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

Agreed Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 10thth November 2022 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via ZOOM.

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| **ATTENDANCE**  BRCC Members  Scott MacGregor (SM)  David Cuthill (DC)  Gina Purrmann (GP)  Steve Johnson (SJ)  Robin Duncan (RD)  Pete Richardson (PR)  Samantha Stewart (SS)  Jamie Louise Morrison (JLM)  Lesley McDonald (LM)  Su Hart (SH)  Pat Marshall (PM) | Chairperson  Vice-chair  Secretary  Treasurer | Councillors  Caroline Shiers (CS)  Bob Brawn (BB)  Press  Clare Damodaran (CD)  Paul Smith, Fire Service  3 members of the public  Laura Rodger (minutes) | **APOLOGIES** PC Peter Duncan, Police Service  Cllr Tom McEwen (TM)  **ABSENCES** | |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome and Introductions**  SM welcomed everyone, pointed out fire exits and asked permission of all attendees for the meeting to be recorded solely for the purpose of the minute taker writing up the minutes. The recording will not be shared, and will be deleted as soon as the minutes have been written. This was agreed. | | | | **Actions** |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  Apologies were received from the police service and Cllr Tom McEwen | | | |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of 13 October 2022 meeting**  Minutes proposed by PR, seconded by SS.  Decision: October minutes approved with no amendments. | | | |
| **Item 4 – Tayside Community Climate Hub Presentation** by Kate Munro, Climate Action Network Coordinator- Tayside, Scottish Communities Climate Action Network  They are trying to connect with as many community groups across Tayside as possible to find out how they are engaging with climate action. 300 community groups have been identified so far (e.g. community gardens/active travel). They have been mapping all the groups to establish how they might connect. Not to replace any existing networks, it is to help strengthen them. Some funding is available. Happy to meet groups and they try to do this in person rather than Zoom. BRCC are interested in being part of the network. A meeting with BRCC and other groups to be arranged for a later date. | | | | BRCC |
| **Item 5 – Matters raised by members of the public**  **a) Parking on George Street** A member of the public enquired about parking during the working day as they can’t get parked. SM thought this may be an impact of parking near the Wellmeadow being privatised. BB stated that there isn’t much that can be done as it is a public road. CS highlighted that resident only parking is not an option there. BB added that if residents are paying for permit parking, you need people to enforce it. DC pointed out that people are parking on both sides of the road, but the parking is legal so there is not much that can be done. CS will send information to SM to send over to the member of the public. DC noted that there needs to be more messaging to encourage drivers to park responsibly and in line with the highway code. BB confirmed that it is a police matter if people park in front of a dropped kerb.  **b) A&E** A member of the public enquired about whether 111 had to be called or if you can call the hospital directly in the event of injury. SS and BB informed that it had to be 111. SS added that they will assess you and give you an appointment, if required, at the most appropriate hospital.  **c) Patient Transport Calls** CS got an apology for the amount of time it had taken to respond to calls. Member of the public reported that it had been six days and they still had not received a reply. PR asked if the line had been tested for faults. CS confirmed that this had taken place. DC asked if BRCC should act as a pressure group to try and encourage change. CS will take this up and copy BRCC in.  **d) Hand railings at Boat Brae**  A member of the public asked why they had gone up. BB responded that they had been asked for. SS noted that they improve safety.  **e) Church on Reform Street**  An enquiry was received on whether it is going up for sale. SM confirmed that it is still the same owner, who is working with the pipe band on community use of the building.  **f) Bin Collections**  Complaints received about bins regularly not being emptied. CS raised this issue. There has been an issue regarding availability of mechanics. Measures have been taken to improve the situation and they’re hoping that things will begin to improve. CS asked if anyone has problems, they log it with her, and she will raise it with the relevant parties. Solutions are being sought.  **g) Hedges at ARC**  A member of the public asked if these could be cut as they are now over the pavement. This is a maintenance issue, noted by the councillors present. | | | | CS/SM  CS  CS  CS/BB |
| **Item 6 –** **Matters arising/reports back**  **6a. Resilience/Flooding (CS/PR)** PR Reported that from funding received, we now have a second additional steel container. 48 boxes of flood sax, more wheelbarrows. We are expecting the delivery of flood pumps. Resources are available for things such as medicine delivery during bad weather by Tayside 4x4. Training session will be offered on how equipment works to help members of the community protect their own properties. PR will look into getting more stickers. Multiple people will have the access codes, so it is not completely reliant on PR and SM being around.  Now that there is a new community council, we will need to confirm who is on the resilience team. SM suggested that banners need to be purchased so that the resilience team can be identified. SS will draft possible information for banners and email this to all BRCC members.  