**BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Draft Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting
held on 11th November 2021 at 7pm in the Adult Resource Centre,
Jessie Street, Blairgowrie, and online via Teams.

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| **ATTENDANCE**Mr Scott MacGregor (SM)Mr Robin Duncan (RD)Mrs Gina Purrmann (GP)Mrs Linda Miezite (LM)Mrs Morag Young (MY)Mr Pete Richardson (PR)Mr Sandy Thomson (AT)Mrs Sam Stewart (SS)**APOLOGIES**Mr David Cuthill (DC)Mrs Colleen Patterson (CP)Police & Fire | ChairpersonTreasurerSecretaryVice Chair | Councillors Present -Cllr Bob Brawn (BB)Cllr Caroline Shiers(CS)Online -Councillor - Tom McEwen (TM)Press - Clare Damodaran (CD)ProCom – Mr Steve Johnson (SJ)10 x Members of the public | **ABSENCES**  |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome & Introductions** SM opened the meeting welcomed everyone. As there were several members of the public present, SM invited the community councillors and elected members to introduce themselves.   |  |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  Apologies were received from CP and DC and the police.  |  |
|  **Item 3 –** **Co-Option of New Member** SM announced a co-option of a new member. GP read from a PKC email confirming they had received a valid application form from Samantha Stewart, and she invited her to join the CC meeting as a new member. She was welcomed by the group and SM. |  |
| **Item 4 –** **Adoption of October 2021 Minutes** The minutes of meeting of October 2021 were approved subject to the following amendments or corrections:AGM minutes- There need to be two separate sets of minutes, one for each meeting.  The AGM minutes will be dealt with at the next AGM.Ordinary Meeting minutes- p.1 Purrman - two n’s- p.6 9i L1 add 'to Macpherson Park' after ‘Riverside Park’-       9j L4 change 'the' to ‘no', strike 'Scotia Homes', strike ‘not'-           L10 strike ‘our', add 'in rural areas' after issues- p7(9k) L7 strike 'try and'-p8 12 L2 add 7 Climate Emergency-related -      13 L9 strike ‘John Beverage of’             L10 change '£2m’ to ‘£3m’ L15 add ‘in PKC area as a whole’ L21+22 strike completely-p9 CC Members add ‘Sandy Thomson'Decision: The minutes were proposed by RD and seconded by SM, and were adopted.  |  |
| **Item 5 –** **Matters raised by members of the public**5a) Kirk Wynd Parking Issues: CS doesn’t know what can be done to sort this. She has spoken to the Players at Hill Church re parking in the evenings, and they have taken on board her comments. She hopes a friendly solution to the problem can be found. GP asked if traffic wardens patrols cover this area. CS said potentially, but they can’t be there all the time. GP suggested that, as per DC’s proposal, there be a permanent section on the agenda for traffic. SM agreed this should happen.Decision: GP to add traffic as a permanent agenda item.5b) Resilience Plan: GP read a query email from the Blairgowrie Climate Café, who asked what our resilience plan and procedure is regarding flooding, and who are the current members of the group. PR said he is now responsible for our resilience plan and that he will be in touch with Brian Smith, a previous BRCC member and Resilience Co-ordinator, to update the Plan and verify details. CS said she had had a meeting with the Flood Team, and one of their suggestions is that we link up with Keith Colville and local residents to look at applying for additional funding specifically for items that will assist residents in areas which suffer from flooding. She suggested that a local action group, including PR, be put together. RD asked CS if sand bags would be made available, and from where. She said that applying for funding from the Scottish Flood Forum would mean an on-site store, like the one that had been installed in Alyth which houses sand bags and water barriers, could be available. PKC have commissioned a Surface Water Management Plan for Blairgowrie and Rattray which will be implemented ASAP, and will form an agreed way forward to avoid this happening again. The flooding had covered areas in Schoolfield Drive, extended onto Honeyberry Drive and all the way down in to New Road. AT stated that this was not an unexpected event as it had been brought up to PKC at pre-planning before the new houses were built. CS said that the Schoolfield planning application had been refused by PKC but had been granted on appeal by the Scottish Government. A member of the public, and resident of the affected area, said this is the third time in five years this has happened. Another member of the public said that there are not enough drains along Back Row, so the water has nowhere to go apart from coming down the pathway and onto the