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

Agreed Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting
held on 13th February 2025 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via ZOOM.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ATTENDANCE**BRCC MembersDavid Cuthill (DC)Steve Johnson (SJ - online)Gina Purrmann (GP)Andrew Scott (AS)Pete Richardson (PR) Lesley McDonald (LM) | ChairTreasurerSecretary | PKC Local Councillors Bob Brawn (BB)Caroline Shiers (CS - online)Tom McEwan (TM)11 members of the public:9 in-person, 2 online | **APOLOGIES**Jamie Louise (JLM)Scott MacGregor (SM)Laura Rodger (minutes)Police Service Fire ServicePaul Cunningham (BHS Headteacher)**ABSENCES**Pat Marshall (PM) |
| **Item 1 – Welcome & Introductions:**DC 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. |  |
| **Item 2 – Apologies**Apologies were received as above. |  |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of the 9th January 2025 meeting**No amendments.Decision: Approved without amendments. Proposed by LM and seconded by PR. |  |
| **Item 4 – Police & Fire Reports – to followFire Report:****January 2025** Blairgowrie were mobilised 25 times in 2025 to a range of operational incidents across Perth & Kinross. **Community Safety Engagement** **1.** WC Smith and CC Shepherd attended a multi-agency meeting with Police Scotland, PKC & Strathmore Centre for Youth Development in January to plan out the years Youth engagement work that includes; YFFs courses, Street Sports, Water Safety, Road Safety and Better Choices sessions. **2.** Following a multi-agency meeting in December regarding ongoing issues at the former Royal Hotel in Blairgowrie, WC Smith created a Dangerous Buildings Report to support operational intelligence in the event of an incident at the locus. This report is now available on all SFRS frontline appliances, provides key safety information to assist crews responding to emergencies at the site. It will be updated periodically, with any significant changes communicated accordingly. This report was also shared with Police Scotland and PKC representatives. **Police Report:** Please see list of local incidents which are worthy of note and their results since the last meeting. Should you have any questions or any issues you wish to address, please feel free to contact us by calling 101 and asking for Constable Gary Campbell D1403 or Ryan Tarbet D1744 and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.3 incidents of threatening and/or abusive behaviour, with 1 enquiry ongoing, the other 2 resulted in suspects being charged3 vehicles without insurance seized and drivers charged.2 incidents of vandalism, enquires ongoing1 damaged to motor vehicle, enquiry ongoing1 assault, suspect identified, will be charged1 purchasing alcohol for youths, suspect will be charged1 damage to motor vehicle, enquiry ongoing**Speeding** We are aware of concerns being raised in relation to vehicles speeding at various locations in and around Blairgowrie, most recently around Coupar Angus Road, Blairgowrie. We continue to carry out speed checks and enforcement, both in high visibility and in more low profile, where possible. Should anyone wish to report or discuss their concerns, contact PC Gary Campbell and PC Ryan Tarbet by phoning 101 or emailing gary.campbell2@scotland.police.uk  |  |
| **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.** 1. **Kinloch Brae (Gallowbank) development follow-up**

As a result of the experience at the Planning Meeting covering the Kinloch Brae development, a group of those that deputised and spoke at the meeting raised a complaint to PKC on the handling of the discussions regarding the development. A response has been received by the group but they are not happy for the following reasons:1. The reply was superficial and many of the issues they had already spelt out e.g. density, space around the houses, number of houses and biodiversity were not acknowledged.
2. Despite outlining every point and concern made in relation to PKC policies and regulations which were clearly contravened, these concerns were brushed over ignored or not acknowledged, despite being supported by examples.
3. There was concern regarding the quality, quantity and inaccuracy of the information provided by PKC planners (the experts) to the Planning Committee who ultimately make the decision based on the information supplied to them.
4. 33 Conditions were attached to the planning application consent which suggests that it was brought forward before it was ready.
5. It is unfair that the group is unable to appeal the decision yet the developer could have done so had the decision gone the other way.
6. It was surely wrong for a planning officer to say the density was subjective and could not be calculated and for the team leader to state that they would accept the developer’s estimate rather than the professional guidance laid out in the NPF and statutory guidance.
7. The committee has also ignored the many failings of the developer e.g. failing to inform the two major land owners adjacent to the site – Ardblair castle and Newton Castle.
8. The question was also raised regarding who is going to stand up to PKC to stop the blatant disregard of policy guidance and rules which was displayed at the planning meeting over this planning application, the fears being that this will be coming the norm for other developments in LDP2 and LDP3

