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

Approved Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 9thth February 2023 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via ZOOM.

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| **ATTENDANCE**  BRCC Members  Scott MacGregor  David Cuthill (DC)  Gina Purrmann (GP)  Steve Johnson (SJ)  Pete Richardson (PR)  Robin Duncan (RD)  Samantha Stewart (SS)  Jamie Louise Morrison (JLM)  Lesley McDonald (LM)  Sue Hart (SH) | Chair  Vice-chair  Secretary  Treasurer | Councillors  Caroline Shiers (CS)  Bob Brawn (BB) Cllr Tom McEwen (TM)  Press  Clare Damodaran (CD)  PC Gary Campbell  6 members of the public  Laura Rodger (minutes) | **APOLOGIES**    **ABSENCES**  Pat Marshall | |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome and Introductions**  SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone has an issue with the meeting being recorded for the benefit of the minute taker. There were no objections. SM made everyone aware of the fire exits and where the bathrooms are. | | | | **Actions** |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  No apologies have been received. | | | |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of 12 January 2023 meeting**  The minutes were proposed by SJ and seconded by DC.  Decision: January minutes approved with no amendments. | | | |
| **Item 4 – Police & Fire Reports**    **Fire Report:**  Blairgowrie crew mobilised 30 times. 20 home fire safety visits were conducted in January, especially important now, considering the cost-of-living crisis. “Coffee with the Crew” ran on the same day as the school strikes. People of all different ages attended. Next “Coffee with the Crew” will be on Tuesday 28th of February between 10:30 and 12:30. Hosted the International Café for a visit. Attended an event to meet local veterans. There are plans to add throw lines at different sections of the River Ericht, will discuss with the local resilience team.  **Police Report:** Road Policing Action  On 08/02/2023, PCs Campbell and Tarbet carried out a Road Policing Initiative in and around Blairgowrie. They visited the exclusion zone around the Community Campus and issued a number of tickets to people not adhering to the rules regarding the zone. Speed checks were carried out at Coupar Angus Road, Golf Course Road, A923 at Myreriggs and Perth Road, Blairgowrie at the end of school day. No persons were travelling at speeds meriting tickets being issued, but advice/warning was given to a small number. An Asbo was issued to one driver for inconsiderate driving in the town centre.  “Coffee with a Cop”: PCs Hunter and Campbell have arranged a coffee with a cop at the Blairgowrie Fire Station on Tuesday 28th February 2023 between 1030 and 1230. This will be out on Police social media pages shortly. We thank our colleagues at Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for hosting and allowing us to join their coffee with the crew.  DC asked about illegal parking in Blairgowrie and what the police are doing about that. PC Gary Campbell mentioned that they are aware of the situation and that he will flag this issue and take action on this. He will feedback the outcome to DC. | | | | Police |
| **Item 5 – Matters raised by members of the public**  a) Commemorative Event on the 25th of February proposed by the organiser of the Ukrainian Flag Race last year. He is proposing that the Saltire and Ukrainian Flag can be raised together while playing the Ukrainian National Anthem. Invite speeches from the local MP/MSP. A special ceremony that includes Hamish Henderson which was also played last year. Refreshments at the Town Hall afterwards. Proposed to leave the Ukrainian Flag up until the coronation so SM does not have to take the flag up and down too often. SM has confirmed that PKC does not need to be notified of the event. One member of the public stated that they were not happy with the flag staying up for 10 weeks, and doesn’t believe that it should be up for longer than a day. SS suggested that not many people would agree with that and enquired as to whether the other members of the public objected to it. None did. LM added that a month is a reasonable time. SJ noted that there are a number of Ukrainian people living in the town. GP stated that they are not insisting that the flag should stay up for 10 weeks, this is just a proposal to help SM. There is a volunteer who can also help. Vote: SM proposed a vote that the flag should stay up for a month. All were in favour.  Decision: The flag will remain in place for one month.   b) Twenty Minute Neighbourhood – a member of the public enquired about the “20-minute neighbourhoods” in relation to Blairgowrie; would more CCTV put in place. CS reassured that the discussions around this have been positive, no CCTV. TM added that it is about identifying gaps in infrastructure. SM enquired about whether this impacts Blairgowrie. TM said it does not, so SM moved to the next point in the agenda. | | | | SM |
