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

Draft Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 10th February 2022 at 7pm online via Microsoft TEAMs.

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| **ATTENDANCE**  Mr Scott MacGregor (SM)  Mr David Cuthill (DC)  Mr Robin Duncan (RD)  Ms Gina Purrmann (GP)  Mrs Samantha Stewart (SS)  Mr Ian Ewan (IE)  **APOLOGIES** Tom McEwen (TM)  Mr Alexander Thomson (AT)  Mr Pete Richardson | Chairperson  Vice Chair  Treasurer  Secretary | Councillors  Bob Brawn (BB)  Caroline Shiers (CS)  Press  Clare Damodaran (CD)  ProCom  Steve Johnson (SJ)  WC Paul Smith  Laura Rodger (minutes)  2 members of the public | **ABSENCES**  Police (unable to join due to connectivity issues) | |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome and Introductions**   * Welcome given by SM * The minute taker received permission to record the meeting for the purposes of creating the minutes. This will be deleted after the minutes have been created. | | | | **Actions** | |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  Apologies from AT and from councillor TM | | | |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of 13 January 2022 meeting**  Decision: The minutes were proposed by DC and seconded by SS. They have now been adopted. | | | |
| **Item 4 –** **Matters raised by the public**  **4a. Parking on Ardblair Road**  GP received an email from a resident concerned about parking in this area. Walkers parking is starting to create difficulties. One of the leaflets for Bluebell Woods lists the residential area as a place to park. This is causing accessibility issues and stopping resident’s visitors from parking. It has been asked if this could be removed. AT suggested contacting BRAN to see what can be done to resolved this.  CS informed that leaflets are usually locally produced, but they can speak to countryside trust. CS suggested putting a sign up at the woods displaying other parking spots  Decision: CS will ensure that signage is diplomatic. Will also investigate where the correct entrance is.  **4b. Dangerous pavements due to leaves**  DC received an email about state of pavement on sections of Coupar Angus Road between Woodlands Road and Mullion Way. When they are wet, this is becoming very slippery or icy. Similar issue raised about pavements in Rattray personally. Suggestions have been received from councillors: Phone council direct, or email PKC direct, or reach out to the unpaid work team who are looking for jobs.  CS stated that crews that would clear the leaves have been unable to fulfil their usual routine due to being displaced elsewhere and staffing issues. She also informed that the unpaid work team should not do this because it should be done by council officers. Children travelling to school have also been impacted. CS has filed reports about the issue and stated that this is being viewed as a priority.  GP mentioned a second email with pictures of various places in Rattray. She recommended that it be sent straight to PKC. GP asked if there was any harm in asking the unpaid work team for help if the council team are unable to respond. CS assured that there is no harm in asking.  **4c. Noticeboards**  The issue of noticeboards was raised with GP. The noticeboard in the Wellmeadow can only be used by BEPTA. It Is out of date. There are three noticeboards at the bus stop, with the one at Stance C being used by the bus company. There was a discussion regarding whether Stance A’s noticeboard could be moved to a better location. Possibly Rattray which only has one, or in another part of the town or Wellmeadow. Noticeboard at top of Wellmeadow is small and can only fit A5. Rattray needs another noticeboard, possibly near the bridge between Rattray and Blair. Would also be great to have one in the car park by the library. CS had said she can raise the BEPTA issue at the next meeting. Also suggested that perhaps the Development Trust could see about getting funding for a new noticeboard? LM informed everyone that there will be a launch of the Community Action Plan and can be brought up there  BB will receive an update on noticeboard at the Library car park next week. CS pointed out that one of the problems is that people do not know how to get in touch with who looks after the boards. SM can get in contact with BRCC regarding this. SS added that there is funding to get more noticeboards. One will be gifted by PKC for Davie Park. Could possibly look into moving from the bus stance.  Decisions: CS will raise the issue of the BEPTA noticeboard at the next meeting she has with them. SM will find out who is looking after the noticeboards.  **4d. Wellmeadow Market Space**  GP received a query if Wellmeadow can be used for tables/market space, also asked when the markets will restart. SM responded that there is a need to apply for permissions to use the Wellmeadow space. CS added that organisers aren’t planning for markets to continue in their current form, if someone wanted to take this on, they would have to get in touch with PKC for the correct licensing. DC stated that we need to ask why the funded market equipment is now being sold for the benefit of Strathmore and the Glens. BRCC can’t afford to buy it. Perhaps we could raise more money to buy lighter equipment. Could this be taken on by the BRDT?  Decision: This issue will be raised with the BRDT to see if they can help.  **4e. Climate Action Hubs**  Email from climate café. Would the community council support an application for Climate Action Hubs. Little information was given. DC suggested we cannot support if we don’t know what these things are. DC proposed that this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.  GP says that they are responding to a call from the Scottish Government to work on behaviour change and climate change and there is funding available. Their deadline is at the end of March.  Decision: If the deadline is after the next meeting, this can be discussed at the next meeting. If the deadline is before the next meeting, discussion can take place over email. | | | | CS  CS, SM  SS  GP | |
