**BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**DRAFT Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 14th August 2025 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via ZOOM.

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| **ATTENDANCE**  **BRCC Members**  Scott MacGregor (SM)  Gina Purrmann (GP)  Andrew Scott (AS)  Pete Richardson (PR)  Jamie Louise Morrison (JLM) | Vice Chair  Secretary | **PKC Local Councillors**  Tom McEwan (TM)  Bob Brawn (BB)  Caroline Shiers (CS - online)  4 members of the public  Alesha Deuchars (minutes) | **APOLOGIES**  David Cuthill (DC) Chair  Steve Johnson (SJ) Treasurer  Lesley McDonald (LM)  Police Service  Fire Service  **ABSENCES**  Pat Marshall (PM) | |
| **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.  Introductions were made. | | | |  |
| **Item 2 – Apologies**  **Apologies were received as above.** | | | |  |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of the 1 May 2025 meeting**  Decision: The minutes were formally adopted. | | | |  |
| **Item 4 – Police & Fire Reports**  **Fire Service Report:** unavailable due to tech issues. To be included in next month’s minutes.  **Police Report:**  (Submitted by email) Crimes of note since last meeting: 1 assault, 1 youth identified and charged; 1 serious assault, 1 male arrested and charged; several offences including assault, threatening, and abusive behaviour, 2 youths identified and charged and referred to the Youth Justice Assessor; Various traffic offences by an illegal E Bike involving road collision, rider charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. | | | |  |
| **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) Traffic Concerns –** A member of public requested to re-examine the possibility of speed tables or calming measures. Concerns were raised about the Wellmeadow junction and pedestrian safety. The air pollution, especially near Rattray Primary School was highlighted. The suggestion of temporary pollution monitoring and tree planting near playgrounds was brought up along with concerns about new housing developments and how they will exacerbate traffic and air quality problems.  **b) Top-Up Tap –** A member of public reiterated a desire for a Scottish Water “Your Water, Your Life” top-up tap at the Wellmeadow outside public toilets, and it was noted that Blairgowrie currently has none despite there being 130+ in Scotland. Agreed to re-engage formally with Scottish Water and restart the request. | | | |  |
| **Item 6 – Regular reports**  **a) Resilience/Flooding/First Responders PR/SM**  Two new River Track monitors were installed at Rattray Burn. Recent storm event successfully measured by system; alert system is functioning. The resilience meeting was scheduled for the 9th of September and flood barrier demonstration confirmed for the 23rd of August at the Fire Station.  **b) Climate Action DC/GP/JM**  Tree Planting for Babies born in 2025 was confirmed with Donald Anderson, PKC GreenSpace; larger saplings to be provided this year.  **c) Twinning GP/SM/DC/AS**  Guests from Brebières (France) visited privately; ongoing cultural exchange. There was a positive community response to existing and potential twin town links.  **d) Maintenance in Blairgowrie & Rattray**  **i. Built Environment**  **a) Electrical Connections at Wellmeadow**  Wellmeadow electrical works quotations due; work expected late August/early September, concerns about clashing with Braemar weekend were noted.  **ii. Open Spaces** Nothing to report  **e) Local Place Plan** Now officially registered and to be overseen by BRDT.  **f) Citizen/Young Person/Group of The Year**  **Citizen of the Year**:Helen Craig; **Young Person of the Year**: Millie Muir; **Group of the Year**: Blairgowrie & Rattray in Bloom.  Awards to be presented on Braemar Day at 12:45pm. | | | |  |
| **Item 7 – Matters Arising/Reports Back**  **a) Emma Street Laundry Site**  The site remains fenced off. PKC confirms legal rights currently lie with the owner. Attempts are being made to explore fixed penalty notices for pavement obstruction.  **b) Football Pitch**  Pavilion suggested as September meeting venue. CS to confirm booking. SJ to check tech.  **c) Gallowbank Footpath**  Concerns raised about the exposed earth following removal works; risk of erosion. Developers to re-engineer bank; further information to follow at PKC meeting with developer.  **d) Representation of Young People**  No youth attendees this month due to school holidays. P. Cunningham, Headteacher, Blairgowrie High School, to arrange representation from September onwards. | | | | CS/SJ |
| **Item 8 – Remembrance Day Wreath**  BRCC to exchange PA system hire for wreath; arrangements with Mr Gibb to be confirmed. | | | | GP |
| **Item 9 – Highland Games**  A BRCC stall has been confirmed, display boards and volunteers are available. | | | | DC, AS, GP |
| **Item 10 – Community Council Elections**  Nominations open until 25th September. If oversubscribed, election will take place in November. Public appeal to encourage new members: PKC has provided a poster to be distributed via website, social media and around the town; also letter to community groups via BRDT email. | | | | GP/AS/SJ/  LM |
| **Item 11 – Traffic Matters**  **a) Speeding Meeting**  Community speeding group is being formed, and a dedicated email address was created for the public to submit concerns. Awaiting further meetings with police (PC Gary Campbell and new officer PC Sean Robertson). Discussion of Mount Blair’s newly formed speeding group – potential for collaboration. A request to restart regular traffic liaison group meetings was brought up and they are expected to recommence in September. | | | | SM |