| **Item 6 –** **Matters arising/reports back**  **6a. Resilience/Flooding (BB/PR)** PR reported that an event at the container was attended by members of the community to learn about the equipment the resilience team has purchased. Members of the public were upset that representatives from PKC were not there. Two members of the BRCC Resilience Team attended the flood meeting in Alyth, which was run in collaboration with the Scottish Flood Forum, and found out more about flooding in the local community. BB said there would be a meeting next week with a flood engineer. SS assured that members of the public would be invited to a public meeting once there was information to give them. BB stated that it is the responsibility of homeowners to take steps to protect their property. SS highlighted that the flooding survey is accepting late submissions; the online form is closed, but the surveys can be posted or emailed. CS added there were about 70 responses so far. BB added that the survey responses could be used to gain extra funding. BB stated that the council is only responsible for the root problem. TM added that if people further up the line are not taking action to mitigate flooding, it is up to SEPA to take them to court.  **6b. Climate Action (DC/JLM/LM)**  DC explained that Blairgowrie High School pupils are being invited to develop their own climate pledges. These will be placed on a tree display for all to see. JLM also added that the PKC Climate Pledge is also now online which can give ideas for ways that members of the public can engage with make more environmentally friendly choices. JLM will share this on both social media and email. GP also suggested that this could be tied in with work going on at the school. LM also added that the biodiversity working group has now been brought together. They are meeting tomorrow if anyone wishes to find out more about what they are doing to improve food resilience.  **6c. Twinning (GP)**  GP noted that there are plans for the pipe band to go over to France in September. The logistics are currently being worked out. BRCC has also been invited over for Bastille Day on the 16th of July. This would be the reciprocal visit for them coming along to the Highland Games last year.  **6d. Maintenance in Blairgowrie and Rattray (BB/LM/JLM/SM)** SM updated that this an ongoing process. There was a meeting with PKC about their ‘Managed for Wildlife Trial’. They are enquiring about whether wildflowers could be planted there. A litter problem was also discovered when the area was mowed.  **6e. Football Pitch (PM/SM/SS)** Awaiting update.  **6f.** **Citizen of the Year** SS updated that the nomination form has been redesigned. There are now sections for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Group of the Year, all on one form. It will be available in shops, in the Hub Magazine and also at various other locations. The closing date for nominations is the 30th of May at 4pm. A subgroup will discuss nominations a couple of days later. Looking to work with BRDT, who will be hosting a volunteers day and a volunteers party. BRCC members will take turns each week moving the trophies around various businesses in town for a photograph for the Blairgowrie advertiser, to raise awareness.  **6g. Nativity** GP had been in touch with St Catherine’s Episcopal Church. They are prepared to take on the exhibiting of the Nativity in the Wellmeadow in 2023. They will be creating a subgroup. GP will be meeting with a representative on Thursday to go through the red form. GP stated that there will also be checks to ensure that this can be done sustainably for 2023 and beyond. An update will be given at the next meeting. RD enquired if there was anything wrong with the panels. SM stated that a meeting was arranged between GP and the representative as it is better that it should be discussed in person.  **6h. Cleaning Overspill from Wetherspoons** DC had contacted the business and steps are going to be taken to resolve the situation. It must go to head office first though. The beer garden is power washed once a month. There is only a small drain and DC had enquired whether this was sufficient. TM pointed out that Wetherspoons already has a complaint due to the fire door being used to access the garden. | | | | BRCC  JLM  LM    BRCC  GP |
| **Item 7 – New Projects**  No new projects. | | | |  |
| **Item 8 – Traffic Matters**  **a) Parking –** As discussed in the police report. DC asked if it was legal for people who have a blue badge to park on yellow lines. PC answered that this is not okay if it is unsafe or causes an obstruction. PR suggested that the two parking spots outside could be made disabled only. PC Gary will take this forward. GP does not have to write about this as BB will pass this on to PKC.  **b) Speed cushions on Hatton Road –** chances of tyres being damaged by bolts which are sticking out. TM asked if these had been reported. SS and SM stated that this had been reported several times.  **c) Replaced Road from Gas Brae to Boat Brae –** The road is chipping again. SM stated that this is the second time that it has been done and yet it has happened again. It is worse at the junctions. BB will raise this issue, but he is sure the relevant parties are already aware. SM added that if the road is closed again, this will be the third time that businesses in that area have been impacted. | | | | Police  BB  BB |
