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

Approved Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 9th December 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 David Cuthill (DC)  Mr Robin Duncan (RD)  Ms Gina Purrmann (GP)  Mrs Morag Young (MY)  Mr Pete Richardson (PR)  Mr Alexander Thomson (AT)  Mrs Samantha Stewart (SS)  **APOLOGIES** Mrs Linda Miezite (LM)  Police & Fire | Chairperson  Vice Chair  Treasurer  Secretary | Councillors  - Present  Bob Brawn (BB)  Caroline Shiers (CS)  - by Teams link  Tom McEwen (TM)  Press  Clare Damodaran (CD)  ProCom  Steve Johnson (SJ)  4 x member of the public | **ABSENCES**  N/A | |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome and Introductions**   * Health and safety briefing given (SM) * Accordance for recording meeting read out (GDPR, active consent, etc) (SM) * Main points of Chair’s Report given (see Item 16 below) (SM) * Introductions | | | | **Actions** | |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  Linda Miezite, Police and Fire sent apologies | | | |
| **Item 3 – Co-option of a new member**  Email from PKC Elections & Community Councils Officer confirming receipt of a valid application form from Ian Ewan, who thus joins BRCC as a new member. | | | |
| **Item 4 –** Adoption **of November 9th 2021 Minutes**  Decision: The minutes were proposed by GP and seconded by RD, and were adopted subject to two amendments.  Page 3, item 5c Decision, add “where possible.”  Page 7, Item 14, ii) add “BB does not think that they will comment on live applications.” | | | |  | |
| **Item 5 –** Matters **raised by members of the public**  **5a. Spittal of Glenshee Hotel** – Elizabeth Angus and Alan Brownie, new owners of the Spittal of Glenshee Hotel) attended to discuss their work. Phase 1 will begin in February of next year and run until April. They will be tackling derelict land. Their overall vision is to turn the Spittal into a community hub. This will not be a hotel. They are also taking action to protect and preserve the local environment/wildlife.  **5b. Flooding of Rattray Burn (Park Hill Road)** – AT reported receiving letters from two concerned members of the community following an article about the flood event in the local newspaper. Some within the community feel that flooding has only become an issue since the construction of the new Springfield housing developments. Others in the community are concerned about the impact that flooding will have upon getting insurance and being able to sell their house in the future. It was stated that immediate action must be taken. ST suggested the use of cameras to help with repairs and burn clean up. DC highlighted the flooding as another example of insufficient account being taken of the input from local people by PKC when making planning decisions. CS highlighted that there are multiple different landowners, which means multiple people are responsible for flood management. She suggested that PKC should oversee a flood management scheme. CS also suggested nominating someone on the BRCC to be the liaison between councillors and PKC to ensure that local people are heard. SM suggested going down the route of Alyth, who have a flood response team and sandbag containers. CS noted that a meeting between Keith Colville and Grant Train (Flood Team Leader, Alyth) would be taking place.  Decision: Resilience subcommittee will liaise with residents and PKC.  BRCC will send a letter to PKC supporting Rattray residents and need for action | | | | PR  AT & GP | |
| **Item 6 – Spittal of Glenshee Hotel** Taken as item 5a above.  **Item 7 –** Matters **arising**  **7a. Resilience Plan**  Grab bags & information folders here for BRCC Team Leaders tonight, training on use to follow.  Decision: There will be two folders, one held by PR and the other by SM. This will ensure that if someone is not available, there will always be access to the necessary information.  PR will also be working with Grant Train (Alyth).  **7b. Children at Xmas/Nativity Display/Xmas Tree/Illuminations** – SS reported that the Wish Tree had gone up in Tesco with 57 wishes from local children on the tree. As of last night, there were 20 wishes remaining. Santa to deliver gifts on December 21st. However, many gifts not available to buy in Tesco. May look at alternative location for next year. The Nativity display is the first in 35 years or more. RD acquired the funding for the tree. Unfortunately the star was broken, but SM had already taken steps to resolve this issue. Majority of lights in town are working, but some need to be refurbished. Lottery funding has been received to make the lights even better next year.  Decision: Discussion to be held on whether the lights should be kept on all of the time.  Sincere thanks to SM and his team.  **7c. Fireworks** - SM had requested that the fireworks fundraiser be taken down from a private Facebook page. It was noted that BRCC are aware of the environmental and pet issues surrounding firework displays. RD confirmed that fundraising donations were deposited into BRCC bank account.  Decision: Fundraisers are to be on the BRCC social media/website, and utilising PayPal ensures that all funds go directly to the BRCC in accordance with guidelines.  BRCC PayPal account to be set up again.  **7d. Climate Action** - DC assured the BRCC that attempts are being made to engage with Blairgowrie High School regarding Climate Action. There is a lot of enthusiasm amongst young people for taking action. DC expects more progress will be made before the end of the year. GP added that a response from the school had been received today.  Decision: Continue to engage with the school.  **7e. Citizen of the Year**  Decision: Once trophy and list of names have been received, photos will be taken and put on social media, website, local press  **7f. Clunie Loch/Outdoor Access Code** - While the community has the right to roam in these areas as long as they are acting responsibly, residents in these areas also have the right to reasonable privacy. As such, a balance has to be struck between the two groups. DC has not yet been contacted re the end-of-season ‘mop-up’ meeting.  Decision: Further research to be carried out in order to establish how ‘reasonable’ is defined and how the access code can be strengthened.  **7g. Boundary Commission for Scotland consulting with Community Councils** - After brief discussion at last meeting and additional BRCC email consultation, office bearers agreed a response, and this was sent. There may be difficulties with MPs being responsible for two local council areas. For example, this may result in a duplication of efforts. However, there may also be a benefit in that comparisons can be made, allowing for MPs to discover what is best practice based on what has worked elsewhere. Blairgowrie’s outlying areas could feel cut off, and in general people want to feel their MP represents their area as a whole.  **7h. Community Action Plan Liaison**  Continued liaison taking place, BRCC members on CAP group will report back.  **7i. Local Development Plan**  Decision: This item should be moved to January’s agenda.  **7j. Twinning**  Decision: This item should be moved to January’s agenda.  **7k. Macpherson Bench**  Decision: A presentation by the memorial group to be given next month.  **7l. PKC Event Planning Forums** - MY suggested that this should be withdrawn and taken off of the agenda due to no longer having time to pursue the issue.  Decision: CS and BB to communicate with PKC on this issue.  There is a possibility that SS may take this forward as well.  Resolved for BRCC. | | | | PR  SM  RD/SM  DC/GP  RD/CD/SJ  DC  AT, MY, SS  GP  GP  RD | |
| **Item 8 -** BRCC **Website**  The BRCC website is currently up for renewal. SM suggested that the website be moved to Discover Blairgowrie. SJ explained the website would still be independent from the front end, but at the back end, it will also have the ability to integrate into Discover Blairgowrie’s “What’s On” feature. This would cost £100 per year and would remove all adverts from the website. It was highlighted that this method is currently working well for the Climate Café. RD pointed out that the website we are currently using, powered by Wordpress is £35 per year just for the domain name. SS added that it is covered in adverts. AT suggested that in the interest of balance, the BRCC should also look into other options to see what the best price would be. SJ/SS/SM pointed out that Discover Blairgowrie is run by the Trust and it was given to the community in 2015. Using Discover Blairgowrie would be supporting the community. RD confirmed it would not be much more expensive than all current related costs.  Vote: SS proposed using the enhanced listing on Discover Blairgowrie for £100 per year. DC seconded this.  Decision: Vote passed, all in favour. | | | |  | |
| **Item 9 –** **Feedback/Comment Boxes**  Decision – This item should be moved to January’s agenda. | | | | GP | |
| **Item 10 -** Cottage **Hospital**  The Cottage Hospital remains closed as a minor injuries facility. CS has received an update regarding this. There is a move towards creating “Care and Treatment Centres” and no one quite knows what this actually means. However, it does lead to those with minor injuries, such as a knife cut, having to travel to Perth Royal Infirmary of Ninewells Hospital to get treatment. CS pointed out that it does not matter if this is in line with Government policy as there has been no community consultation. There is strong will amongst members of the community to fight for this facility to be reopened.  Decision: CS will pass along the update which she received.  The BRCC will also take the lead on a campaign to reopen the facility. | | | | CS | |
| **Item 11 –** **Town Flag**  There have been multiple different designs submitted. These designs will be available to be viewed and voted upon at next month’s meeting.  Decision: This item will be moved to January’s agenda. | | | | SS, SM | |
| **Item 12 –** **David Bailey Bench**  MY has informed us that the item can be taken off of the BRCC agenda as it no longer needs to be connected to the Community Council.  Decision: This item has been withdrawn from future agendas. | | | |  | |
| **Item 13 –** **Traffic Matters**  **13a. Traffic/Roads Sub-Committee**  Decision – Those previously listed are still happy to be involved in this group.  **13b. Beeches Road** – BB has pointed out that the questionnaire is giving more problems than answers.  Decision – Question to be simplified to: “Are you interested in a consultation being drawn up?”  Following BRCC’s community engagement training best practice, GP proposed a leaflet drop rather than just relying upon social media – the leaflet drop will be limited to Beeches Road.  **13c. Parking Issues/Traffic Warden Patrols** – Not discussed at this month’s meeting.  **13d. Yellow Line Extensions**  Decision – BB will cover this in his report. | | | | AT, SM, DC  BB, GP, AT, SM, DC | |
| **Item 14 –** **Planning Matters**  **14a. Marlee Quarry** - No application has been made yet. AT will speak more to this if planning application is on planning list before the next meeting.  Decisions – GP will resend the information.  **14b. West Gormack**  DC reported that ‘a recorder’ has been appointed by the planning appeals division of the Scottish government and a site survey is to be carried out. A decision will then be made based upon the strength of all documentation and in conjunction with the findings of the site survey.  **14c. Planning Application Response** – PKC was unable to offer a training session on planning responses. Local architect and former BRCC member Gordon Darge was able to give some advice regarding drive-through application, and a discussion document was discussed at a special meeting in order to send in a response by the deadline.  **14d. Weekly list for 6.12.21**  Regarding the two applications for new takeaways, it was questioned if they are needed. There has been an empty takeaway premises on the High Street for a while.  Decision – GP to circulate applications for comments, collate response for PKC | | | | AT  GP  DC  GP | |
