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

Approved Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting   
held on 12th May 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  6 members of the public (in person/online) | **ABSENCES**  **APOLOGIES**  Alexander Thomson (AT)  Cllr Tom McEwen (TM)  Police | |
| **Item 1 –** **Welcome and Introductions**  SM welcomed to first meeting at the BaRI building. This venue is being trialled as a new meeting point for BRCC. | | | | **Actions** | |
| **Item 2 –** **Apologies**  Alexander Thomson (AT), Tom McEwen (TM) sent in their apologies | | | |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of 14 April 2022 meeting**  DC proposed the minutes and GP seconded.  Decision: April 2022 draft minutes have been accepted | | | |
| **Item 4 – Matters raised by members of the public**  **a. UN World Environment Day**  **-** this will be raised under climate action  **b. Back Row bollards** SM to follow up on the Back Row as nothing has been done about it since December of 2021  **c. NHS patient transport** A resident flagged their concern that it has been impossible to get in touch with NHS Patient Transport. The number rings out until receiving an engaged tone. SM will take this issue forward. | | | | SM  SM | |
| **Item 5 –** **Matters arising/reports back**  **5a. Resilience/Flooding (CS/PR)** PR submitting an application for £10,000 worth of funding (fund closed May 13th). If granted, this will fund an additional steel container, flood sacks, wheelbarrows and leave funds available for using Tayside 4x4. SS mentioned additional input for another emergency centre was needed. PR has put in a request for this to be added to the new Recreation centre plan. PR and WC Paul Smith to meet with the fire service on 24th of May. Resilience Team welcome to join in the meeting at 5pm at the fire station.  **5b. Climate Action (DC/GP)**  GP informed that there had been a query from a member of the public about the UN World Environment Day (5th of June). This year is the 50th anniversary. BRCC is organising a parade in the Wellmeadow and jubilee market on this day. There will be a stall addressing these issues at the event.  GP also discussed Earth Day (22nd April). BRCC is working together with a biodiversity group here in Blairgowrie. BRCC will join PKC’s Pollinator Stepping Stone movement. This will involve planting flowers which will produce pollen for insects. As an ongoing project, there will be room for expansion on this.  The Climate Café has approached PKC about having a car club in Blairgowrie.  DC discussed plans for planting wildflowers at the Alyth Road/Hatton Road junction and a possible second location at the entrance to Rattray as you travel in from Alyth. A meeting is to be held with the ranger regarding this.  GP raised awareness of the PKC climate community engagement survey which community groups are being asked to fill out. BRCC will encourage other community groups to do this.  DC managed to contact the Blairgowrie Ecoschools Action Group. The ecoplan is split into 3. Reduce litter and waste. Lessons on litter awareness. Trying to reduce single use plastic by providing reusable water bottles. They are still looking for support to get more water bottles. Trying to reduce food waste and energy emissions by raising awareness of switching off electronics and lights while not in use. Trying to get more food waste bins and composting the food that comes out of the home economics department. Improve staff and pupil health and wellbeing. Training a teacher to become the school’s wellbeing learning leader. Subjects have to adapt a growth mindset to encourage young people to try and try again. CS added that a new water fountain in hand. Lidl has also put in a new bin.  **5c. Twinning (GP)** GP gave a progress update on the twinning process. The Mayor of Brebières, his wife, our contact person and her husband, who is a Deputy Mayor, have been invited to The Highland Games. The Highland Games have donated tickets for this.  It was suggested that they should be presented with a Quaich by a couple from Blairgowrie who will be travelling to the Brebières area. GP sourced one which was £25. RD noted that their should be funds available to cover this.  There has been one exchange of letters between schools. There were a lot of letters, so they will now be divided between St Stephen’s and Rattray so it’s not so overwhelming moving forward. A compilation of the highlights from a French concert that we were invited to will be sent to us.  GP asked if the BRCC would support a formal twinning. The purpose is that two communities have a relationship with each other, groups visit each place. Develop opportunities for young people (e.g. penpals, visiting). Blairgowrie has previously been twinned with places in North America, but it is very far away. This makes it more realistic to engage.  Decision: No objections to a formal twinning. GP will raise this with the council.  **5d. Macpherson Memorial (RD)** RD informed that this has been publicised in the Blairgowrie Advertiser and was able to be viewed in the town hall. It was positively received. Artist David Wilson has good ideas for the town. The important thing is that we have as much public support as possible. There may be another event.SS added that the public presentation was about gathering feedback for a funding application. SS noted that she could present this to the group and that a weekday event is also being proposed as many were unable to attend a weekend event.  RD highlighted that this is a lot of money, but that the fund was specifically for memorials. The money could not be used for anything else. Public donations have been welcomed, but are not compulsory.  **5e. Cottage Hospital (CS)** CS stated that she will meet with Jackie Pepper next week. She will raise consultation and engagement issues. There are questions of why this is being advertised as a new service. CS gave assurance that she has confidence that meaningful engagement will be carried out.  **5f. David Bailey Bench (RD)**  Details can be found in the Treasurer’s Report Originally suggested that BRCC should donate £350 to this project. However, there are queries about insurance and liability. A previous BRCC member is covering the costs as they had been responsible for the project as confirmed by the 2018 BRCC. BRCC passed on private donations received to this person with all donators consent. It has been proposed that BRCC should now only donate £100 due to various reasons such as limited involvement in the project.  Decision: Majority in favour of donating £100. This can now be removed from the agenda as BRCC now has no responsibility for this bench. BRCC would like to included when the unveiling takes place with Mrs Bailey attending. The plaque on the bench makes reference to David Bailie being a much respected, past Chair of BRCC  **5g. CCTV for the town (PR)**  PR informed that a meeting on the 26th of May with the CCTV integration manager to discuss who to proceed. Likely to be costly and complex, but not impossible. The need for CCTV is highlighted by the fact that there was an assault in the Wellmeadow last Friday.  **5h. Community Action Plan (CAP) (RD/SS)**  No update given this week  **5i. Noticeboards CS/SM**  BRDT presumably own the noticeboards, so approval needed from them to move it.  SS is taking forward a project for getting a second noticeboard in Rattray. SS is going to talk to the BRDT and report back. CS stated that she would like to move one of the noticeboards to the library. A noticeboard is going to be placed in Davie Park.  **5j. Representation of Young People SM/SS** SM informed that he is hoping to go into the schools and community groups over the summer to engage. SS added that there are a number of young people who are keen to give their own opinions. A youth panel is being encouraged to form. Proposed that BRCC members could sit on it and feedback the information to the BRCC meetings. Discussion may be held with Mairi Todd due to her experience with Youth Voice.  **5k. Citizen of the Year (SM)**  SM explained that nominations finished on the 30th of April and were collected by CC and SS.  SS points system was used (based on number of nominations, how many would benefit, how long the benefit would last). Previous award winners were on the subgroup for counting. Very close top 3 for nominations. Citizen of the year is Sue Hart (Wellmeadow Walkathon, raises awareness for suicide prevention and mental health). Young Person – Remi McDonald for all of her volunteering in the town. There were 10 adult nominations and 3 young people nominations.  A new award being proposed today: a few people were nominated from a certain group. We are considering putting together a community group award. Decided that upon approval, it would be awarded to the BaRI Store group. At reduced cost, local artist to create a stone trophy pending approval of the design. Funding is in place to cover this. SS noted that there are 142 groups in the town and every year, they do an amazing amount of work. This will be great award going forward to recognise the efforts of groups. RD stressed that SS was not a part of the conversation of whether this award should be given. RD gave assurances that this will not be dipping into funds that we don’t have. SM proposed two votes (creating the new award and approving the trophy).  Decision: Both votes passed unanimously.  **5l. Town Flag SM/SS** Update to be given at next meeting. SM to ask if it can be put in the Blairgowrie Advertiser. Mock ups are also to be made available at the Jubilee Event. The intention is that it will be promoted publicly on as many platforms as possible.  **5m. Jubilee Weekend SS**  SS delivered an update. Everything is going great. PKC have confirmed they are willing to give a small amount of funding. There will be a bright and loud parade, led by Blair in Bloom. Going to be a fun day in the Wellmeadow between 12 and 5pm. There will be a bouncy castle, stalls, tea tent and the CotY award will be given. If you know any groups who want to be involved in the parade or have a stall, get in touch. Advertising will begin now that funding is in place. | | | | BRCC  GP  RD, SS  CS  PR  SS  SM | |
| **Item 6 – Fireworks**  Whether Blairgowrie should have a fireworks display this year or not was discussed in great detail. Arguments were given for ad against. The council believed that it was a great event, but it is costly to organise and donations only covered 10% of the total cost last time. SS proposed doing a more environmentally friendly light parade that will also have the positive impact of not scaring animals or children. DC thinks that a light parade in the right context could become a real community event. GP suggested that the International Café might be interested in getting involved. This is an old-time tradition, but there is now more awareness of the negative impacts. RD added that PKC are advising that there should only be organised displays and there are lot of regulations and stipulations which will have to be followed. CS and CD also highlighted that Blairgowrie has fireworks on Braemar Night, which is an all-day event. GP highlighted that it’s not about stopping fireworks, it’s about replacing it. PR emphasised that if there is not an organised display, it becomes more dangerous because members of the public will put on their own displays. WC Paul Smith of the fire service advised that official advice will always be to go to an organised display. If Blairgowrie is not having one, an alternative display has to be clearly signposted. Suggestions such as running a competition for deciding an alternative event and crowdfunding were offered.  SM proposed that engagement needs to be done with the public to measure opinion. SS echoed this suggestion. | | | |  | |
| **Item 7 – New Projects**  No new projects have been brought forward this month. | | | |  | |
