

MOUNT BLAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

Draft Minutes of the 4th meeting of the 32nd Session of Mount Blair Community Council held in the Session House, Kirkmichael on November 24th 2008.

Present: Fiona Calvin; Andrew Duncan; Doreen MacIntyre (Chair); Donald Michie; Phil Moston (Minutes); Mike Purdie; Cllr Bob Ellis; Cllr Liz Grant and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Susan Scott, Cllr Caroline Shires, PC Fiona Rodger

1. Minutes of last meeting

A Duncan indicated that he had put forward his apologies, but this had not been noted. Accepting this amendment, the minutes were proposed by M. Purdie and seconded by D Michie

2. Matters arising from the last minutes

The matter of Police presence on the glen roads in response to motorcyclists was raised again. D MacIntyre to write to Police.

3. Report from the Chair

- Re parking at the foot of Balmoral Road:- Extensive consultation carried out by Cllr Bob Ellis with local residents and business owners. No agreement on the way forward at the moment.
- An open meeting was convened by Perthshire Housing Association (PHA) in September in response to concerns over allocations at the new development in Kirkmichael. Cllr Grant noted that the PHA will shortly be writing to all people who have expressed an interest in housing at the development.
- A meeting regarding Blackcraig Forest has been organised by Forestry Commission Scotland to take place on 5th December 2008. This will be attended by Doreen MacIntyre. The aim of the meeting (which at this point is restricted to agency, council and community council representatives) is to discuss the future management of and developments at the forest. D. MacIntyre has obtained reassurances that the community will subsequently be consulted on the proposals.
- Core path network. Funding will be made available for the core path network. All land owners have been notified. The Access Forum will discuss progress at December's meeting.

4. Report from the Secretary

In the absence of a volunteer to be secretary D. MacIntyre continues to act in this capacity.

- Would any one in the local community like to help?

5. Report from the Treasurer

- As of November 24th, the current balance for the Community Council fund is approximately £790.00.
- The Drumderg micro-fund holds approximately £450. Any applications to the micro fund (for grants of £250 or lower) should be made through the Community Council.
- During November a grant of £150 was made to Strathardle Coffee Tots Group.

6. Report from the Community Police.

- The new community policewoman, Fiona Rodger, had hoped to make this meeting, but was unable to do so. No one from the police has attended a Community Council meeting during the last 12 months. PC Rodger can be contacted at fiona.rodger@tayside.pnn.police.uk or 0845 600 5707. The contact details will be put on the local web-site www.the-glens.org.uk.

7. Report from Cllr Liz Grant

- Work is scheduled to start on the bridge over the Ardle in 2009
- Removal of electrical pole outside the garage along with the refurbishment of the whole section to be completed by end of November.
- The planning process is ongoing for the car park. Should be completed by Feb/March 2009.
- Now that the new Craighall by-pass is open, speed restrictions for the village of Bridge of Cally are to be looked at with a view to slowing down the traffic through the village.

8. Report from Cllr Bob Ellis

- The views from the new Craighall section of road are spectacular. This has led to cars stopping and parking on the side of the road causing a possible safety hazard. Cllr Ellis is pursuing the possibility of having a lay-by constructed to allow people to enjoy the views safely, however the point was made that care should be taken as to the location, as parked vehicles should be able to join the carriageway safely.
- The Great Outdoors magazine is running a 5 page article on the CATERAN trail in its December issue.
- An Accommodation guide for the CATERAN Trail is to be produced.
- The CATERAN Trail races will take place on the 9th May 2009.
- The new chairman of the Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Council is Mr E Kennedy

9. Broadband

- Nothing has happened to restore Broadband to the Session House while the Broadband speed to the local community in and around Kirkmichael remains very slow. Doreen MacIntyre will contact J Swinney to see if we can get some progress on this issue.

10. National Park Boundary Consultation

- Formal consultation drop in session held in September at the Spittal hotel. 5/6 people attended. Revised position of Community Council sent after drop in session revealed that the boundary line could be changed after all.
- Phase 2 of the boundary changes will involve the local communities more.
- The Association of Cairngorm Communities, a pro-active organisation, will have reps from community councils and other community groups, with a view to co ordinate and promote park-wide issues such as heritage, recycling.

11 James Small Memorial

- Two options proposed for the re sighting of the Memorial. The preferred option could open up the possibility of improving the junction of the road.
- The preferred proposal will be posted in the village shop for information and to allow for comments.

12. Area reports

Bridge of Cally

- The new stretch of footpath has been a welcome addition in improving the safety of people in the village but the condition of the old footpath towards the village hall needs to be improved.