Some BRCC members provided support to the emergency services at the fire of the laundrette on Emma Street on 28th October. (See Fire (Item 10) and Chair’s (Item 11) Reports below)  **6b. Climate Action (DC/GP)**  See Item 4 above; no further update.  **6c. Twinning (GP)**  SS informed that GP went to the library to discuss putting a display cabinet into the library. We can’t have the cabinet; however, we can use the wall to display. GP will update further on this.  **6d. Maintenance in Blairgowrie and Rattray (CS/SM)** Not much has happened since the last meeting. SM has been taking photographs showing the apparent lack of maintenance (e.g. Rattray Common & Carsie) to send to the council. BB requested that these should also be sent to him. SM said that we need an update on the trial that was being done. Hopefully this will be in soon.  **6e. Football Pitch (CS/SM)**  SS informed that two BRCC members attended the meeting with the SFA, community football trust and the juniors. There to listen in and give support if they could. The presentation answered some questions that we had. Overall, going forward, there will be better communication. A subgroup will be formed to discuss the costs. SS, with her BRDT hat on, will continue to help the juniors with fundraising. BRCC will attend the next subgroup meeting. The land is not common good. Juniors will fold if they must keep paying the current level of fees.  **6f. PA System for the Town (SS)**  It was used at 5th of November event. This was successful. It will be used twice this weekend for the remembrance parade/service. This can be moved to the bottom of agenda. Will update when necessary.  **6g. 5th November Event** From an organisational point of view, it went very well. Feedback online was overwhelmingly positive. Entertainment was provided by B&R District Pipe Band, Blair Bells, Strathmore and Linda Tosh Schools of Dance. Thanks to sponsors Hodge Solicitors, A Proctor Group, WM Coupar, Lamb & Gardiner, Castle Water, Graham Environmental Services, 1st Aid Perthshire, BRDT, and one anonymous donation, the Dome Cafe provided 600 meals, Girl Guiding 400 hot drinks, BRCC 650 sparklers, Lownie Cree face painting and Liam Berge a bouncy castle. SCYD provided phenomenal event support. Although there were no fireworks at this event, that does not mean that there won’t be a display next year. Some people attended the 5th of November event because there weren’t any fireworks. The dancers loved being part of the event. | | | | PR  SS  GP  SM, BB  SS BRCC |
| **Item 7 – New Projects**  No new projects. | | | |  |
| **Item 8 – Traffic Matters**  Big meeting took place with all relevant parties regarding major road works on Gas Brae, Boat Brae and the bridge. Decision was made that it was best to get all the road works done in one full swoop. They think the first part can be completed in four days. Second phase to relay the surface will be the week after this. Day by day plans have been published online. This should be done by the 25th. SM has received assurances that if the road isn’t open, it will be made safe for the parade to come down on the 26th. CS and BB will send comments to CD. | | | | CS, BB |
| **Item 9 –** **Planning Matters**  CD asked if anything is happening with the quarry. BB said the next planning meeting won’t take place until the 23rd of November. | | | |  |
| **Item 10 – Police & Fire Reports**  **Fire Report:**  They were mobilised 30 times in October. Significant fire at Emma Street; thanks to the local community and resilience partnership for their help and coordination. Resilience partnership working exactly as it should. Home fire safety visits continuing. Continuing talks with sheltered housing complexes. Monthly “Coffee with the Crew” offers a warm place for people to come and have a chat during the winter. 8-9 people attended. The next one is on Tuesday the 29th of November. Thanks to everyone who has liked and shared it on social media. Firefighters from Blairgowrie have received training on advanced flood response. Received further flood training which will allow them to enter the water. Have received extra training equipment for this.  SM asked if we could set a date for a debrief regarding the fire incident and flood response. Will set up over email. RD enquired about incidents over the bonfire weekend. None occurred. **Police Report:** Police would like to thank the Community Council and other members of the public for their support on the night of the laundrette fire, by tracing nearby residents and identified any vulnerabilities that needed specific assistance. Following extensive enquiries carried out by CID along with other partner agencies, it has been confirmed that there were no suspicious circumstances in relation to the fire. Follow up work has been carried out with PC Campbell visiting local schools to advise young people not to try to enter the site of the laundrette, due to the obvious safety concerns. Following a recent increase in anti social behaviour in and around the Wellmeadow area there has been in an increase in Police patrols. On Saturday 29th October local Officers were joined by a Police dog to assist in these patrols, which included visits to local licensed premises. There were no issues on the evening with Officers presence being well received by the public. | | | |  |
| **Item 11–** **Chair’s Report**  The Chair thanked BRCC members and others who attended the laundrette fire at short notice, and ensured that those without power at Park Drive were okay. Noted the capability to open the High School in cases of emergency, but thankfully it wasn’t needed on this occasion. Although it was a bad incident, the resilience team were able to put their training to use.  He also thanked the public for their support of the 5th November Event in the Wellmeadow. | | | |  |