In view of the above, DC asked what redress is open to the complainers and was advised that the Chief Executive is responsible and that the complaint can also be taken to the ombudsmen (it is already in the queue). After further discussion regarding the way forward DC suggested that the PKC chief executive should be invited to meet with the complainants and that after that meeting, the group should also invite a senior planner to meet with them. BB offered to arrange for the Chief Executive to come and meet the group with the 3 local councillors so that they can put their case to him. He also offered to request that a senior planning officer come along as well to answer any questions raised. In light of the site’s nearby ancient burial mound mentioned by a member of the public, DC asked about a Heritage Trail and information about our local history and why are we so poor at sharing. CS advised that Our Heritage have a timeline and are putting together a trail. LM advised heritage was one of the most popular suggestions as part of the Local Place Plan. DC suggested a brown sign be placed by the Cleaven Dyke and the Beech Hedge. b) **Speeding on Coupar Angus Road**Two residents of Coupar Angus Road raised concerns about the speed of cars on Coupar Angus Road at the Rosemount exit/entrance of the town. They said that road is designated 30mph, and the concern is that motorists do not drop their speed when entering the town, and increase their speed heading out of the town. Due to the junctions at Parkhead Road and Golf Course Road, this can cause problems, especially as there is a bend on entering the town. This is includes large lorries and Stagecoach buses. They felt that there is no consequence for drivers when they are speeding leaving/entering the town. There are not many 30mph signs on the way out of town. TM and BB reminded the meeting that the speed limit is 30mph where there are streetlamps. The residents voiced concerns for walkers, cyclists and older people, as the roads there are designated walking/cycling friendly. There is also a lot of wildlife including deer and also horses. It can feel like a race track at times and is very noisy. Residents fear there is an accident waiting to happen here. DC advised that BRCC accepted their concerns and reminded the meeting about a previous BRCC meeting when local PKC councillors took on the issues at Elm drive. The Coupar Angus Road residents suggested: more 30mph signs along the road or 30 mph stickers on bins; countdown signs on entering Coupar Angus Road from Myeriggs; cardboard policemen – can be purchased by residents and these are most effective if put out for an hour, then taken back in; that BRCC write to PKC, as well as Stagecoach, as a resident was on a bus that was doing 45mph before leaving the town. PR recommended taking videos of busses speeding and sending these to Stagecoach and the police, asking that drivers be reminded of speed limits. BRCC could perhaps facilitate calming measures throughout the town, as the A926 leaving Rattray to Alyth, and other main arterial routes through the town have been raised as an issue previously. GP will review emails and info to compile a list of areas/contacts, if possible. BB mentioned Community Speed Watch which makes yellow jackets and speed guns available, car registration numbers can be noted and passed to police. CS suggested BRCC organise a focus group to consider issues and options. TM will speak to the people up the glen who have had a similar issue. DC advised BRCC will discuss at interim meeting and contact Community Policing Team.c) **Elm Drive Traffic**The issue at Elm Drive is similar to Coupar Angus Road due to the increase in traffic using that section as it joins Coupar Angus Road and Perth Road. Traffic numbers are huge, problems with speeding and there is a primary school there. Residents feel traffic is getting faster and faster – there is a 20’s plenty sign on the road but most are going over that and up to 40mph plus. Police can only enforce breaches, it is PKCs responsibility to put in signs etc. Residents have been asking for traffic calming measures. DC asked about the timing – is it all the time or are there peaks? It is bad from 8am until just after 9am, around lunchtime and late afternoon and even into the evening. DC stated that action was taken when there were problems near the school. CS spoke with residents and suggested they make representation to the PKC. CS has meeting with officers on 6 March – priority and focus is pavement parking then the mandatory 20mph measures. Elm Drive was always planned to be a through road. DC suggested the police could do random checks. Police had spoken to residents and took on board what they were saying but they can only take action on breaches. GP read out comment from the police – they continue to carry out speed checks both obvious and inconspicuous – anyone with concerns can contact them. PR had seen the police at the end of Elm Drive not long after the last BRCC meeting. The 20mph will come in at the end of the year which should help.d) **Coupar Angus Road – litter**DC also raised the issue about litter on the Coupar Angus Road. CS reminded the meeting that monthly litter picks do take place. | GPBBTMBRCC |