new development. A resident asked about compensation, but CS said she didn’t know about that. Questions were asked about linking up the drainage between different developments and it was agreed that this would be necessary but expensive remedial work.Decision: CS to email SM & PR the links to the Flood Protection Plan  PR to help form a local action group and work with PKC to develop a Water  Management Plan for the town.5c) Cable ties: GP had received an email from the Blairgowrie Climate Café, asking if the CC would consider setting a good example by using string instead of cable ties when fixing posters + banners.Decision: BRCC will, where possible, use string rather than plastic cable ties.5d) Marlee Quarry: A member of the public raised the issue of the quarry’s pre-planning application consultation. He felt that the quarry owner, Laird Aggregate, and their agent, Dalgleish, haven’t had proper consultation with the community. It took place in March (during the pandemic) online (inaccessible for many residents) and he felt that as there had been significant changes to the original application that, as a result the parameters of the community engagement specification, meant that more people fell into the consultation catchment area so another consultation should be conducted. PKC said this was not necessary. BB confirmed that Laird had done the minimum necessary, and wasn’t sure what more the BRCC could do. AT said that in his opinion, because of when the application went in, morally they should extend the consultation period. DC expressed his disappointment via an email reply to GP, that the absolute minimum, in terms of notification, was sufficient for PKC, and his concern about the moving of the quarry entrance closer to the corner of the road opposite Palace Road, which he considered a fast part of the road. Decision: No further action required/possible by BRCC at this point. AT to look out for the Marlee Quarry application coming in. 5e) West Gormack: A resident from West Gromack gave an update on the planning application at DC’s request. The planning meeting took place on 20th Oct 2021. After a lengthy debate on the application, the Roads Department said that they only expected a 30% increase in traffic, but this only took into account vehicular traffic and didn’t take into account pedestrians, cyclists or live-stock transit. The resident believed the probability of collisions is higher. The application was rejected 7:3 by PKC but was deferred for more input by the Road Planning Department and also the business plan for the viability of the application. The final decision would be made at PKC’s next Planning meeting. Unusually, the applicant has sent an appeal to the Scottish Government before PKC’s final decision has been made. This is the third attempt they have made to get planning permission for this application, and he feels that they are trying to circumvent the local authority. Any support that BRCC can give would be much appreciated by the residents. Several dash-cam videos have been posted to YouTube showing numerous “near misses” on the Gormack Road. PR said he’d seen some of them and felt the situation was an accident waiting to happen. SM asked if there was anything more we could do. BB said that the application has, very unusually, gone to the Scottish Government Recorder on a non-determination Appeal, and that it was out of their (PKC’s) hands.Decision: DC to keep in contact with resident’s group. | GPCSPRAllATDC |
| **Item 6 –** **Matters Arising**6a) Traffic Light Sequencing: BBDecision: Resolved: lights staying as they are6b) Beeches Road – BB still needs to see what the results are.Decision: BB to check the results of the Facebook question/post to assess level of interest from the  residents for parking permits, and will discuss at the December meeting.6c-i) Children at Christmas – Update: LM Letters will be posted to families about a week before the Christmas light switch on day (27th Nov), on that day all letters will be returned and sorted out. A tree will be put up at Tesco for 2 weeks, and presents will be delivered the day before Christmas.6c-ii) Nativity Display – Update: MY the posts are in the ground for the fencing to go around the display, and the fencing will go on the posts after Remembrance Day (Sunday). The display is being made.6c-iii) Christmas Tree – Update: SM The tree has been delivered quickly, and is being stored in the Illuminations container. Once it assembled it should be easier to put together next year. The fencing is in place for the tree. SM felt the fencing area was too big. SM is also to get a banner made for the base of the Christmas tree at a cost of approximately £200, which was agreed. SS said that the outstanding funding donation amounts were all confirmed. Decision: SM to organise Christmas tree base banner.  