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

Approved Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 13th January 2022 at 7pm, online via Teams.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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)  Mrs Samantha Stewart (SS)  Mr Ian Ewan (IE)  Watch Commander Paul Smith (PS)  **APOLOGIES** Mr Alexander Thomson (AT)  Community Police | Chairperson  Vice Chair  Treasurer  Secretary  Retained Fire Service | **Councillors**  Bob Brawn (BB)  Caroline Shiers (CS)  Tom McEwen (TM)  **Press**  Clare Damodaran (CD)  **ProCom**  Steve Johnson (SJ)  **Minutes** Laura Rodger (LR)  3 x member of the public | **ABSENCES**  Mrs Linda Miezite (LM) | |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome and Introductions**  Introductions lead by SM | | | | **Actions** | |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  Alexander Thomson and the police sent apologies | | | |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of December 2021 meeting**  Decision: The minutes were proposed by GP and seconded by DC | | | |
| **Item 4 –** **Local Community Police Officer (attending)**  Unfortunately, due to staffing issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, a representative of the police was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.  SM invited PS to give an update on the Retained Fire Service. Details under Item 13 below. PS was called away during the following discussion about resilience; details under Item 6a below. | | | |  | |
| **Item 5 –** **Matters raised by members of the public**  **‘Hearts of the Travellers’**– David G Pullar (DGP) is the chairperson of the charity ‘Heart of the Travellers.’ They are currently in the process of closing down the charity as they no longer have enough members to keep going. However, they still have funds available which they would like to use to build a permanent monument or memorial to Betsy Whyte as a worthy representative of Scotland’s Travelling People and former resident of Rattray. The group has not reached out to anyone regarding design. No decision has been taken on location. They were waiting to establish whether this idea would be backed by BRCC. The charity is happy to collaborate with local artists. CS to contact local heritage society.  Decision: Agreed in principle. DGP to send update when there is more information. | | | |  | |
| **Item 6 –** **Matters arising**  **6a. Resilience Plan** The next routine inspection to monitor flooding will be in the Spring. It is suggested that the Council Flood team use CCTV to examine the existing pipework along three main roads. This will help regarding drainage/blockage and identify repairs needing to be made.  There is the possibility of the sandbag container being moved to a new location. No decision on this has been taken.  It was noted that there is a shortage of sandbags. Tayside Contracts hand out as many as they can.  Decision: PR will be liaising with the Watch Commander.  **6b. Children at Xmas/Nativity Display/Xmas Tree/Illuminations**  SS reported that businesses stepped in to a cover a number of the gifts to ensure that every child received what they had asked for. The BRCC would like to thank Sam and Linda for all of their hard work regarding this.  MY thanked Parker Signs, NatureScapes Landscaping and Corrie Fencing for their help putting up and taking down the Nativity Display, which they will continue to do each year as long as they are given adequate notice; RD has their details. MY has spoken to the Chair of the Illuminations Committee, who has agreed that the support structure for the display can be housed in one of their containers, so has passed on his details to NatureScapes to arrange. She has also asked if the Illuminations Committee would agree to supply the lighting for the display in years to come, and to be responsible for the putting up and taking down of the Christmas tree. The Illuminations Chair will ask the illuminations committee, and respond to BRCC.  There were issues with the power supply from the sunken path sockets which will need to be raised with PKC and resolved for Christmas 2022.  Decision: PKC to be contacted regarding lighting issue. The BRCC will be informed of the decision that Illuminations committee make.  SM stated that the Christmas tree had been a great success. Unfortunately, the star was unable to be put up. Hopefully this will be resolved for Christmas 2022.  The illuminations will be taken down this year on the 22nd/23rd January. Some illuminations will be retired, new ones purchased. Also looking to create a wider pool of capable volunteers.  **6c. Climate Action** - DC informed the BRCC that the high school Climate Action group met for the first time this term this afternoon. No update yet.  Decision: We will continue to engage with the school and update at next meeting.  **6d. Citizen of the Year -** RD highlighted that it is important to get started on communication regarding Citizen of the Year 2021/22. This is to ensure that more people will have time to place a nomination if they wish to do so.  Decision: CD will pick up the trophies and await details for the trophies’ “Tour of the Town”.  **6e. Clunie Loch/Outdoor Access Code** .  Decision: Nothing to report as waiting on further meeting to take place. An update will be given following this.  **6f. Local Development Plan**  Decision: Report back on this point next month  **6g. Twinning**  Decision: Nothing to report, update to be made next month.  **6h. Macpherson Memorial (previously Macpherson Bench) –** RD informed BRCC that GP had received an email from Ian Richards of the Macpherson Memorial Group, that the BRDT felt that “ownership of any memorial would rest most appropriately with the Community Council or similar body and not the Trust.” The project may cost £40,000 - £50,000. An application is being made to the National Lottery Memorial Fund to cover much of the cost, but it is expected that community groups may like to get involved and back this, as Sir William Macpherson was closely involved with 18 different community groups. BRCC will have public liability of £5 million for the memorial. There will be no premium to pay for this as it is included in BRCC’s insurance cover organised by PKC. The memorial group created the design brief. David Wilson designed. The design was approved by PKC. A display of what the memorial will look like will be available at the library in due course.  