MINUTES OF BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY IN BLOOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00PM AT RATTTAY BOWLING CLUB

Those Present: Bob Brawn, Cathy Doe, Anne Dow, Marjory Carnegie, Helena Cousins, Ellen Crichton, Pat Lumsden, Nicky McCourt, Jan McHugh, Morag Reid, Bruce and Hazel Roberton, Jean Smith, Avril and William Wilson.

1. Apologies for Absence: Caroline Shiers.
2. Minutes of AGM year ending 2024: Approved by Bruce Robertson.

Seconded by Marjory Carnegie.

1. Treasurer’s Report: See attachment
2. Chairperson’s Report: See attachment
3. Election of Office Bearers and Committee:

Chairperson: Jean Smith nominated by Cathy Doe.

Seconded by Morag Reid.

Treasurer: Morag Reid nominated by Pat Lumsden

Seconded by William Wilson

Secretary: Cathy Doe nominated by Hazel Robertson

Seconded by Pat Lumsden.

Committee Members: Pat Lumsden, Jan McHugh, Bruce and Hazel

Robertson and William Wilson.

1. New Chair Person: Jean first thanked William for all his work over the past two years. He took on an unenviable task when we lost Mary. He showed great strength in ensuring stability and continuance of the Committee at a very difficult time for all. Jean then presented William with a little gift from the Committee as a sign of their appreciation.

Jean also thanked Avril who resigned from the Committee earlier in the year, for all her hard work over many years. Her people skills and organisational skills are missed by all and Avril too was presented with a gift from the Committee as a thank you for all her endeavours.

1. Summing Up by Bob Brawn. Bob thanked all at Blairgowrie and Rattray in Bloom for all their hard work throughout the year and although not everyone may tell us, he knew the Townspeople appreciated the Town being kept tidy and colourful.

Bob too thanked William for taking over from Mary and admired him for surviving the Committee Meetings being one of the only two men on the Committee. Bob went on to say how much enjoyed the Meetings when he could attend.

Bob welcomed Jean as Chair and was sure her knowledge of plants would be invaluable to the Group.

Plans for the future:

An exciting project we are involved with is the Biodiversity Town Pollinator Stepping Stone Project. This is a Tayside Biodiversity Partnership initiative (in association with both the P&K Countryside Trust and PKC) funded by UK Government Prosperity Fund. We have been given a substantial grant to buy pollinator plants to plant throughout the many borders, containers, etc throughout the Town. Jean has put together a list from the RHS Pollinator plant list and Moyness Garden Centre have managed to source all the plants for us.

There were however two conditions. One was that the order had to be in early February which was not a problem but the second one is that the plants have to be planted by the end of March. This should keep us busy for a few weeks as soon as the ground becomes frost free. This is an unexpected and much appreciated bonus and because of the number of plants involved will make a significant difference to the Town.

A bee post is being erected at Coronation Corner shortly as seven of the local species of bees were found there last summer.

A silver birch has been bought and will be planted at Ardblair large bed as soon as weather allows in memory of Mary. All volunteers will be invited to attend to the planting when it has been arranged with perhaps enjoying a coffee at the Dalmore afterwards. Simon is being kept informed of our plans and will also attend on the day.

Meeting closed 7.40pm.