| **Item 6 – Regular Reportsa) Resilience/Flooding PR/SM**New resilience email – resilience@brcommunitycouncil.org.uk – goes to resilience team to help or escalate. After the last storm, the team helped with welfare checks. Next meeting is 11 March 4pm at Fire Station. Funding update submitted and resilience gazebo now arrived.**b) Climate Action DC/GP/JM**GP advised BRCC’s ‘Rooted in Rattray & Blairgowrie’ project to plant a fruit tree for babies born in town in 2024 saw the first trees planted on Saturday 8 Feb. Donald Anderson from PKC Greenspaces made it very easy. Last planting will be 1st March, so please get in touch if interested. JLM had sent in info re a report from Met Office re community resilience – she is hoping the resilience team can sign up for a community resilience course being run by Met Office.**c) Twinning GP/SM**Rooted in R&B project (see Climate Action above) reported progress and ‘tree twins’ (Babies born on the same day here and in Brebières) with our partners in Brebières, whose project inspired ours. Brebières’s Twinning website is beginning to take shape.**d) Maintenance in Blairgowrie & Rattray****i. Built Environment** Wellmeadow power – PKC waiting design of upright stands but there is concerns about vandalism. DC expecting an onsite meeting in February. We await to hear from PKC.**ii. Open Spaces** Tree pruning has taken place at Davie Park and the Gamsie which the Biodiversity Group look after. Reminded that CS organises litter picks each month – next on is Davie Park and Loon Braes on 2 March. DC advised there was an email from Keep Britain Tidy. The town litter picks do connect with them. **e) Local Place Plan**BRDT’s LPP working group is creating a submission to have registered by 31 March – there is a 28 day consultation period from late Feb to send the LPP to local councillors and community councils. Question was asked if the submission will address numbers and developments – LPP can only suggest policies for LDP. |  |
| **Item 7 – Matters Arising/Reports back**a) **Town Notice Boards**2 notice boards now up outside BaRI Bdg and bottom of Brown Street. BRDT will manage the boards so groups etc can drop posters into BaRI Bdg and we will add.b) **Blairgowrie &Rattray Common Good Fund**Dealt with at past mtg.c) **First Responders**Neil Hardy, NHS Community Resilience Facilitator (Central Highlands, Angus & Tayside), will speak at BRCC’s March meeting about First Responders.d) **Scalable cities**Developing community energy in PKC – webinar on 9 Feb.e) **Elm Drive traffic – covered above.**Dealt with above.f) **Citizen/Young Person/Group of the Year**Reminder that this year’s COY will soon be getting underway. SJ suggested we request the trophies are returned to get them around the businesses. | DC |
| **Item 8 – Traffic Matters**a) **Proposed closure of A926 Rattray to Alyth Road**A926 will be closed for 5-6 weeks for the replacement of 3 gas valves in one go hence big disruption. May run a shuttle bus for the glens. Posters will be provided once dates confirmed. Farmers etc have been contacted and there will be plenty signs up and barriers will be in place.b) DC advised on traffic notices as follows:24 Feb for 1 week Coupar Angus Road/Golf Course Road and Parkhead Road3 Mar for 2 days – Reform Street/Croft Lane16 Apr – Palace Road/Perth road for 4 weeks |  |
| **Item 9 – Planning Matters**GP PPAN – Westfields of Rattray for affordable housing – public consultation on 6 March and 3 April from 3pm to 7pm at Town Hall. Deadline for comments is 20 March. Plans will be shown for public comment. | All |
| **Item 10 – Chair’s Report**DC was invited to opening of Pavilion at Davie Park – congratulations to BRCFT on their efforts. Room is called the Thomson room. TM suggested BRCC could use the facility to hold mtgs in Rattray – will depend on cost. CS will advise on pricing.Request to partner with the Scottish Flood Forum to test a different river flood alert system – resilience group taking forward.PKC Community Engagement newsletter available for sign up.R100 broadband – need to identify if it is available in area.Email re filming in woodlands replied to; not a BRCC matter. | CS |
| **Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Admin** January balance4 Feb Website & Room**February balance****Projects**January balanceResilience Items Gazebo**February Balance**Community PotResilienceWell (Defib)Rooted in B & R | **In** | **Out**£150£1167.80 | **Balance**£764.06£614.06**£614.06**£17,254.13£16,086.33**£16,086.33**£911.97£12,254.56£94.80£2,825  |

