

Draft Minutes of the Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council Meeting

9th January 2020

Minutes prepared by C Sutherland.

Attendance

Cllr Bob Brawn (BB), Carla Sutherland (CSu), Philip Seymour (PS), Robin Duncan (RD), Euan Donald (ED), Kim Wood (KW), Ms C Damodaran (Press), Brian Rickwood (BR), Cllr Tommy McEwan (TMc), Cllr Caroline Shiers (CSh), Mr Mark Purrmann-Charles (MP-C), Christine Chandler, in representation of Howard Chandler (HC).

Apologies

Police Scotland, Tayside Fire and Rescue, Howard Chandler (HC). Sandy Thomson (ST).

Members of Public - 5 present

BRCC meeting

1. Minutes from BRCC meeting 12.12.19 proposed by RD & accepted ED

2. **Recreation Centre - PS**

PS wrote to PKC Chief Exec whom replied with: Centre design is challenging because of multipurpose building serving school and community whose location has limited parking opportunities too. Need to agree design of 1 stage of plan before User reference group can be contacted and opinions taken.

CSh believe some of the challenges are to design a building which can be kept open for school and community use whilst build takes place. CSh reassured us that once user reference group has been consulted then the process should speed up.

RD believes there should be greater transparency over this build from PKC to the community, CSh agrees.

CSh wants state of the art facilities to open for as long as possible to serve as many members of public as possible.

PS advised he had written to PKC Chief Exec to get further clarity as to why the design process was proving challenging and seek assurances that the delay in forming the URG would not lessen the time available for local input and influence on the final design.

3. **Ferguson Road report.**

BB & RD visited site and concur that Glenalmond Rd is not safe and that action needs to be taken. BB confirmed this work is to be done in the next financial year.

Also concerns over state of repair of some houses, however the council cannot enforce that all residents make improvements because greater than 50% of properties are owned privately now.

RD would like the debris outside the derelict hotel bar area cleared, however it was made clear by some of the BRCC members that the owner has been contacted several times regarding this but never responded. Apparently, this is a legal issue but enforcement of clearance of site may be possible.

TMc raised issue of residents abusing the recycle bin system by throwing general waste into bins...again. This nuisance behaviour is difficult to stamp out. TMc offered no solution to the issue.

In relation to Glenalmond road etc, TMc called for increase in transparency and regular updates to public from PKC. CSh agreed and suggested a noticeboard to display progress reports and timescales of projects.

4. **Police and Fire Reports - no representative available.**

5. **Improving facilitation of communication to BRCC from public**

Suggestion boxes exist to allow public to raise matters with BRCC, however historically there has no facility existed to provide feedback to the members of public who raise the suggestion. Previous committee member Len Seal was responsible for this but now needs a new committee member to take on. MP-C offered to do so.

CSu suggested upgrading the BRCC website to allow the public to fill out a contact/suggestion form online which when submitted would automatically send to the BRCC email inbox. CS advised if this was in place then the link to this page on the website can be posted on social media and should allow the BRCC to reach a wider audience to encourage more public participation in local issues. MP-C agreed to look into this.

ED has access to the BRCC Hotmail account and says he receives no emails from public to this with the current communication system in place.

KW suggested Canva which is a website for accessing templates which can be used for social media purposes. KW advised MP-C she could assist with this.

6. **Sub Committees**

- Citizen of the year (inc. young citizen of year) BRCC make presentation annually (June) to those nominated - PS, KW & ST to organise.

- XMAS tree and Bonfire. Morag Young credited with doing such a wonderful job in past but committee unsure if she still wants involvement in this area. RD & ED to contact her and organise future events.
- Resilience team (BRCC are 3rd responders in an emergency) volunteers: Ally Donald, Fraser McDonald, PS, MP-C, CSu, BR.
- Rotary Drive It Day is an annual event to raise money for charity where historically BRCC have helped. RD looking for volunteers to assist on 4.4.20, KW, MP-C, CSu volunteered.

7. Myreriggs footpath

Improvements of footpath and possible extension of on Myreriggs road to improve safety of pedestrians. CSh to handover when she collates the information regarding this and then will send to PKC

8. CCTV- PS

PS had meeting with Steve Johnson of Blairgowrie and Rattray business association (BARBA) at which he had outlined the conclusions from the study undertaken with the police and PKC. Steve Johnson was to discuss with the BARBA committee and if they wished to pursue further it was suggested a meeting be arranged with PKC to explore options for taking it forward and funding/cost implications. Also suggested it might be worth discussing with the local Pubwatch members to get their views on CCTV.

9. Community Market-BR

Now that we have a smaller amount of people involved with BRCC compared to previous years, BR remarked on foreseeing problems providing cover with this market. We now only have 9 on the council and we need 4 members per market day (8 – 11 am and 11 - 2 pm). Nick Coles to be approached to see if BRCC have to pay for their stall if they did not assist with the erection and disassembly of the market stalls. Erecting and disassembling the stalls added to the time BRCC members have to dedicate on market day when those with young family have other commitments.

Dates of market to be found and Rota to be arranged, if sparse cover then BRCC will look at alternative ways of organising their stall on market day. PS to circulate pro-forma to BRCC members for them to indicate their availability for the 6 markets.

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10. Crossing at Post Office - CSh

BRCC would like to keep momentum with solving the problem with crossing the Perth Road at the Post Office. The problem is with the difficulty of seeing oncoming traffic from the corner of Reform St onto Perth Rd and therefore the difficulty crossing in time. CSh is to re-establish regular meetings with Darryl from PKC. ED and CSh to meet with him.

