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

Draft Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 14th July 2022 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via TEAMs

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| **ATTENDANCE**  BRCC Members  Scott MacGregor (SM)  David Cuthill (DC)  Robin Duncan (RD)  Gina Purrmann (GP)  Samantha Stewart (SS)  Pete Richardson (PR)  Ian Ewan (IE)  ProCom  Steve Johnson (SJ)  Laura Rodger (minutes) | Chairperson  Vice Chair  Treasurer  Secretary | Councillors  Caroline Shiers (CS)  Bob Brawn (BB)  Press  Clare Damodaran (CD)  WC Paul Smith, Fire Service  PS Peter Duncan, Police Service  8 members of the public (in person/online | **ABSENCES**  Cllr Tom McEwen (TM)  **APOLOGIES** | |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome and Introductions**  SM confirmed that everyone is okay with the meeting being recorded for the minutes and pointed out fire exits. | | | | **Actions** | |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  No apologies received. | | | |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of 9 June 2022 meeting**  SS proposed the minutes. DC seconded. The June 2022 minutes have been approved. | | | |
| **Item 4 – Matters raised by members of the public**  **a)** **Maintenance in Blairgowrie and Rattray** – a complaint was made about the playparks and the general tidiness of work done by the work group. The grass has not been properly cut around paths and furniture. Children will be having difficulties accessing the play equipment in the parks due to these conditions. Davie Park in particular is a point of neglect. GP pointed out that at another meeting, similar complaints were made and they received the response that staff sickness due to covid has delayed upkeep. Questions were raised about whether this was part of the Community Action Plan biodiversity project – it is not, the council is responsible for this land. GP suggested that maps should be looked at and PKC should check how these areas selected for biodiversity are used. CS added that this is not about biodiversity, maintenance must be improved. DC noted that this needed to be taken care of urgently as it is the school holidays. CS has asked for a site meeting to try and tackle the issues regarding park maintenance. SS enquired if a letter of support regarding this issue would help to move things forward. CS confirmed that this would be helpful. CS encouraged people to make comments on the website to give feedback as this would be helpful. SS stressed that biodiversity town is being conflated with lack of maintenance. Biodiversity groups are planting trees. PKC have instated no-mow areas/management for wildlife. Members of the public are disillusioned by communication processes with PKC. This issue was discussed at length during the meeting.  SM suggested that the best way forward is for us to invite members of the council out to discuss the issue. Letters and meeting should push PKC for a commitment. DC added that these initiatives are great and well-intentioned, but there needs to be greater communication in order to carry the people with you.  Decision: A letter in support of maintenance being reinstated will be drafted by BRCC. Members of PKC will be invited out to discuss these issues.  **b) Football Pitch**  A member of the public brought up that the Football Club were asked to give up their lease in order to get a new pitch. The football teams are now being charged over the odds to use the pitch. If they’d known it would cost so much money, they would have never given up the 100 year lease which still had between fifteen-twenty years still remaining. They donated equipment to maintain the pitch, one of the football team members carries out the brushing – they get a £500 discount for doing this, but they are still at risk of being priced out. CS told us that a meeting will be taking place to discuss this issue (date TBC) and she believes the outcome of this will be positive. SM is wiling to join this meeting  **c) Speed Limit (going out of Rattray, heading to Alyth)**  30mph speed limit heads right into a 60mph zone. Cars are going very fast towards this corner and it may be an accident waiting to happen. Proposed that this should move to 40mph for a stretch before changing to 60mph. This needs to be looked at before there is a major accident. A member of the public also proposed moving the 60mph zone further back in the interim. BB will explore what can be done to the resolve the issue.  **d) Pavements**  Pavement outside of the secondhand shop has become part of the shop. This is a public footpath. This causes a multitude of accessibility issues, particularly for people with mobility or sight impairments. Steps will be taken to address this issue. | | | | SM, BRCC  CS, SM  BB | |
| **Item 5 –** **Matters arising/reports back**  **5a. Resilience/Flooding (CS/PR)**  PR stated that there are no updates from the last meeting. Attended a meeting in Alyth about the floods that happened there. Suggestion floated that there should be collaboration between the towns. More information will be given as it becomes available.  **5b. Climate Action (DC/GP)**  DC had a meeting at Blairgowrie High School. 200 aluminium bottles have been purchased. They want to give one to each member of the high school. GP found a less expensive alternative, but this was rejected as they were not robust enough. PR discovered a similar bottle which was coming in at a third of the price. DC suggested that the students will have to do some fundraising. Water fountains have been installed in the school.  GP will report on ebikes and community cars when she has more information.  **5c. Twinning (GP)** The mayor of the French town and his wife are very excited to be coming over and increasing the relationship. The mayor is hoping to meet the pipe band. It was recently discovered a nearby town in France has a bagpipe group. This is a potential possibility for further links between the town.  **5d. Macpherson Memorial (RD)**  Funding application is in, but there is no further update at this time. There was supposed to be further engagement/public consultation, but this was unable to come to fruition. A video of it is available online.  **5e. Cottage Hospital (CS)** A meeting with Jackie Pepper and people from the NHS took place. Took on board the idea of having a working group made up of members of the community. This has been a bit delayed due to covid, but BRCC will be contacted about it. It would be useful if a representative was on the group.  SS proposed she would undertake the role of BRCC representative for this. SS enquired about why under 16s can not be seen at the Cottage Hospital. More information will be given when available.  **5f. Noticeboards CS/SM**  PKC are looking into it and will get back to us. Library would welcome it.  **5g. Representation of Young People SM/SS**  This will be moved to updating when required.  **5h. Citizen of the Year (SM)**  This will be moved to updating when required.  **5i. Town Flag SM/SS** Flags are still to go on Facebook. One of the flags that will be on display at the Wellmeadow was on display at the BRCC meeting. A member of the public enquired if we have an official flag policy. At this point, the use of it is raised at BRCC meetings and decisions are made by those attending.  **5j. PA System for the Town**  Money left over from the Jubilee funds are being used to get a new PA for the town. The PA will be made available for community groups to use.  **5k. Fireworks**  This has been in the Blairgowrie Advertiser and on social media. GP has not received and feedback. The current cost is not sustainable. RD suggested that we go to businesses over the next month to fundraise. Members of public pointed out that they did not see any invitations to engage in consultation. This will be pushed on social media again. RD added that we need to raise funds. Fireworks event had been excellent for the community in the past , mental health , people getting out for a nights entertainment in the Winter. We hope to get community support and the fire brigade were positive that an organised community event was better than many individual events where safety is a problem. | | | | PR  GP  BRCC | |
| **Item 6 – New Projects**  No new projects to discuss at this meeting. | | | |  | |
| **Item 7 – Traffic Matters**  DC there is not enough police to have proper enforcement around the school exclusion zones. CS stated that there was a meeting with the parent council at the campus just before the holidays regarding this. BB will give an update when possible | | | | BB | |
| **Item 8 –** **Planning Matters**  The issue of 5G masts was brought to BRCC. A member of the public added that 5G masts can pose a risk to health. However, the site of the masts is not in the BRCC area. As such, they do not come under BRCC jurisdiction. | | | |  | |
| **Item 9 – Police & Fire Reports**  **Fire Report:**  Blairgowrie were mobilised 25 times in June to a range of operational incidents across Perth & Kinross. Blairgowrie Community Fire Station completed 6 HFSV in June 2022 and would encourage anyone looking for home fire safety advice to request one through the Scottish Fire and Rescue service website. Young Firefighters courses with SCYD started on Tuesday 12th of July and have been well attended by local young people. Operational Intelligence visits are currently underway at high-risk business premises in the Blairgowrie area. Crews from Blairgowrie attended the local jubilee celebrations on the 5th of June, which was a great event for sharing fire safety information and engaging with the local community. Crews from Blairgowrie Fire Station have started a programme of hydrant testing and have tested approx. 140 hydrants so far.  **Police Report:**  Started a summer safety campaign. Had more callouts to the mountain area than normal. Batteries were stolen from the traffic lights at Bridge of Cally. Some vehicle break-ins and thefts. Crime has gone down quite a bit over the last decade. | | | |  | |
| **Item 10 –** **Chair’s Report**  In addition to all that has already been discussed this meeting, SM thanked all the groups and volunteers for doing their bit to keep the town beautiful such as Blair in Bloom and the path network. | | | |  | |
| **Item 11 –** **Treasurer’s report**  A/c -768: On 4th June this stood at £138.41. Payment of May and June minutes totaled £60 leaving a balance of £78.41.  A/c - 560- Balance was £6563.79 on 4th June- Balance is now £4752.82  Xmas tree Fund - £446.58, Fireworks - £1.38, Well Fund - £253.55, Bench Fund - £253.52, Resilience Fund - £3797.79 (following adding the remaining balance of £34.33 from the PKC Jubilee Celebration payment). A payment of £60 was made to replace the defibrillator pads. | | | |  | |
| **Item 12 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  Lots of emails asking to be connected to relevant parties were received.  Press query received – information was supplied. Encouraged to respond to various surveys. GP highlighted that she can only feedback information if it is given to her. Main thing to be aware of is that BRCC elections will take place in November. Nominations will open at the end of August. This will last for a month. Article will be published in the hub magazine about this. | | | |  | |
| **Item 13 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  BB had a meeting with Lidls regarding landscaping and light pollution. Lights will be turned down and will cease to operate at 22:45. They have agreed to put trees in along their fence line. Discussed the possibility of forming a liaison between them and a community group. There is a question over who that group is going to be. They are keen to do something. Sign at the front is not their problem to sort out. Marlee Quarry information has been pushed back to September/October.  CS stated that there were a number of missed bin collections around the town. Lack of communication around the town. Good news – guide hut fundraising committee ploughing on with their plans for a new facility. SS added that an apology was given regarding the ‘Davie Park’ comment that was made on social media during the recycling checks. | | | |  | |
| **Item 14 –** **AOCB**  DC to find out from Community Connect what the situation is for community use.  Flyers for Highland games given out – first one since pre-Covid. | | | |  | |
| Date of Next Meeting: 11th August 2022, 7pm at the BaRi Building & 6.45pm online. | | | |  | |

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 B. Leslie (Blair High School)

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BRCC Website

BRDT