 |  |
| **Item 12 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**. Message from BHS Headmaster saying how successful the Burns Night was and he was encouraged with the support from the community and he looked forward to more events in the future.Remaining items can be reviewed at interim. |  |
| **Item 13 –** **PKC Councillor’s Reports****Cllr Caroline Shiers** update:War Memorial condition – cracks developing, CS to ask BRCC to support.Wellmeadow parking spaces getting updated.John Street has large section of disabled parking but not needed – CS to ask PKC to review.Cemetery upkeep to be monitored.Emma Street Laundry – no firm commitment but being looked at.Need for barriers at end of walkways onto busy roads to stop children running out.Report of fly tipping in the Ericht.Meikleour crossroads concerns – apparently no pattern to accidents.Bendochy Park – Holiday Homes and people being mis-sold as residential. CS suggest people should lobby anyone they can about this.PKC Budget happening end Feb.**Cllr Bob Brawn** added:8 May 80 anniversary of VE Day – plans to commemorate it. Understands beacons will be lit, details to be confirmed. VJ day in August will be lower key.New Tay Bridge visit – will open on 31 March but is an impressive sight and structure.Fatal accident on A9 in November – diversions set up but people were ignoring and it was chaos in the glens with lorries etc.**Cllr Tom McEwan** added:Elm Drive school exclusion zone – edge of area is dangerous for children, keeping an eye on it.Palace Road – new Quarry Road across Essendy Road. TRO suggests Palace Road as diversion. TM suggests this is closed like the main road to reduce traffic which was accepted. | BRCCCS |
| **Item 15 –** **AOCB**a) PA System is in BaRI Building Office.b) GP at meeting yesterday where a list of forbidden words that Donald Trump has issued to say they are not to be included in scientific reports – for example ‘women’ which has major implications. GP suggested BRCC could move away from Facebook. |  |
| Date of Next Meeting: 13th March 2025, 7pm at the BaRi Building & 6.45pm online. |  |

Distribution (email)

Community Councillors: PKC Local Councillors: External:

David Cuthill - Chairperson Caroline Shiers PKC Community Councils

Scott MacGregor - Vice Chair Bob Brawn P. Cunningham, Blair High School

Steve Johnson - Treasurer Tom McEwan

Gina Purrmann - Secretary

Peter Richardson

Jamie Louise Morrison Approved Minutes Distribution:

Lesley McDonald PKC Community Councils

Pat Marshall BRCC Website

Andy Scott Blairgowrie Library