| **Item 12 –** **Treasurer’s report**  Admin a/c 768 – Balance on 1st oct - £74.66. Received £550 from PKC. This sum was our top up to £700 less the £150 paid in advance. Expenses of £30 (minutes) and treasurer stationary cost of £7.38. Final balance of £587.28.  Account ending 560- Balance - £5288.04  Resilience- At the year-end we had a balance of £3763.46 but received £10000 from SSE for new requirements. Out of the £10000 we have paid for a Container, Wheelbarrows, Lock, Puddle Pumps and Floodsaxs totalling £9489.49 leaving £510.51 from the £10000 which when added to the other resilience amount, leaves a balance of £4272.97.  Bench -£253.52, Defib/ Well- £271.10, Jubilee- £34.33,  Xmas Tree/ Nativity- £446.56- It was ambiguous what was left in this fund last year however I will confirm that when the Illuminations Committee agreed to take over the Xmas Tree in the Wellmeadow, I suggested this amount would be available for small repairs to the tree.  Funds are required for the Nativity and I have promises for some funding plus private donations. This gives me the confidence to purchase the lights for the Nativity as we have found the timber, thought as lost last month.  Fireworks -At the end of the accounting year we had £1601.30 however this included £1600 from businesses for fireworks. We were successful in asking all businesses if their donations could be used for a new event on 5th Nov, as agreed at the last meeting. We then received a further £300 giving us £1901.3. Expenses so far are £1891.74 leaving £9.56. We await £50 from another sponsor. | | | |  |
| **Item 13 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  No update | | | |  |
| **Item 14 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  CS has been playing catch up over the last few weeks. Attended a meeting at the cemetery, came up with a few ideas such as marking the pauper’s grave area with snowdrops. Hoping to get a team of people to go in and make it look nicer. Council will continue with basic maintenance. The council have small pots of money available to utilise to get the ball rolling. Meeting at Hatton Road play park, next to the BMX track; it is the next on the list to be upgraded. Raised the issue about absence of glass recycling unit at Elm Drive. Need to identify a new sight for one. Scottish Water are aware of the issues near Rattray Primary School. May be worth forming links with Scottish Water. On-going issue regarding roundabout at Forest Way. Petition from residents has been received. BRCC support may be needed on this issue.  BB stated that a housing meeting was held last week. He publicly thanked BRCC resilience group, residents and the fire service for their response to the laundrette fire. Traffic lights on A93 (Bridge of Call) should be gone soon. There are 5000 children in poverty in Perth and Kinross. It is going to costs hundreds of millions of pounds to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2045. Other points covered previously in the meeting. At the moment charging cars at the library car park is free. (paid for by the council). This will change in the new year. Tesco charging is also currently free to shoppers. | | | |  |
| **Item 15 –** **AOCB**  SS informed that the Christmas Wish Tree will be rolled out again ASAP this year. Post box in the Wellmeadow for letters to Santa and tree in Tesco from 1 Dec.  Blueberries are still available to be picked. DC noted that Clunie Loch Steering Group is now called the Loch of Clunie Preservation Group. DC will remain in touch and will be attending the meetings, or kept in touch via the minutes. Still keen to have BRCC support. High visitor numbers continue to create problems around the loch. Still operational problems with things like Portaloos. Attempts are being made to educate people using the area.  Nativity: An informal meeting was held to discuss the nativity as it was discovered that there was no longer a frame and only the four panels remained. As a lot of money had already been spent on this, it was agreed that a new frame would not be financially viable. An idea was proposed that the panels could be put into shop windows to form a nativity trail. However, the frame was found at the last minute and a local joiner has agreed to assess whether it could be used. Before more money is spent on the nativity, DC pointed out that there should be public engagement. However, due to the time sensitive nature of a nativity, meaningful engagement would not be able to be carried out. Members of the public who were present said that they would not mind funds being used to support the nativity. The councillors debated whether enough funds had already been spent on the nativity as new lights would have to be purchased if the frame is viable. It was pointed out by SJ and GP that strictly speaking, BRCC should be secular. A proposal was made that the nativity could possibly be handed over to a different group. SM suggested that a meeting should be held at the container with the joiner early next week to review the frame situation. BB reiterated the suggestion that was voted on, namely:  Proposal: No lights will be purchased until we know if the frame can be rebuilt by the joiner. If this can’t be rebuilt, BRCC will reassess the situation early next year.  Decision: GP abstained, the other councillors were in favour; the proposal was carried.  The meeting was closed at 21:15 | | | | DC |
| Date of Next Meeting: 8th December 2022, 7pm at the BaRi Building & 6.45pm online. | | | |  |

Distribution (email)

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