**BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**Agreed Minutes of the Community Council Ordinary Meeting   
held on 12th June 2025 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via ZOOM.

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| **ATTENDANCE**  **BRCC Members**  Scott MacGregor (SM)  Steve Johnson (SJ)  Gina Purrmann (GP)  Peter Richardson (PR)  Lesley McDonald(LM)  Andy Scott (AS) | Vice Chair  Treasurer  Secretary | **PKC Local Councillors**  Bob Brawn (BB)  Caroline Shiers (CS)  Fire Service  3 members of the public | **APOLOGIES**  Police Service  Cllr Tom McEwan (TM) David Cuthill, Chair (DC) Jamie-Louise Morrison (JLM) Pat Marshall (PM)  **ABSENCES** | |
| **Item 1 – Welcome & Introductions:**  SM welcomed all to the meeting and advised that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of the minutes – the recording would then be destroyed once the minutes were complete. | | | |  |
| **Item 2 – Apologies**  **Apologies were received as above.** | | | |  |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of the 1 May 2025 meeting**  Several amendments to the draft minutes were discussed and approved:  Item 5f: The action noted should have been “DC” not “LM.”, Item 6a: Replaced X’s with Neil Hardy’s position, Item 7: All action items were removed apart from one, Page 4: Correction regarding meeting location was acknowledged and addressed.  **Decision: The corrected minutes were formally adopted.** | | | |  |
| **Item 4 – Police & Fire Reports**  **Fire Service Report:** Over the past month, the fire service worked closely with local schools to practise fire safety, as part of their summer safety campaign, the fire team collaborated with the Cunywoch Preservation Group. A recent joint site visit to the River Ericht area was conducted to identify fire and public safety risks. Discussions covered practical interventions, adding signage, access restrictions, and landownership clarification. Preparations are underway for the Young Firefighters Programme, which will run four cohorts between July and October which aims to teach youths (ages 12-17) about teamwork, discipline, and fire safety responsibilities. Additionally, the fire service is developing a water safety awareness course with local agencies which will be available in schools and community groups later in the year.  **Police Report:**  Crimes of note since last meeting: 3 cases of vandalism, 8 youths suspected, not yet identified, enquiries ongoing; 1 case of assault, suspect indentified, enquires ongoing; 1 robbery, suspects not identified, enquiries ongoing; 1 collision on the road @ Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie, incident involved 2 pedestrians knocked over by a vehicle that failed to stop, both uninjured, vehicle identified.  Road Traffic/Speeding  Across the weekend of 23rd to 25th May 2025 PCs Campbell and Straiton, along with  colleagues from Road Policing Unit carried out a Road Traffic initiative within Blairgowrie.  This involved high visibility speed checks, low profile speeds checks for purposes of data  collection and Operation Close Pass, focusing on driver behaviour when encountering  cyclists on the road. Several motorists were spoken to and given advice. No persons were  travelling at excessive speeds to merit enforcement. The data gathered from the low profile  checks were shared directly with Perth and Kinross Council Roads Department, which will  assist them in planning and implementing speed limits and associated calming measures.  Primary 7 Community Event  On Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd June 2025, the Community Team along with colleagues  from Blairgowrie Fire Station, P & K Safer Communities and SCYD held our annual Primary 7  engagement event. Pupils from Newhill, St Stephens and Rattray took part. During the event  they discussed, and learned about, various topics including anti-social behaviour, the  dangers of derelict buildings and riverside safety. The event was a great success and we  would like to thank all colleagues, pupils and teachers for taking part. | | | |  |
| **Item 5 – Matters raised by members of the public**  **Please note that the items below detail the views and opinions raised by members of the public. This does not indicate the view of BRCC or individual Community Councillors unless clearly stated.**  **a) Oaklie's Fun House –** A representative from Oaklie’s Fun House discussed the new indoor soft play and community activity space they propose. Planned features include a soft play area, “Imagination Village”, inflatable zone, party areas, and a private class space. This is aimed at fulfilling a local gap in child-focused indoor recreation and would bring new visitors into the community. Accessibility, parking, and community inclusiveness were emphasized. Overall, the idea received positive feedback online.  **b) Community Concerns –** The lack of NHS dental care in the area was brought up along with the poor maintenance of parks and wildflower areas with unkept grass leading to overgrown weeds and diminished aesthetics. | | | |  |
| **Item 6 – Representations of Young People**  DC and GP spoke to P. Cunningham, Head Teacher, Blairgowrie High School, about having students attend meetings starting from September, hopefully turning into regular occurrences meaning the input from young people is considered. | | | |  |
| **Item 7 – Regular Reports**  **a) Resilience/Flooding/First Responders PR/SM**  First aid and mental health courses were completed for local business volunteers. RiverTrack monitoring device was installed at Rattray Burn; needs Wi-Fi to activate real-time alerts, additional monitoring point to be installed. Planning underway to maintain system post first-year funding.  Ongoing recruitment through local networks for first responders, information session scheduled for June 19th at St Catherine’s Hall.  **b) Climate Action DC/GP/JM**  No update at this time.  **c) Twinning GP/SM/DC/AS**  Delegation to visit France scheduled for July 12th to 20th. French counterparts expected to visit Blairgowrie during the summer. Website updates were discussed; aiming to include Discover Blairgowrie content. Nathalie Deprez, President of the Twinning Committee in Brebières, has created a twinning website and it will be linked by both towns as appropriate.  **d) Maintenance in Blairgowrie & Rattray**  **i. Built Environment**  **a) Electrical Connections at Wellmeadow (B&R Common Good Fund?) -** Electrical connections for Wellmeadow are in progress and using Common Good Funds to support installation costs was discussed as a future possibility.  **ii. Open Spaces**  There are concerns over overgrown areas and local volunteers have expressed interest in managing designated “Grow Wild” zones, which has yet to be formalised. Biodiversity Blair put a lot of hours into removing invasive Himalayan Balsam at Davie Park and the community was invited to help with long-term maintenance of biodiversity spaces.  **e) Local Place Plan**  Plan has been accepted and is waiting to be registered by Perth and Kinross Council.  Sites for future development discussed; public encouraged to nominate key areas.  **f) Citizen/Young Person/Group of the Year**  The nomination period finished on 31st of May. Nominations will now be studied by the evaluation team who will agree the winners of each of the 3 categories. Awardees will then be notified and invited to attend the Highland Games, Sunday, 7th September. BRCC will present trophies to winners at the Braemar Day celebrations on Saturday, 6th September.  **g) PA System**  System is functioning well with local sports clubs and community events keeping the equipment in active use. BRCC will promote this more in the future. | | | | PR  DC |
| **Item 7 – Matters Arising/Reports Back**  **a) Emma Street laundry –** Recent PKC Environmental Health visit identified no risk to public health at all; site was fenced off and sealed with warning signage; pedestrian access concerns noted.  **b) Football Pitch –** Will revisit when the BRCC monthly meeting takes place at Davie Park, hopefully in September.  **c) Gallowbank Footpath –** Issues about how many trees are being cut down during nesting season along with the lack of wildlife surveys. Several trees along the edges have been registered meaning it is illegal to cut them down. PKC Planning Enforcement team visit was noted, and public engagement is ongoing. | | | |  |
| **Item 8 – Traffic Matters**  **a) Speeding –** Speed checks were conducted as per Item 4 above. A community speed watch group is being developed by BRCC. Trial cameras and road signage updates are being considered. Next traffic meeting will be during September. | | | |  |
| **Item 9 – Planning Matters**  Re: Proposed Westfield Development, Rattray, greatest demand is for 2 Bed properties, and better footpath connections and biodiversity safeguards are desirable. It was noted that the site could be better linked up to the existing path network. | | | |  |
| **Item 10 – Chair’s Report**  Mentioned the installation of the river tracking system, submission for Westfield housing development, and getting in touch with other Community Councils regarding planning concerns, now that email contacts have been found. | | | |  |
| **Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Admin A/C** May balance  Minutes (May) **June balance**  **Projects A/C** May balance **June Balance**  Community Pot Resilience Well (Defib) Rooted in B & R | **In** | **Out**  £40 | **Balance** £454.06  £454.06 **£414.06**   £15,279.99 **£15,279.99**  £931.97  £11,604.56  £8.46  £2,735 |   Current budget leaves £104.06 for Admin Support/Room Hire  Insurance for 2 x phone boxes, laptop and PA System - £93.07 from Community Pot to be replenished by PA hire and other fundraising. | | | |  |
| **Item 12 –** **Councillors’ Reports**  **PKC Councillor Bob Brawn** Community Council elections will be held on November 6th, with nominations due by September 25th. Ongoing discussions around PKC maintenance budgets and Common Good Fund usage, particularly regarding Wellmeadow infrastructure, were highlighted. Concerns about traffic speeds, overgrown vegetation, and wildflower maintenance was acknowledged and discussions with relevant PKC departments are ongoing. Attended the Westfield playpark opening, sandbags have been cleared, along with vandalism, (though there is still graffiti in several spots), and a red squirrel ladder has been installed. The new recreation centre is still experiencing issues due to liner leaks. There have been several reports of damage to trees and work is finally underway at the footbridge at Keathbank Mill (Army bridge). Last night the Perth and Kinross Youth Work Partnership, of which SCYD is a big part, won a national youthwork award. Brilliant recognition of the efforts of these local youth organisations.  Councillors and PKC have been working with businesses regarding road markings at various businesses plagued by people parking over the accesses when waiting for the recycling site to open.  **PKC Councillor Caroline Shiers** CSdisappointed at the vandalism at Cargills Leap. However huge thanks to Mike from Ericht Holiday Lodges who was quick off the mark to clean it up and PKC have been out to look at replacing the wooden slats. There will be a session in the Town Hall on 24th June from 4pm until 7pm to discuss the proposal of a visitor levy.Roads update meeting with PKC officers has taken place and have a schedule of works to be carried out over the next year. CS had cause to report issues with the traffic management company setting up signage and lights and then nothing happening. Hopefully we won’t see this again. CS attended the opening of the Petals of Peace exhibition by a Lithuanian artist, which runs from 12-25 June in the library. CS has been working with Scottish Water re sewerage issues at Carsie and Honeyberry.Ongoing discussions with individuals regarding businesses taking over vacant buildings, which is great news. Hoping to get a red squirrel ladder installed over Boat Brae  Next litter pick will be 17 August at 10am, meeting at the rear of the police station | | | |  |
| **Item 13 –** **AOCB**  Local media (Blairgowrie Advertiser) inaccuracies were highlighted, and the importance of a reliable community communication was noted. Discover Blairgowrie website is being redeveloped as central hub for local updates and event promotion. | | | |  |
| Date of Next Meeting: 14th August 2025, 7pm at the BaRi Building and from 6.45pm online. | | | |  |

Distribution (email)

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Scott MacGregor - Vice Chair Bob Brawn P. Cunningham, Blair High

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