| **Item 9 –** **Planning Matters**  Solar Panels proposed at West Gormack. The deadline for comments on this planning application is on the 17th of February. SM stated that BRCC have had emails from people looking for representation on matters outside of our area, and has responded to say that BRCC are unable to help with issues out with the BRCC area.  CS mentioned the building conservation areas in the town and balancing the needs of people adapting their homes to utilise renewable energies. Suggested that it would be good for the BRCC to familiarise themselves with this. | | | |  |
| **Item 10–** **Chair’s Report**  SM reported that there have been meetings with the council about the flooding and maintenance. Everything else has been discussed in other sections of the meeting. | | | |  |
| **Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report** Admin Account:  12 Jan balance                                                   £527.28 17 Jan minutes                                  £30           £497.28 9 Feb balance                                                     £497.28  B Account (Projects):  12 Jan balance                                                   £5,457.15 18 Jan Resilience bag                      £4             £5,453.15 9 Feb balance                                                     £5,453.15  Project balances:  Fireworks/Community Event                            £211.89 Resilience                                                         £4,269.97 Well (Defib)                                                       £271.10 Jubilee                                                              £0 Bench                                                               £253.52 Christmas Tree/Festive                                     £445.56 | | | |  |
| **Item 12 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  A variety of notices came in. PKC would like us to be aware of nominations for community-built heritage projects. The deadline is the 12th of February. Community Councillors event to learn more about Community Map Scotland. This is to log issues in your area. However, it is too expensive to access. There is free bus travel for all across the area tomorrow. Received notification that the BBC is looking for anybody who would like to join the debate night audience in Pitlochry on the 15th of February. The Big Place Conversation Event is being held for Blairgowrie and the Glens online. Rattray is having an in-person event on the 22nd of April. TM highlighted how important it is to get involved in this. | | | |  |
| **Item 13 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  CS stated that the next meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery will be on 22nd February. There are still complaints about foreign registered vehicles. Police are being proactive with this. Wardens are paying attention to antisocial behaviour at the riverside. The dog warden has also been helpful regarding the dog bite highlighted in the police report.  BB reported that a few people have complained about parking on Balmoral Road. There has been almost a couple of accidents. The houses do have their own driveways, but they are narrow. There are going to be some trees removed at the entrance to the Riverside Car Park where there has been ash die back. Fairly mature replacements are going to be planted.   TM had nothing to add. | | | |  |
| **Item 14 –** **AOCB**  An enquiry was raised asking if anything is planned for the Coronation. BB stated that the only thing that has been discussed was the possibility of having an extra holiday. This was approved yesterday, but this must be confirmed by the Scottish Government. The guides won’t be doing anything in the Wellmeadow, but they may be doing something in the garden of their new venue. SS said that enquiries should take place to find out if community groups have anything planned for the Wellmeadow which BRCC could support. SS highlighted that BRCC is not an events group, but they are happy to help support with things such as access to funding.  Meeting closed at 20:25. | | | |  |
| Date of Next Meeting: 9th March 2023, 7pm at the BaRi Building & 6.45pm online. | | | |  |

Distribution (email)

Community Councillors: Local Councillors: External:

Scott MacGregor- Chairperson Caroline Shiers PKC Community Councils

David Cuthill - Vice Chair Bob Brawn Clare Damodaran (Press)

Steve Johnson - Treasurer Tom McEwan B. Leslie (Blair High School)

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