| **Item 5 –** **Matters arising/reports back**  **5a. Resilience/Flooding (CS/PR)**  PR isn’t here, but much of the detail is covered in the fire report. SM has confirmed that container has been moved. Shovels, brushes, high vis jackets, flood sacks and cable for resilience side of Rattray Hall is inside. Emailed Elder Voice to meet them, possibly at the end of March. Need to find out whether cable can be kept there or not. BB said the box was moved a little bit earlier than it should have been. It is okay where it is sited, unless there is a complaint from a resident.  CS There was also a commitment to keep in contact with local residents as this all moves on.   The CCTV survey of the three road drains at the junction of High Street/New Road, and the upstream culverts on St Fink Road has been completed. No significant obstructions were found in either of the culverts and any minor debris has been removed. The three road drains have been cleared, which will improve their efficiency.  SM asked about getting sandbags from the council. CS does not think this will be a problem as it happened in Alyth. GP has informed that defibrillators should be up and running by the weekend. SM has asked if it’s possible to have a resilience centre in the recreation centre.  CS does not think it is too late to do it and that it would be a good call to have it there due to resources that it has. Eldervoice will be calling SM very shortly to arrange a meeting regarding use of church hall.  **5b. Nativity Display: Illuminations Committee Decision (SM)**  Now that all lights are in the containers, there isn’t room for nativity to go in.  Will be discussed at the next meeting  **5c. Climate Action (DC/GP)**  DC has been in contact with High School Eco group leader re the groups’ wish to purchase 700 reusable water bottles, secure more recycling bins and purchase litter pickers. Contacting Castle Water, Rotary and PKC waste team for possible funding options was suggested. Rotary was quoted £6.10 each a bottle. He asked BRCC if this is good value for money? He also asked if Blair in Bloom are still able to provide litter picking equipment. GP responded that a member of Blair in Bloom confirmed they have litter picking kits, one for SCYD and one for the school, should hopefully be arriving in the next couple of weeks. CS said a meeting took place between the school and waste services. Water fountains are to be put into the school. SS is in touch with the teacher taking this forward. PKC looking at ways to support with funding.  GP has had contact with SCYD to try and get young people’s representation on Community Council. SM believes it is okay to go ahead and make that link, possibly with the high school as well. CS points out that there are other groups for young people that could be engaged with. SM suggested creating a powerpoint presentation. SS is involved at the high school – communicating about community groups groups. Happy to give a special BRCC presentation for the young people.  Decision: SM to put a presentation together for this and circulate for suggestions. SS will present this to young people at the school.  **5d. Local Development Plan (GP)**  GP has not been able to pursue this. Nothing has been received since initial inquiry.  **5e. Twinning (GP)**  GP reported that St Stephen’s school has received their first set of letters from the school in France. Rattray school is also going to take part in the letter exchange. Could BRCC send an invitation to the mayor to come to the Highland Games?  Decision: GP to draft a letter of invitation and circulate for amendments. This will then be sent by SM to the Mayor in France.  **5f. Macpherson Memorial (RD)**  Exhibition in Blairgowrie Library will open on 13th February for a month. People can go and view the model. There will be a presentation in March for the whole community.  **5g. BRCC Website (SJ)**  SJ said unless there are any changes needed, the website is now complete.  **5h. Cottage Hospital (CS)**  CS lots of local feedback about it. There is need to keep pushing for a public consultation. Regardless of the politics about it all, this is about local services – not politics.  Decision: Continue to push for public consultation.  **5i. David Bailey Bench (RD)**  David Bailey was the first chair of the new CC. Allowed it to take on the role of looking after the community. Unfortunately he lost his battle with cancer. It was decided in 2017 that he should have a memorial bench. This was picked up again by MY in 2021. BRCC was not the lead, but is now involved. Currently MY has paid for all of it and was happy to continue to do that. BRCC does not think she should have to do that. Will cost £1080. BRCC can help raise funds. There is money currently in the bench fund. SM believes this fund can be used. A photograph of the bench will be issued as soon as RD can get hold of it. SM advised that before any money is moved, invoices have been requested to show what has already been paid for. RD added that the Walkathon fund may be able to be used. SS said this could possibly be part of the bench trail depending on final monetary figure that will need to be covered.  Decision: BRCC to help with bench costs. Funds will not be transferred until invoices have been received.  **5j. CCTV for the town (PR)**  BB There is one camera going into Aucterarder. 50% from PKC and 50% presumably from Auchterarder. BB has forwarded the documentation for this to PR  SS and SM – we are looking into spotlights to get more lighting into the Wellmeadow without having to dig up land to get more lampposts. Conversation held with CS to find out where they came from, how to get more and when they can be put up.  Decision: Issues above to be discussed at next meeting.  **5k. Community Action Plan (CAP) (RD/SS)**  SS informed that the CAP is available on the Website. Projects can be viewed by group. There will be a launch event for the CAP. SJ added that if you click on ‘how to help’ to see how the actions have been allocated. GP advised that we need to find out what the BRCC has been committed to doing and discuss at the next meeting. SJ added BRCC will be involved in actions rather than specific tasks  Decision: GP will download the CAP and circulate to everyone. | | | | SM  SM  GP, SM  CS  SM, RD  PR, SS, SM  GP | |
| **Item 6 – Feedback/Comment Boxes (GP)** This can be organised via email rather than taking up meeting time. | | | | GP | |
| **Item 7 – Town Flag (SM)**  SM has shared screen. Four different flags on display, but there is a fifth. Need a shortlist of people’s ideas in order to do a consultation (perhaps on facebook) to see what the town thinks and then get a flag made. It is suggested that this can be sent around in an email, everyone can send back the two that they like the best. SS suggests putting more than one option up and explaining to the public what the purpose of the town flag is. GP thinks we should consult with local groups if it is going to be used an official town flag. SM agrees. DC proposes these groups could collectively come up with a shortlist of three choices.  Decision: SM will work with SS on this and be in touch over email. | | | | SM, SS | |
| **Item 8 –** **Traffic Matters**  **8a. Traffic/Roads Sub-committee (AT/SM/DC)**  SM asked where we are at with yellow line extensions and speed cushions being moved? BB stated that it is on the to do list, but they are short staffed. It is a work in progress. Will chase it along. SM pointed out that speed bumps at the bottom of Hatton Road make it worse for parking. BB will chase it up as urgent for safety. DC brought up that Coupar Angus Road will be closed for three weeks. He sent a letter to PKC re concerns and received the following response: Residents will have restricted access between 8am and 4pm. Outwith 8am to 4pm, residents will be able to gain access at a designated end of the works and a letter will be issued to advise on this.  This will be in place throughout the works. Work will pause if necessary, to allow access to emergency services. Parking to be suspended Elmwood Drive, Park Drive and Emma St, but will only be enforced if necessary, as these are pinch points which may impact on the bus routes. It is not expected to affect pick up and drop off at high school. We have been listened to and responded to. DC added that an issue was raised today regarding the temporary prohibiting of loading and parking on Myreriggs Road. Effective for four days from 28th March. Three houses affected. Diversion will have to be put in place there as well. Finally, BB has said that letters have been sent out to all affected residents about roadworks occurring on the 21st February.  Decision: BB will chase up the issue of Hatton Road, as it is a safety matter.  **8b. Beeches Road (DC)**  Questionnaire went out to all residents. Replies collected from the library. All responses received would welcome consultation. 6 responses, around about a 50% response when you take the context into account. SM there were 32 comments on the Facebook post. Majority would welcome consultation. Around 20 households showing interest.  BB it is going to take months for this to be sorted out. Probably won’t be updated at next meeting.  Decision: BB will update on this at a later date. | | | | BB  BB | |
| **Item 9 –** **Planning matters**  **9a. Marlee Quarry (AT/DC)**  DC informed that letter of objection submitted from BRCC on 23rd of January. GP added that we have had confirmation that our comments were received. SS wanted to make sure it came across as a town-wide objection (BRDT and Climate Café included)  **9b. Planning for 71 houses (West Park)**  BB next phase of West Park development. They are for affordable housing. It has only just started. GP if we want to respond, we need to do that in the next couple of weeks.  Decision: Gina will look into the date for responding. | | | | GP | |