Decision: A decision was taken by the BRCC that this should be referred to as the ‘Macpherson Memorial’ moving forward. CS pointed out that there was confusion over it being referred to as a bench. It is a piece of art that people can sit on.  **6i. BRCC Website**  Decision: The current website expires on the 9th of February. The replacement with Discover Blairgowrie, as well as the enhanced listing, will be up and running by the end of the month.  **6j. Cottage Hospital**  Decision: Still waiting for a response for as to why decisions were taken without consultation. An update will be given when more is known.  **6k. David Bailey Bench**  GP explained that David Bailey was instrumental in restarting BRCC in 2014. He was the first chair. SJ had asked for this to be put back on the agenda as he feels that a memorial bench was a BRCC decision, and should not have been so lightly handed over to a private individual in December; BRCC are the ones that should retain ownership of this project. For several reasons, the current BRCC, most of whom do not know about David Bailey, has not been kept up to date about this project. MY has been driving it forward, ensuring that former members of BRCC who knew David Bailey were being kept in the loop. MY gave a brief update to inform BRCC that the bench is ready and that it has been paid for. There has been no shortfall in funding for it.  Decision: RD motioned a vote that the BRCC fully support MY in this project moving forward. This passed with a majority in favour. MY will update on this project as it progresses. | | | | PR  SM  DC  CD/RD/SJ  DC  GP  GP  SJ  CS  RD, MY | |
| **Item 7 – Feedback Boxes**  GP informed the CC that a lot of the boxes have gone missing.  Decision: That GP draw up a list of the box locations and everyone on the CC will take responsibility for one of them. DC & GP will move the town hall box to the library. | | | | GP, DC | |
| **Item 8 –** **Town Flag**  Decision – This item should be moved to February’s agenda. | | | | SM | |
| **Item 9 - CCTV For the Town**  PR discussed the possibility of creating a CCTV network in the town. He had a walk around to look for possible locations where these could be sited so that they would cover most of the pubs, the Wellmeadow, and Blairgowrie into Rattray. This could be useful for giving the police evidence when incidents occur. PKC have funding for this as they are funding CCTV in Auchterarder.  GP reported on her conversation with Police Sgt. Peter Duncan: while the police would not turn down having more CCTV, they need to be backed by hotspot evidence. Blairgowrie’s crime rate is decreasing, so this is a difficult benchmark to meet. It has to be a matter of proportionality. CCTV is not a proportional response to the current situation. DC added that CCTV is good in the absence of police, but we need more officers on the beat.  SS advocated that getting funding for more lights could be a better idea to make certain areas safer at night. This was also highlighted in the CAP, whereas CCTV was not.  BB noted that there would need to be a public consultation and that public opinion is normally against them.  Decision: Pete should continue to work and liaise on this and bring an update to next meeting. | | | | PR | |
| **Item 10 – Community Action Plan**  It is being uploaded to the relevant website to match major projects and actions, as well as to inform people of how they can get involved.  Decision: Update on this next month. | | | | SS | |
| **Item 11 –** **Traffic Matters**  **11a. Traffic/Roads Sub-Committee**  DC stated that there will be road closures on the Coupar Angus Road for up to three weeks. This will have an adverse impact upon parents taking their children to and from school and cause traffic chaos. The suggested diversion seems illogical. Convoy system more appropriate, allowing better access to properties.  SM is concerned that Gas Brae might need repair not long after resurfacing.  It is important that work is carried out correctly the first time, especially here, given the disruption to business.  Decision: Letter with concerns to be sent to PKC.  **11b. Beeches Road**  A draft consultation leaflet asking if residents are interested in residents-only parking had been circulated by email. Amendments noted. BB highlighted that the they should just be asked a very simple question, e.g. “would you support residents-only parking?” He pointed out that this should not be opening a conversation as the consultation will come afterwards.  Decision – DC & GP to finalise leaflet. DC to distribute. Update to be given at the next meeting. | | | | SM, DC, GP  GP, DC | |
| **Item 12 –** **Planning Matters**  GP noted that the comments re takeaways planning applications were submitted to PKC.  **12a. Marlee Quarry** - Residents are concerned about noise, traffic, dust, impact on the environment, being near a site of special scientific interest. Also negative impact on tourism. They are not happy about the way in which pre-application consultation was done. The question of whether the BRCC should submit an objection was raised. CS suggested that SM find out what was shared with the CC previously as residents received a lot of representation. Decision: Planning subcommittee to discuss a response to PKC. Deadline 4 Feb.  **12b. West Gormack**  DC informed that there was nothing to report. | | | | SM, DC, RD | |