| **Item 15 –** **Police and Fire Reports**  The Police have sent their apologies for not sending reports for a month. They are having staffing issues. They hope to have someone present here at the next meeting.  Fire crews were mobilised 24 times in November. They are holding a drive-through Santa’s Grotto where you can meet real, live reindeer and see the fire engine. This is a free event. Donations welcome. | | | |  | |
| **Item 16 –** **Chair’s Report**  SM reported that he is possibly the youngest BRCC Chair ever, of a diverse and active council. He is endeavouring to follow all procedures and protocols to the best of his ability. He highlighted that he and the rest of BRCC are still learning. It has been a very busy month with a lot of good work being carried out by the BRCC. Eight people volunteered to help put up the Christmas tree in the Wellmeadow, despite adverse weather conditions! The Christmas Lights switch on was a great success. In general, SM is trying his best to achieve BRCC running more smoothly. There have been some concerns raised by members of the public regarding fireworks fundraising. SM assures that he took appropriate action in response. | | | |  | |
| **Item 17 – Treasurer’s Report**  BRCC Finance report to 9th Dec 2021.  A Account ending 768  This account has received the £415 claimed from PKC, as their annual top up. Expenses since last meeting were for the Remembrance Wreath, which in future can be obtained from PKC via our local councilors, Admin costs, Hi vis vests and collection boxes, accountancy costs. We now have a balance of £462.61 but this has to see us through to 31st Aug 2022. We may then claim expenses, however, may not get funds until Nov 2022.  B Account ending 560.  This account has a balance of £4922.38; it holds funds for the following purposes.  Resilience- b/f from yr to 31st Aug 2021 was £3947.36. This fund is awaiting the cost of putting electrical wiring for hosting a generator should this be required. There is one in the Rattray Hall and this may have to be taken out should the hall not be available to host a generator for Rattray. The other generator will have to be placed in Blairgowrie and talks are that this would be placed in the school’s new recreation centre or other hall. We have recently spent £13.90 on 2 USBs. Balance is now £3933.46.  Fireworks and Nativity - At 31st Aug 2021 we held £3308.88 which included approximately £600 for a Nativity Cube; this had been carried forward for several years. We had a Fireworks collection of £363.12 plus £600 form Rotary and £136 from an anonymous donor. Fireworks cost £3000 and the Nativity £1398 so now have zero balance in this account. If we are to have fireworks next year we require fundraising.  Defibrillator fund was -£16.02 however the well has been emptied twice recently with amounts of £91.21 and £52.26 so now a balance of £127.45  Bench fund- We have a balance of £353.52  Xmas tree- Collection costs were £4400 from sponsors and expenses of £3892.13 leaving £507.87. | | | |  | |
| **Item 18 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  There was a lot of email activity around x-mas appeals, events, calls for volunteers, official notifications of training opportunities and community funding available, and so on, forwarded to CC members and other appropriate groups. Also the regular PKC, traffic and planning emails. GP spent a considerable amount of time having to deal with issues around GDPR, social media, and others, that in no way furthered any real work of this council, but that had to be dealt with. For this reason, a number of actions from the last meeting have been delayed, as only those with hard deadlines were dealt with. Delayed items will be handled asap as things quiet down. | | | |  | |
| **Item 19 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  **CS** is still pursuing a handrail. She has suggested that the community utilises MyPKC when there is an issue, as they will receive a quicker response. SM has highlighted that this does not always work in practice. CS also reminded everyone that it is necessary to check the grit bins and feed information in to MyPKC if they need to be filled up. CS will update on school exclusion zone in the New Year. CS has stated that the council car parks are free on Saturdays in December. Finally, a reminder has been given that the Vaccination Centre has been temporarily moved to the Parish Church. It operates on set days between 10am – 6pm.  **BB** attended a meeting in Ferguson Park to get an update on works still to be done- accompanied by Officers and Robin Duncan. Also accompanied by a resident- good meeting. A meeting with Road Safety to discuss works needed on Glenalmond Road near the play park. Then joined by Scott to discuss yellow line extensions in Rattray and moving speed cushions near to the School.  **TM** agreed with all area-wide issues CS and BB reported, and highlighted the planning application for the Howes shop at top of Leslie St/Reform St to become a food take-away venue | | | |  | |
| **Item 20 –** **AOCB**  N/A | | | |  | |
| Date of Next Meeting: 13th January 2021, 7pm at the Adult Resource Centre, and online | | | |  | |

Distribution (email unless specified)

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