision: SS will meet with BRDT.  **4d. Noticeboards (CS/SM)**  No update.  **4e. Maintenance in Blairgowrie and Rattray (SM)** SM has seen and circulated revised PKC maps, following site visits to open spaces around town. PKC are trialling a ‘managed for wildlife’ approach to encourage biodiversity. The trial finishes on the 31st of October. The point of biodiversity and rewilding is that small areas are needed to link up bigger areas. Less than 10% of official nature reserves are actually linked up. LM said this could be done in a more human friendly way, like with the PKC Stepping Stones project.  A member of the public brought up the Ardblair trail: what is going to happen to it once new concrete and new buildings surround it. If we keep building houses, it will be difficult to improve biodiversity. BB explained that the number of houses being built there is reducing.  Communities can get involved with the Local Development Plan. Last one was in 2017; the next will be in 2025. Residents can put across their perspectives. No new sites will be coming on before then. BB highlighted that no builder is going to be build what they can’t sell. With the exception of commercial development, everything else is just a master plan. Affordable housing has been spread to allow more greenspace. Architects are listening and responding to the market climate.  **4f. Football Pitch (SS/SM)**  SM was in touch with relevant parties, who said that there was going to be a meeting between SFA, BRCFC and the Juniors committee. SM asked if he could attend the meeting and was told no. The meeting was moved to the 25th at 7pm. It is going to be a closed meeting. BRCC will meet with the juniors and find out what they want. SS pointed out that BRCC was approached for support and that they have been continuously blocked from doing that. BRCC will attend a meeting with the Juniors to discuss these issues. This will give BRCC a greater understanding of what is going on, and establish what we can do to help support. GP advocated that anyone should be allowed to bring a support person to a meeting. The football pitch is a community asset, so it is appropriate that BRCC is involved. PKC has refused to provide information on community owned land. SM will report back from the meeting.  **4g. PA System for the Town (SS)**  It will hopefully be used at the community event on 5th November. The Legion asked about using it on Remembrance Sunday and Friday 11th. Enquiry about the price to be answered.  **4h. Fireworks** Fireworks are not happening. There will be an alternative event using money pledged from businesses. Point to be moved to the bottom of agenda and brought back for next year. | | | |
| **Item 5 – New Projects**  SS described the proposed alternative November 5th event. There will be food, hot drinks, music, sparklers, entertainment, and it will be completely free. Tesco donated a few sparklers. Girlguiding will do free tea, coffee and hot chocolate for all. Talking to the Dome about food. SS said that eco-friendly, reusable glow sticks can be provide and Strathmore Dance will incorporate into their dance routine. Further entertainment still being explored. Timing of the event to be confirmed. BRCC will raise money to cover costs. | | | |  |
| **Item 6 – Traffic Matters**  TM has raised the issue of temporary traffic regulation and would like BRCC input before replying. No amendment to current speed limits. No 20mph countdown signs required. BB added that surveys that have been done over P&K which indicated that people do not begin to slow down until after 20mph zone is reached. BB looking to find out if people want the temporary orders put in during Covid to continue, or if they would like it to revert to pre-Covid. The councillors will respond individually to TM. Traffic lights at Boat Brae: SM pointed out a three-way traffic light would be safer. A collision occurred today as a consequence of poor placement. BB will take this forward.  BB added that two major traffic works are coming up. Resurfacing works from 3rd November on Golf Course Road for 2 weeks – diversion through the town. Major road works start 17th Nov for 5 days in three phases. First, paving resurfacing by Castle Water will be on traffic light control. Second, resurfacing on Boat Brae. Road will be closed between 9.15 and 3pm. Third, resurfacing of the road along the Wellmeadow. Full road closure, 9am-3pm. Road is closed for health and safety reasons relating to the width of the road. BB will bring up convoy system at upcoming PKC meeting. | | | |  |
| **Item 7 –** **Planning Matters**  No planning matters discussed at this meeting. | | | |  |