| **Item 13 –** **Police and Fire Reports**  Fire (PS) - 306 calls out (road traffic, fires, all different types of rescues). Recently completed recruitment drive which ran for two months. This recruited five new fire responders. Currently 18 members. Community engagement for home fire safety visits, fitting new smoke detectors. Just completed reviewing high risk places (e.g. hotels, high risk working environments) over the last three months. The Santa drive-through at the fire station raised £567.  Police Commander’s weekly reports this month highlighted domestic abuse and wildlife crime, no mention at all of anything happening in Blair. | | | |  | |
| **Item 14 –** **Chair’s Report**  Nothing to add which has not already been discussed this week. | | | |  | |
| **Item 15 – Treasurer’s Report** BRCC Finance Report to 14th January 2022  A: account ending 768  Transactions since last meeting were secretary expenses and minute costs totaling £69.99 and a  credit of £23.09 for the collection boxes which was debited incorrectly to this admin account.  Balance is currently £415.71 which will allow us to pay the monthly fee of £30 to the minute taker.  B: Account ending 560  Balance was £4922.38 last month however £24.39 was credited as a donation directly from the  FB Fundraiser account and these funds were effectively used to pay for the fireworks collection  boxes, £23.09. These funds did not come from the personal account of a member of BRCC. If any member of BRCC or the public wishes to donate their to BRCC, they are encouraged to do so as we have fundraising requirements if we are to hold next year’s fireworks display.  The breakdown of funds held is available if required but is almost identical to last month.  This account therefore has a balance of £4923.68. | | | |  | |
| **Item 16 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  Again, a large amount of time was spent dealing with issues that have not in any way furthered any real work of BRCC, but that had to be dealt with, so a number of actions from the last meetings are still delayed, as only those with hard deadlines were dealt with. GP hopes that this will no longer be the case moving forward.  GDPR training is on 27th January. Equality and diversity training also applied for.  GP circulated an email regarding procedure for how emails should be labelled.  Decision: This format will now be utilised when circulating emails to BRCC members. | | | |  | |
| **Item 17 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  CS reported:   1. Roadworks will start at Westpark on Monday. Likely to be significant issues especially around school start and end of day. 2. Resurfacing on Coupar Angus Road and Burnhead Road in February. 3. Extra bins and litter picking around the High School to tackle issues of masks etc being left lying around. 4. Issues with litter around Myrtle Park also being addressed by PKC with school 5. Ashy Path being looked at for improvements to surfacing. 6. 3g pitch was completed before Christmas – brilliant news. 7. Planning for Reccie has now been lodged. A planning reference number will allow people to view and comment on application. There will then be discussion with local community and neighbours. Important to look at parking around the High School to maximise use of the space outwith school hours and at weekends to alleviate the pressures which are there just now. There is an opportunity to improve that situation. 8. Work ongoing at Rattray School. In addition to the funding for the new nursery which has come from the Scottish Government there has been £2m invested by the council to address issues in the school. Photos show it looking good. 9. Work on the drainage at the path by Berrydale Road by Scottish Water. 10. The School Exclusion Zone survey feedback will be discussed very soon.   TM: Rattray Primary School receiving much needed upgrade, full extension to be completed this year. The building site will be fully cleaned up during the summer when no one else is there. A garden waste permit can be obtained until April. Bins were missed on the 6th, but will be recollected. There is a rural community engagement fund supporting mental health and youth. There is a new app for girls called ‘Pick up my period’ which will allow ladies and girls to access free period products and know where they are. Available on Android and Apple.  BB: Tayside Contracts are suffering from staffing problems due to high positive test rate for Covid. Staff being shifted around as much as possible. Community police are also being shifted around due to covid. Some are now being moved into response policing temporarily to maintain emergency levels. Drivethru for Starbucks will now be going ahead. Fire alarms: Reminder that these must be in place by the 1st of February. If they’re not fitted and there is a fire, it may nullify your insurance. Carbon monoxide detector needed in rooms that have a fire. Fire service will help vulnerable people with this. | | | |  | |
| **Item 18 –** **AOCB**  PR: The defibrillator in the phone box on Blairgowrie High Street was accessed on 3rd January. It was not returned, had to be tracked down to the ambulance service. Free replacement battery should be sent tomorrow. The Davie Park defibrillator was also used, hopefully a battery will be sent for that one, too, and free replacement pads.   GP: Why not have some signage as you come into town highlighting the independent shops and local cafes, restaurants, hotels, etc, we have in the town. MY notified that there had been meetings with developers and this should be happening.  BB is trying to arrange meeting with Lidl (reciprocal signs from town to Westpark and reverse).  PR suggested that if Bob can meet with Lidl, he ask if they will donate a defib to cover that area. | | | |  | |
| Date of Next Meeting: 10th February 2022, 7pm on TEAMs | | | |  | |

Distribution (email unless specified)

Community Councillors: Local Councillors: External:

Scott MacGregor- Chairperson Caroline Shiers PKC Community Councils

Robin Duncan - Treasurer Bob Brawn Clare Damodaran (Press)

David Cuthill - Vice Chair Tom McEwan WC P. Smith (Fire)

Gina Purrmann- Secretary Insp A. Wallace (Police)

Alexander Thomson Approved Minutes Distribution: PS P. Duncan (Police)

Samantha Stewart PKC Community Councils

Ian Ewan BRCC Website

Peter Richardson BRDT

B. Leslie (Blair High School)