| **Item 12 – Planning Matters**  A planning application has been submitted for a McDonalds fast food outlet at Westpark. It has generated a lot of discussion in the town with opinion divided. CS encouraged members of the community to have their views recorded through the PKC online planning portal so that their views will be considered as part of the planning process. It was noted that the site already had ‘permission in principle’ for commercial development, but not specifically for McDonald’s or a ‘family restaurant’.  **Item 13 -Chair’s Report**  Despite there being no BRCC meeting in July, Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Councillors have continued to be busy since our last monthly meeting on 12th June.  On June 14th we took part in the "Town Event which was well attended and a great opportunity for us to meet other groups in the town as well as members of the public.  On 1st July, the Citizen of the Year sub-group met to identify this year's Award winners who were ... Helen Craig (Citizen of the Year); Milly Muir (Young Citizen of the Year) and Blairgowrie & Rattray in Bloom (Group of the Year). We would also like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate the winners for their success and to say a big thank you to all members of the public who submitted nominations on behalf of people and groups they felt were worthy of such an award.  Between 13th and 20th July, the Secretary, myself and my wife were privileged to spend a week in Brebières to attend the Bastille Day Commemorations and Celebrations which allowed us many opportunities to meet a large cross-section of the Brebieres community and to see firsthand, how their community functions. The trip was a great success as, without exception, the people we met were all very keen to see the relationship between our two towns develop further as illustrated by I the twinning coordinator and her husband choosing to spend the last week of their summer holiday here in Blairgowrie!  I should also like to congratulate Lesley and Steve on their successful registration of our Local Place Plan, the culmination of months of very intensive work on their part, so thank you both for all the hours you spent on constructing our plan.  Some key emails received ...  30th June - Help shape the P & K approach to a Visitor Levy Consultation ... 1% levy could generate £1.6 - £1.8 m annually which could be used to improve the lives of local residents). Consultation ends 30th September. All encourage to have your say.  30th July - Application for Variation of Premises Licence for Arthur News, Arthur Street Blairgowrie. Signed 3rd July 2025.  7th August - applications for the Surf Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration are open. Deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 1st September.  9th August - Cares Funding - message from SCARF re funding to help charity, community and faith groups improve and future-proof their buildings. 80% grants for small projects up to £80k or up to £250k on larger projects. | | | |  |
| **Item 13 – Treasurer’s Report**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Admin A/C** Jun balance **August balance**  **Projects A/C** June Balance  MHFA Course  PKC Insurance  Blairgowrie Juniors  RIRB **August Balance**  Community Pot Resilience Well (Defib) Rooted in B & R | **In**        £50  £90 | **Out**  £650  £93.07 | **Balance** £414.06 **£414.06**   £15,279.99  £14,629.99  £14,536.92  £14,586.92  £14,506.92  **£14,506.92**  £888.90  £10,954.56  £8.46  £2,655 |   Current budget leaves £104.06 to be claimed for Admin Support  End of Financial Year is 31st August - £104.06 to be claimed by office bearers.  Need to empty collection box at the Wellmeadow well to replenish defib pot. | | | |  |
| **Item 14 –** **Councillors’ Reports**  **PKC Councillor Bob Brawn**  BB confirmed that although the area is in need of dentists, NHS dental treatment practises are independent & cannot be compelled to provide a set proportion of NHS vs private appointments.  Scottish Water works are scheduled from 11th September for three days. Temporary traffic controls will be in place between Mill Street and the Tannage Street junction.  Speed surveys have commenced across Blairgowrie and surrounding villages. Specific monitoring at the Golf Course Road/Coupar Angus Road junction will measure both speed and traffic volume.  Reports of problematic traffic near the Marley Loch mobile home park were noted. Surveys will also capture data there.  The Marfield site in Rattray, opposite the Co-op, has secured planning permission for 39 dwellings. After delays due to legal negotiations, preliminary building works are expected to begin October 2025.  BB confirmed rumours surrounding asylum seeker accommodations were false.  **PKC Councillor Caroline Shiers**  CS has a meeting on Monday 18th with Scottish Water regarding the very long-standing issue of flooding at the junction of Rattray High Street and Honeyberry. This is a public health issue and must be addressed. CS will update following that meeting.  CS has received a lot of complaints over the summer about overnight parking of camper vans at the Riverside and has raised this with PKC.  There continues to be issues around grounds maintenance around the town. Officers have been helpful in addressing these, but it continues to be a source of frustration with many residents.  Scottish Water have an ongoing issue at Carsie with which CS is involved.  Ongoing complaints about the cemetery.  Continuing issues with the glass recycling - the vehicle used to empty the recycling bells continues to have breakdown issues. CS has asked what PKC will be doing about this as they must address this. Leaving bottles beside the bins is technically viewed as fly tipping and CS encourages residents not to leave them.  CS has been made aware of a couple of accidents where people have fallen off the pavement by the area opposite the Royal Hotel, on the Mitchells side of the road. CS raised this with officers who pointed out that there is a dropped kerb areas which is meant to be used for getting across the street.  Strathmore Screen returns on 28th September at the Town Hall.  The next litter pick will be 24th August meeting at 10am at the car park behind SCYD. All welcome.  **PKC Councillor Tom McEwan** had nothing further to add at this time. | | | | CS |
| **Item 15 –** **AOCB**  Campervan donation schemes being explored. Concerns over traffic wardens raised; request for more consistent enforcement. Upcoming flood resilience demonstration on the 23rd of August. | | | |  |
| Date of Next Meeting: 11th September 2025, 7pm at the BaRi Building and from 6.45pm online. | | | |  |

Distribution (email)

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