| **Item 8 – Traffic Matters**  IE raised the issue of lack of parking. The Angus has closed off their parking to residents only. Caution that if you park here, you may end up with a £100 fine. Parking spaces may also be lost around the CO-OP. SM is raising awareness of the lack of parking capacity in Blairgowrie.  DC brought up that the mini roundabout at Wiley’s Lane will possibly be moving. There is a petition for it to be removed completely. SM stated that this was brought up at the last meeting and it was decided that a survey would be put forward to find out what the public view is on this matter. CS informed BRCC that PKC may be doing a consultation.  A member of the public raised the issue that the paths in the area are not being maintained well by PKC. GP has requested that they send an email to her so that BRCC can take this forward in the form of an email trail. This can also be discussed at an upcoming CAP meeting. | | | | SM  GP | |
| **Item 9 –** **Planning Matters**  SJ (speaking on behalf of business association) stated that a shop had applied for planning permission to improve their property by replacing rotting windows. The planning application has been rejected because it is in a conservation area and PKC would like windows to be replaced with like for like. GP has not received an email regarding this. BB points out that the only thing that can be done now it to appeal as the verdict cannot be rescinded now that the decision has been formally made. It doesn’t cost anything to appeal, but it is a lot of time and effort. DC voiced that subjective decision making should not be allowed, there should be protocol in place. BB confirmed that like for like would be needed. | | | |  | |
| **Item 10 – Police & Fire Reports**  **WC Paul Smith Fire Report:**  Mobilised 32 times in April across Perth and Kinross. There were four home fire safety visits in Alyth. Anyone looking for home visit/advice should apply online through Scottish fire and rescue service website. RAF cadets coming back for the first time in two years. Hoping to work with Scouts again. Will also be working with the high school after the summer holidays. The fire service will be visiting new businesses to assess risks (Lidl and Home Bargains). Hydrant testing has started again – carried out through the summer into early August. First new recruit started in April – another 5 new recruits by September – this improve resilience. Frequency of collection of the clothes bank has increased. Scottish government funding for detectors has ended, standalone systems available. Light ones are being reserved for those who are high risk.  **Police Report** At the last meeting police raised several thefts and attempted thefts in the area. Enquires are still ongoing. Campus exclusion zone attended by officers to ensure that there was full compliance. This will continue to be monitored. Noise complaints have been dealt with. Police have also dealt with issues such as assault, the carrying of knives and trespassing.  Message from Inspector Wallace: There have been a few break ins, but there has been a positive line of enquiry. She wholeheartedly supports CCTV. | | | |  | |
| **Item 11 –** **Chair’s Report**  A lot has already been covered. Thanks to all those on the council involved in Citizen of the Year nominations. Working with biodiversity to plant trees and wild flowers. | | | |  | |
| **Item 12 –** **Treasurer’s report**  Account ending 768 - Admin Account: April balance £168.41. Minute taking fee of £30 for April meeting. New balance £138.41  Account ending 560- April balance £5027.27.  Received this month £55 donations to DB Bench. £450 sent to M Young. Resilience Fund - £3763.46, Well Fund - £167.35, Xmas tree Fund- £446.58, Fireworks- £1.38, Bench Fund -£253.52 New balance - £4632.29. | | | |  | |
| **Item 13 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**  A variety of correspondence has been received. GP provided a snapshot of this: - Request for a Perth Studio Audience for Debate Night.  - Passive House Bill Consultation has been launched.  - PKC library survey – public feedback and stakeholder feedback needed.  - NHS Scotland has put out an appeal for people to join their health research register.  - PKC would like to do information stalls/presentations to community groups on recycling. - Forward Coupar Angus dissolving and offering assets to other community groups.  Query from member of the public about road signage (GP has sorted this out) - A request the results of the BRCC members election in 2015 for the purpose of historical research. | | | |  | |
| **Item 14 –** **Councillor’s Reports**  CS gave thanks for being elected for another 5 years. Informed that work on the Welton Road will start in 4-5 weeks. The headstone stabilisation programme ongoing. There are no plans to close the bridge during the repair works and bridge safety has not been compromised. 14 or 15 Ukrainians being housed here, a welcoming event has been held. Funding options are being explored for the town and CS will keep everyone informed.  BB reported that Ardblair Terrace Woodland Area has been damaged by burst water pipes and hindered by other issues such as lights, he will be having a meeting to discuss this. On the 29th of April, the police were running an End Hate Campaign event. This was an open evening at the police station. There were a few teething problems, so the event will be ran again in the future now that they know the speedbumps that they have to overcome. | | | |  | |
| **Item 15 –** **AOCB**  RD raised that the massive bright light signage (Lidl) should be removed. Need to check out how it measures against the planning permission. Lidl sign dwarfs the ‘Welcome to Blairgowrie’ sign. SM stated that there are talks for the welcome sign to be moved.  SJ asked how people felt about having the meeting in the BaRi Building.  ARC kitchen has been proposed as a possible meeting location. New layout can be tried at the BaRi. SM added that sound-wise, it works better here.  SS we are putting in a funding application to cover groups that potentially don’t have the funds to pay for space. SM informed that the next meeting will be held on the 9th of June at BaRi Building. | | | |  | |
| Date of Next Meeting: 9th June 2022, 7pm at the BaRi Building & 6.45pm online. | | | |  | |

Distribution (email unless specified)

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