RD will assist with the purchase.6c-iv) Illuminations – Update: SM The Illuminations group will be out on Saturday and Sunday checking, changing and fixing the bulbs and lights in preparation for the Christmas light switch on which, this year, will be Sat 27th Nov. Despite the short notice this year, the event is planned to be much bigger than usual and is hoped to develop into something like Braemar Day. Stallholders are asked to meet and start setting up from 3pm with everything starting at 4pm in the Wellmeadow. The event will go on until 8pm. Wellmeadow lights will be switched on at 5pm. There will be a parade from Rattray to the Wellmeadow after the Rattray Christmas tree has been switched on at 4pm, and there will also be a silent disco (6-8pm) and craft stalls along the Wellmeadow from 31’s to Davidson’s. All the relevant bodies (police, fire and ambulance) have been notified.MY thanked J B Corrie Fencing for their generous donation of the fencing in the Wellmeadow. SS said BARBA had organised late-night shopping on the weekend of the Christmas light switch on. SM hoped that with the shops being open late, it would encourage more people to shop in the town at Christmas, year on year. RD said there will be 2 plaques printed by Tayside Contracts which are to thank those who had donated/sponsored the Christmas tree and Nativity display for £500 or more each. He will check the list with MY before going to print. He asked CD if she would do a piece for the Blairie expressing our thanks to the donorsDecision: RD to finalise business names for the plaque and have it printed. CD to prepare an article for the Blairie. RD asked SJ when we would hear back about the other funds that had been applied for. He said he wasn’t sure, but possibly early November.Decision: SJ to let RD know of outcome of his funding applications.6d) Parking issues/Traffic warden patrols: CS – A sub-group had been proposed previously and still needs to be formed. Decision: Traffic warden sub-group to be added to Dec agenda and discussed at the next meeting. 6e) Yellow line extensions: BB/CSDecision: Item to be carried over to December CC meeting6f) Fireworks: MY thanked all who came to help on the night. She also thanked Ross Creszczuk for the PKC Roads Department and Leigh-ann Greg from Police Scotland for pulling their resources, and to CS for lending her voice of support, to help make the event come together. A special note of thanks was given to RD for all in help in co-planning the event. Donations of £353.12 were raised on the night and, in an effort to allow people who didn’t have cash on the night to contribute, an online donations Facebook page under the name of “Blairgowrie and Rattray Firework Fundraiser” had been set up, and has been linked to the Firework page and shared to the BRCC FB page. This page went live this morning and one donation has already been made. “Silent” fireworks have been discussed with the organiser for next year. AT noted that there had been many good comments from attendees from like likes of Dundee, who had travelled through for the event. It was estimated that there had been approximately 600 - 700 attendees in total. CD questioned why our event had gone ahead while we’re still in a pandemic, and expressed concern that no masks seem to have been worn to the outside event. MY confirmed that, although we were expecting fewer than 4000 people, mask wearing had been suggested to the public on the advertising for the event, in line with Scottish Government guidelines. RD praised the police for their attendance and interaction with the public, and felt that this contributed to the excellent behaviour and lack of rubbish left after the event.Decision: No action required6g) Climate Action: GP and DC have created a Climate Action sub-group, and have met twice since the last CC meeting. DC is going to liaise with the BHS Geography teacher, who helps the students run a climate/eco-café in conjunction with the town’s own Climate Café group. He would like the Blairie to advertise that the BRCC has committed to support the climate goal actions that the BHS children proposed, and would like members of the BRCC to be interviewed about what they are doing and why, for the paper. He is happy to be the first person interviewed for these articles. This sub-group will, later on, work towards the CAP BRCC climate goals.Decision: DC to liaise with BHS Geography teacher. Members of the CC to be interviewed for the Blairie re their climate actions.6h) Citizen of the Year: RD said the trophies are still being engraved. SJ, RD and CD to work out the trophy route and rota. Volunteers will be