| **Item 10 – Police & Fire Reports**  **WC Paul Smith Fire Report:** Crews mobilised 24 times in January (this is the average). Completed 19 high risks home fire safety visits. Fitted smoke detectors to those who are eligible to receive. We were not able to complete medium and low fire safety visits, but that will change from this week. Referrals for this can be made on the website. We are now in possession of two resilience packs. Worked with Scott to move flood resilience container. Fire service have donated 80 flood sacks to the container. Flood Group met at the fire station last week, plan is to meet once per quarter. We are engaging with local schools, clubs and groups to develop youth engagement. Hoping to do more of this now that COVID restrictions are dialling back. If anyone knows a group that would benefit from this engagement, please get in touch.  **Police Report:**  This month’s Commander’s Bulletins dealt with County Lines Drug Dealing, Winter Road Safety, Bank Transfer Fraud, New Technology for 999 and 101 Services, with no incidents reported for Blairgowrie. | | | |  | |
| **Item 11 –** **Chair’s Report**  Morag Young and Linda Meitze have given notice of resignation – the chair has accepted.  SM reiterated what has been done regarding resilience. New stickers have been made which has contact details for SM and PR. These numbers will give people the codes to obtain sandbags when necessary. Christmas lights came down in January and are now stored. The Citizen of the Year trophy is going around the town. Each new location will be in the Blairie weekly. The plan is for different councillors to pick up the trophy and move it to next location. RD proposed a rota. SJ there are 22 businesses signed up. He will let each councillor know. SS suggest using an email rather than rota as availability can change.  CD says that the BRCC need to decide how nominations for Citizen of the Year are going to be collected and voted on. Needed by 30th of April, once nominations end. Process needs to be transparent with the public. She says that there has been a point scoring judging criterion in the past, but equally it’s probably easier to allow people to just vote. DC asked if a subgroup should be formed and give a recommendation.  Decision: Emails will be sent when and where the trophy is being moved to allow members who are available to sign up. A subgroup will be set up to discuss the nomination process and a recommendation will be given. | | | | SM, SJ | |
| **Item 12 –** **Treasurer’s report**  A account ending 768  - Transactions since last meeting were secretary expenses and minute costs totalling £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. I would add that these funds did not come from the personal account of a member of the CC. I would also add that if any member of the CC or the public wishes to donate their own funds to the CC 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 those figures announced last month. This account therefore has a balance of £4923.68. | | | |  | |
| **Item 13 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  A piece is in the hub magazine. A short piece this time because citizen of the year nomination form has also been printed by them. Unpaid work request has been circulated. A request from Scottish Government for community councils to please support everyone participating in the census has been received. Training opportunities (equalities training) are available. An email has been circulated regarding this. Committee Meeting Skills Workshop did not happen due to technical difficulties, it has to be rescheduled. On Monday last week there were 320 emails in her inbox. Now has 340 emails in her inbox. Every working day since last Monday, there has been 10 new threads in her email. If this continues, she may need to find somebody who can help with emails. | | | |  | |
| **Item 14 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  BB reports three things:  1) Lidl opening on 24th Feb. Home Bargains probably towards end of April. Three more empty units remain.  2) Had meeting with Perthshire Women’s Aid, have asked that their group be discreetly promoted through different groups. There may be a rise in domestic abuse considering financial issues.  3) housing committee meeting – if people are in difficulty, they should contact PKC as soon as possible. They are there to help. There is also a home heating support fund available.  CS informed the meeting that the Recreation Centre planning permission is now live. In touch with C about Betsy White memorial. Publicity update about BHS exclusion zone will be held with parents at the end of March. Litter pick on Sunday at 10am. | | | |  | |
| **Item 15 –** **AOCB**  GP raised the issue of parking in town – support for the town centre perhaps the central car park facility could be free? Could PKC support the town centre by having central car park as free parking. BB informs the one behind Sainsbury’s is privately run. Police station is PKC. Money for maintenance comes from parking fees.  DC mentioned that traffic lights at Coupar Angus Road/Emma St junction causes lengthy tailbacks especially at peak times. A traffic study may need to be carried out. CS has already emailed the council about this. Will copy DC into reply about it.  GP proposed that those joining by TEAMs next month try to join from 18:45 to allow for technical difficulties. All agreed. | | | | DC | |
| Date of Next Meeting: 10th March 2022, 7pm at the Adult Resource Centre & 6.45pm online. | | | |  | |

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