11. Post box at Post Office

Complaint from public that there is no external post box at post office- Sign outside Post office displaying location of post boxes would be helpful to public.

12. Treasurer report- RD

Expenses still not paid by PKC.

Saltire Flag for Well meadow to be bought when PKC pays BRCC expenses.

Enlargement of Blairgowrie map created by RD with help of Gordon Darge. ED been in touch with Christine at PKC to produce a large map of Blairgowrie Ward area.

SSE paid cheque of £77 to BRCC instead of Illuminations committee. BRCC to cash cheque and forward monies onto the Illuminations Group.

13. Community Investment Fund- BB

RD and CSu to sit on round 2 panel. Applications need to be submitted to the CIF by 15th January 2020.

14. Newhill primary parking

KW plans to meet with Mrs Douglas regarding parking on Smithfield Crescent. KW to arrange to contact local resident Brian Smith who has problems with the parents parking near his property.

15. Councillor reports

TMc – Informed council of problem of adult football teams urinating at half-time over the wall at Davie Park. Police involved and there are now questions being raised as to whether teams should be allowed to use Davie Park grounds if this continues. CSu asked if SFA have been contacted in relation to this behaviour as there may be a disciplinary issue over team conduct here.

CSh- Croft Lane; improvements in this street to be looked into.

Riverside area, in particular Cargills leap, has issues with littering. Car park at Riverside to be improved by resurfacing and marking of parking bays.

Forest way roundabout – possibility of removing now that traffic lights have been installed further down from COOP on Coupar Angus Rd.

CSh praised the organisers of the Rattray Community Xmas lunch. A wide range of people aged from 3 months to 80 plus attended the lunch held at the hall. It was very well attended and was organised by Ally Muir (Rattray Friendship Café) and Kayleigh Mustard (SCYD). CSh felt that BRCC should celebrate the community work and citizenship by way of letter. ED to write to the lead organiser of the event.

16. Planning Applications

HC- nothing to note.

RD requesting training for BRCC in understanding planning rules.

17. West Park Retail Park

Plans for approval on 15.1.20 and build to be finished Dec 2020/Jan 2021.

BARBA have been discussing the possibility of improving bus routes and developing cycle lanes to allow the public to access the retail park.

18. Members of the Public

Threat of PKC stopping the Lollipop crossing service at Rattray Primary School.

Member of the public is a council employee and he alluded to the council spending excess money due to inefficient energy use (lights being left on all day and thoughtless wastage etc) than the cost of a Lollipop salary for 2 hours per day. His thoughts are that the council could run a more economic service by looking at ways of saving money within the workplace rather than cutting essential services which ensure safety to children attending school.

CSh- reassured that the Lollipop service would not be discontinued unless a safe alternative was in place. She felt it important to keep the Lollipop person in work until a decision has been made by GS Brown on the plans over the extension of the Rattray Primary School. The building works here could cause more traffic congestion and obstruction and it is important to ensure children's safety at this time in particular.

CSh- school initiative in place to show children how to use a pedestrian crossing and how to cross the road safely.

BB- Highlighted to BRCC his concern that the 20-mph vehicle activated signs have not been installed and should have been done by now. CSh said she would chase this with Darryl McEwan from PKC.

CSh- parking bays have been made on Hatton road for parents to drop children and allow them to walk the short distance safely through the park and into school grounds independently.

Member of public raised his request that seats are installed along the path from Rattray to Davie Park to allow the older generation opportunity to sit and rest whilst out a walk. CSh- The construction of benches is something the Community Payback team could be involved with.

19. **AOB**

Can loading bays on High Street and Reform Street be changed to designated parking? General consensus was that public park in them anyway. As a local business owner on the High St CSu finds it difficult accessing the loading bays to drop off and pick up loads from her work. She feels some bays should be retained for this purpose. BRCC agreed change of use of some bays this could be looked into. Removal of parking bays outside the Angus Hotel; no planning permission granted for removal of bays and construction of decking. This is now a legal issue with Mr Scott of The Angus and the PKC.

MP-C had a member of public ask what the pallets on top of the Angus hotel were, and does the structure and location pose a health and safety threat? MP-C to ask Mr Scott.

KW- Gave praise to the new Knockie stone shelter, but since creation the old sign obstructs the view. She asked if this can be improved. RD said the Rotary were to fund a new sign and for it to be placed in a better position.

BRAN is collecting blue counters in Tesco- can people consider choosing BRAN to donate the counter to so they can raise more funds to support the local paths and walking network.

PS- BRCC are responsible for the maintenance of Berries and Cherries ground at Gas Brae/Reform Street. Blair and Bloom are interested in taking this ground on and redeveloping it, PS asked for thoughts and potential objections to this suggestion.

KW felt it important to retain the Berries and Cherries theme within any new development, other than that the BRCC are content with handing this responsibility over. A decision was deferred until the next meeting.

20. **Date of next meeting**

Next Meeting 6th February 2020 7pm in ARC, Jessie Street.

Distribution of Minutes by email unless specified:

Mr P Seymour	External:	PKC Community Councils
Mr Brian Rickwood		Clare Damodaran (Press)
Mr E Donald		Mrs B Leslie (Blairgowrie HS)
Mr Robin Duncan		BRCC Website
Mr Sandy Thomson		Blairgowrie & Rattray Development Trust
Miss C Sutherland		
Mrs K Wood		
Mr Howard Chandler		
Mr Mark Purrmann-Charles		
Cllr C Shiers		
Cllr B Brawn		
Cllr T McEwan		