required.Decision: Trophy route and rota to be drawn up.6i) Planning: West Gormack DC – Already covered in 5e above6j) Clunie Lock/Outdoor Access Code: Update – GP read and update from DC, who had met with Andrew Miller on 12th November. The group are still to have their “mop up” meeting for this year. The group would like to do an article for the Hub Magazine and the local papers outlining what has been achieved by the steering group and Clunie Loch users over the past year, and what still needs to be done by all parties involved to ensure the sustainability of the loch as a community resource. Further discussion is required regarding the enforceability of issues surrounding the Countryside Code, so that appropriate action can be taken at the highest levels in an attempt to address the shortcomings. Decision: DC to report back with the outcome from the enforceability discussion.  | BBSM RDRDCDSJGPDCAll, CDRD, SJ, CDDC |
| **Item 7 -** **Boundary Commission for Scotland consultation** BRCC have been invited to comment (by 8th December) on the UK Government consultation which proposes to redraw the boundaries of constituencies, so that they all have a similar number of people within them. This change would only affect who our representative is in Westminster and the area that they cover. Overall, Scotland will lose 2 MPs. DC suggested that we need further discussion on this and expressed his concern about the impact this change may have on services, such as schooling, as Blairgowrie would then service children in different constituencies, and this may cause problems in the future. GP proposed asking the CC their opinions via email so she could collate a response. CS commented that in 1997 Blairgowrie had been part of a different constituency, and that recently the Courier had done a good article on this (if we needed a good layman’s reference).Decision: GP to email the group the consultation paperwork for comment. GP to collate responses and reply to the consultation before the deadline.  | All, GP |
| **Item 8 -** **Community Action Plan**  Now that the CAP is complete, and the Action Plan has been produced, BRCC can start ticking off points they’ve completed, and familiarise themselves with other points to address/action.Decision: BRCC members to read the CAP and update the Plan and update that group/Plan as points are completed. | All |
| **Item 9 –** **Local Development Plan** GP referenced an email which had been sent from Meigle and Ardler CC discussing the LDP. Decision: GP to circulate the email, and it will be discussed at the next CC meeting. | GP |
| **Item 10 –** **Twinning**10a) Pleasanton: Update - SM said this doesn’t need to be on the agenda every month, and that a Blairgowrie and Rattray flag was being designed with ideas from SM and SS. This is part of the exchange of flags with Pleasanton.Decision: Remove Pleasanton from the monthly agenda. Add Town Flag onto next agenda.10b) Brebieres: Update – GP has had a letter from the French school district mayor published in the Blairie, on 9th Nov. She received a lengthy email about how St.Stephen’s and the local primary school in Brebieres are setting up a pen pal programme. Their mayor is also keen to formalise the twinning: GP to look into how this is done. MY asked for the letter to be distributed to the group. Decision: GP to distribute the mayor’s letter to the CC members GP to find out how twinning is done and report back at next month’s meeting **Item 11 –** **The Awakening** RD had attended a ceremony on behalf of BRCC last Saturday at the Spital of Glenshee where he, and select others, were presented with a hazelnut tree, which has been handed to Mary Birch, to be planted in the community. Tea and coffee were provided by the Dalmunzie Hotel where he met the new owners of the Spittal of Glenshee Hotel. They would like to come to next month’s meeting to introduce themselves.Decision: Add the Spittal owners to the December agenda | GPGPGP |
|  **Item 12 –** **Macpherson Memorial** MY explained that the memorial bench that is going to go in the Wellmeadow to commemorate Sir William Macpherson, will need to have a designated custodian. This would be in name only and BRCC wouldn’t have to do anything as the custodian, as there is already a steering group in place who are dealing with all the aspects to do with the project. BRCC would be the name of the group supporting the planning applications etc, and BRCC already own a bench in the Wellmeadow. The designer, David Wilson, has committed to the designing, installation and maintaining of the piece. RD spoke in support of the family and the proposal. CS said that the CC is the only Statutory community group in the town, and that any assets that were held by them