| **Item 8 – Police & Fire Reports**  **Fire Report:**  Blairgowrie were mobilised 35 times in September to a range of operational incidents across Perth & Kinross. Community Safety Engagement: Blairgowrie Community Fire Station completed 19 HFSV in September 2022 and would encourage anyone looking for home fire safety advice to request one through the Scottish Fire and Rescue service website. Young Firefighters courses with RAF Cadets completed in September and were well attended by local young people. All operational Intelligence visits of high-risk business premises in the Blairgowrie area have been completed. Additional Information: CC Shepherd is planning to open the doors of Blairgowrie Fire Station to the local community to tackle loneliness, poor mental health, challenge heat poverty, whilst giving free home fire safety advice through a series of coffee mornings during winter and is keen to speak to anyone that can help us reach out to those in our community that would benefit most – [frankie.shepherd@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:frankie.shepherd@firescotland.gov.uk). We are also on the lookout for any unused buildings (All shapes, sizes, layouts) to complete Breathing Apparatus training. These types of exercise are crucial to ensuring local resilience and firefighter safety. It's becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable locations in the local area. All training would be completed dry (No use of water) and care would be taken not to cause any damage to the premises – if anyone thinks they can help then please contact [paul.smith2@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:paul.smith2@firescotland.gov.uk).  **Police Report:** ‘That Guy’ Sexual Crime Prevention Campaign launched. Men are being challenged to be a mate, to step in and put a stop to behaviour that might put their friends at risk of sexual offending. “This isn't about shaming. We are asking men to be a mate, look out for your friends, to join the conversation and to stop sexual offending before it starts." officers worked with local community wardens and street pastors to engage with young people in Perth city centre as part of #OpStung, which aims to address antisocial behaviour in the area. Thousands of students across the country are getting ready to start university and planning for Freshers’ Week is well underway. Police Scotland aims to provide students with important safety advice about how you can avoid becoming a victim of crime. As we move from summer to autumn and the darker nights draw in I feel it prudent to provide some home security advice. Although having your home broken into is something many people fear, it is not a common occurrence.  We should all be vigilant as in previous years communities within Perthshire have been victim to criminals who travel from other areas to take advantage of our rural communities; particularly those situated close to the main arterial routes of the A9, A90 and M90. | | | |  |
| **Item 9 –** **Chair’s Report**  Please see report in AGM minutes. | | | |  |
| **Item 10 –** **Treasurer’s report**  Finance report to 1st Oct 2022 Admin a/c -At 31st August Balance was £141.41. Accountancy gift plus minute fee paid. Remaining balance is £74.66.  Account ending 560. Since the year end we have received the resilience fund from SSE of £10000. £135.10 banked from the well. Balance now £16370.38. | | | |  |
| **Item 11 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  GP stated that there are a number of consultation opportunities. 3rd November, a PKC transport forum meeting. PKC are very keen to get it going again. 7th Nov, a PKC key priorities meeting to be held at Blairgowrie Campus. Drimmie Woods consultation: the head forester based in Stirling has written to BRCC. A response from BRCC will be discussed outwith this meeting. A Cost of Living Community Fund is now available. | | | |  |
| **Item 12 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  BB tackled everything that he needed to report in previous parts of the meeting. | | | |  |
| **Item 13 –** **AOCB**  GP said that DC wanted to bring up the Grand Mentor Scheme. Something worth pursuing. Perhaps it can be done under the umbrella of engaging with representing young people.  SM mentioned that a meeting had been held about the nativity cube. Whether it can go ahead is dependent on the frame being rebuilt. Update once more is known. Future storage needs to be found. Illuminations cannot be responsible for it (February minutes).  SJ reminded that there would be a community event at the town hall this weekend (presentation on community action plan, etc). Sunday, 2pm – 4pm.  JLM also added that there would be apple pressing at the rugby club.  LM mentioned that blueberry picking still ongoing (2pm – 4pm) until at least the end of the month.  SS highlighted that a new group was starting up on Mondays, Cuppa and a Cake. All welcome.  PR concluded by stating that the community defib was accessed on Saturday, but not used. | | | |  |
| Date of Next Meeting: 10th November 2022, 7pm at the BaRi Building & 6.45pm online.  BB called the EGM, which will take place before the Ordinary Meeting. Office bearers will be elected and the constitution will be confirmed. | | | |  |

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