would revert to PKC should they go into abeyance so, in her opinion it made sense for the CC to be the custodian. AT agreed with previous comments about Sir William and proposed the motion that BRCC take custodianship of the bench, PR seconded the motion. SM declared a conflict of interest as he has already submitted a planning application for that location for three flagpoles. He also queried what it was exactly that we were taking ownership of, especially with regards to costs and responsibilities, given that BRCC knows little about this project.After a discussion a vote was taken with the following results:In favour: MY, AT, RD, PT, LM, SSAgainst:Abstentions: SM, GP Decision: The motion carried and BRCC will now be the named custodian of the Macpherson  memorial bench. Updates about the project to be added to future agendas. | GP |
| **Item 13 –** **Events Planning** MY invited the elected members to meet to discuss how events planning might be made easier. SS felt the forms were quite straightforward and easy to use, and wanted to remind members that in her role as Community Engagement Officer she is there to help any group requiring support with such forms.Decision: CS and BB to meet MY to discuss event planning | MY, CS, BB |
| **Item 14 –** **Planning Matters** i) Sainsbury’s applied to change its name change from Sainsbury’s Store to Sainsbury’s Local, and to be able to play music in-store. SM didn’t think we should oppose this, which was agreed.Decision: BRCC will not oppose this application  ii) Application for drive thru type coffee shop at Westpark: Starbucks have put in an application. PKC is awaiting BRCC’s response by 26.11.21. It was explained that objections can only be made on planning grounds, not on corporate social responsibility issues. GP felt that planning training was urgently needed. CS suggested a meeting with officers from the Planning Department. BB will arrange this. BB does not think that they will comment on live applications.Decision: Planning meeting to be set up using this drive thru application as a training opportunity for BRCC members to enable response.  | BB |
| **Item 15 –** **Police and Fire Reports** No report sent from the Fire Brigade. Police report: Police were concentrating of fireworks and COP 26 this month, however there was an incident involving the spray painting of the war memorial in the Wellmeadow. Inspector Ashley Wallace will attend our December meeting. |  |
| **Item 16 –** **Chair’s Report**  BB, SM, and TM went to the Lidl ground-breaking ceremony. They got a tour of the site, shown the plans, and discussed Lidl’s new recycling system/deposit return scheme: any cans, plastic or glass bought from their store which is then returned to be recycled will generate a voucher which can then be used in-store. This will help with their sustainability, and articles about this were in the press. |  |
| **Item 17 –** **Treasurer’s Report** Up to the end of August, the balance in Account A was £285.04. We have incurred admin costs of £111.84 leaving the balance of £173.20, however we await funds from PKC after our expenses claim for 2020/21 was submitted together with our annual accounts.Account B- Currently stands at £7,537.65, having paid the balance payment of £2,470.36 for the Christmas tree. We received £150 from the Coupar Angus Road Co-Op, and a further £250 from Graham Pest Control. We currently await £1,500 from other sponsors of the tree. The tree cost to date is £3,400.52£91.21 was credited to the Well/defib balance£353.12 was credited to the fireworks/Nativity account from the collection on 6th November (at the event). £600 was promised by Blairgowrie Rotary towards the Nativity project. We await the bill for the fireworks. |  |
| **Item 18 -** **Secretary’s Correspondence** GP asked to close down the old Secretary’s email account: no-one objected. She asked that when people get any of the forwarded reports that they make sure to alert the whole group if something pertinent arises. GP praised the existence of the ProCom group, and expressed appreciation at being able to send them information that needed to reach other groups in the town. Feedback/Comment boxes topic to be added to next month’s agenda. Funding for CC training is available if any community councillor wants it. This could also include being trained in First Aid.Decision: Old Secretary email account to be closed down. Emailed reports to be checked and any issues to be raised. Feedback/Comment boxes to be added to next month’s agenda | SJAllGP |
| **Item 19 –** **Councillors’ Reports****CS**: Kate, from the bookshop, has suggested that there be a “things to do” type noticeboard by the electric vehicle charge point (EVCP) to encourage visitors to look round/shop in the town while they wait for their car to be charged, rather than just sitting in their car. Could the CC look into this?The noticeboard in the Wellmeadow could do with a refresh and be updated. CD said BEPTA have lost the key and it will need to be broken into.As a result of rearranging some of the general-purpose spaces within the campus, capacity at Newhill Primary School will increase from 423 to 456.Graffiti is becoming more of an issue around the town. It is assumed by CS and Bev Lesley, from BHS, that it is being done by the kids/young people, especially with the police not being around as much. CS praised Roddy Ross for organising its removal when reported.There has been some new site testing for the new recreation centre.The 3G pitch project is on schedule and are on target for it to be completed by 10th Dec 2021. This can be ticked off the CAP “to do list”. Decision: BRCC to consider erecting a noticeboard for visitors by the ELCP**BB**: There has been a 20mph speed limit approved for in front of Rattray Primary School. Other areas will now be looked at and assessed, including, Elm Drive and Woodlands Park Road which are currently “20’s plenty” (suggested speed, not legal requirement).A site visit with the new Locality Manager, Pete Ritchie and RD, is planned between 1pm and 3pm in Ferguson Park for Thurs 9th Dec. Lighting on the common will be discussed again as will the safety issues of Glenalmond Road. Solar lighting may be a temporary measure (which would come from the Housing Budget).There are to be several traffic surveys carried out around the whole ward, hopefully before winter really sets in.**TM**: was not asked for his update.  | All |
| **Item 20 –** **AOCB**A member of the public asked why Rattray Connect was not taking any bookings. Other halls were, so why not this one? He’s trying to arrange the Rattray Half Marathon for next June, and this hall is not taking bookings and is lying empty and unused. It’s affecting people’s mental health. SS said she had been in touch with PKC several times asking the same thing and stated that some groups were not able to come back after COVID because there was nowhere to go. AT raised the closure of the Cottage Hospital Minor Injuries Unit. Why is this closing when the town is growing? BB said that it was to be a “care and treatment centre”. An NHS 24 phone number is being provided as a replacement. More discussion needed.Decision: GP to email PKC Cottage Hospital added to Dec agendaSJ announced that, because the Open Spaces group had created a Biodiversity Action Plan, Catherine Lloyd, from Tayside Biodiversity, has agreed that Blairgowrie and Rattray can become the first biodiversity town in Scotland. He said that signs will be sought to advertise this new selling point and will be put up at the entrance to the town. He was congratulated by the group.SS reminded everyone that there was Mental Health First Aid courses that are being delivered by PR on 21st and28th Nov, and 5th Dec, between 9.30am and 4.30pm, at St. Catherine’s Church. One of the group’s aims is to have at least 1 person from all the town’s groups who is trained in mental health first aid. Anyone can join, just email Discover Blairgowrie to book.SS also said that ProCom have a weekly online meeting, every Friday at 9.30am, with various town groups and would like to have a BRCC member attend. Lots of information is exchanged at these meetings. GP confirmed she had received an official invite for someone from BRCC to attend since she had attended the last one. SM said he would attend the next one. Decision: SM to attend the next online ProCom meeting PR said that there was a new defib had been installed on the Old Cross, at Rattray. To gain access to it you have to call 999 and they will talk you through the process. It’s the same type as has been installed in the phone box by the TSB. He will try and ensure any new ones are of the same type. SM thanked the Rotary for donating the money for the purchase, PR for maintaining it, and Ian Mann for installing the power to the unit.  | GP |
| Date of Next Meeting Thursday 9th December 2021 at Adult Resource Centre, and online, at 7pm |  |

Distribution (email unless specified):

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| Community Council Members:Scott MacGregor ChairpersonDavid Cuthill Vice ChairRobin Duncan TreasurerGina Purrmann SecretaryLinda MieziteColleen PattersonPeter RichardsonSam StewartSandy ThomsonMorag Young | Local Councillors:Caroline ShiersBob BrawnTom McEwanExternal:PKC Community Councils Clare Damodaran (Press) Mrs B Leslie (Blair High School)BRDTPoliceFire ServiceApproved Minutes Distribution:PKC BRCC website |
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