

MOUNT BLAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

Draft Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 34th Session of Mount Blair Community Council
held in the Session House, Kirkmichael on Monday 9th May 2011

Present: Doreen MacIntyre (Chair)(DM), Andrew Duncan (Vice Chair) (AD), Mike Purdie (Treasurer) (MP), Sally Fenner (SF), Donald Michie (DMi), Fiona Calvin (FC), and Cllr Elizabeth Grant (EG), 8 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Shiers (CS), Cllr Bob Ellis (BE), Susan Scott (SS)

In attendance: Sergeant Andrew Ness (Tayside Police). Inspector Ged Fitzpatrick (Tayside Police), Lynn Moore and Nicola Liddell (Admin)

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** D MacIntyre welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Proposed by SF and seconded by MP, the draft Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
3. **Matters Arising**

AGM – AD noted that this meeting was originally intended to be the AGM. However, it would proceed as an ordinary meeting. The AGM may instead be held in October in line with the other Community Councils. Perth & Kinross Council (PKC) would take responsibility for circulating notice of the AGM 4 weeks prior to the meeting. There was some discussion about the process and timing for the election for Community Council posts and consideration given to those members who wish to stay on for re-election. EG was going to enquire about the council's process for election and email DM, AD and MP with clarification. DM suggested that the meeting in September may go ahead followed by the AGM in October. A decision will be taken once information has been received from EG.

New Guidelines for Community Councils (update) – Cllr Grant (EG) advised that the guidelines were now available and that elections of CC members would be held at the end of the year and that PKC would take responsibility for this. Accounts would go through the AGM as usual. MP asked for clarification on the accounting period, given that the AGM will not take place until October. EG will find out and email MP.

James Small Memorial (update) – EG informed the meeting that the advice she has received is that it should be listed but is probably not old enough. Awaiting clarification from Historic Scotland on this. EG will update at next meeting.

Broadband– Petrina Menzies referred to an email sent today detailing a fault which had been identified as coming from Blairgowrie. She lodged a collective complaint and this would lead to further investigation. She will advise of the outcome in due course. Cllr Shiers (CS) had advised by email that she had been in touch with BT directly and that she would be liaising with Glenshee residents in May to seek support in pursuing the upgrade of the Exchange.

Council Run Services Which Could Be Run And Sourced Locally – AD confirmed that BE had been in contact with him with regard to taking this forward. They will now seek input from DM and update at the next meeting.

Recycling Issues (update) – A discussion took place about the availability of blue-lidded recycling bins. It would appear that not every household has received delivery of a recycling bin although there were communal bins available. It was felt that a collection vehicle for larger bins would be desirable but that P&KC did not have one at the present time. Consideration would be given to inviting someone to a future meeting to discuss usage of blue bins.

Failure of Road Dressing on A924 – CS advised by email that she had been in contact with Tayside Contracts and that they were looking into the issue. CS would raise the matter again at the meeting of the Tayside Contracts Joint Board Meeting and update the Community Council in due course. A discussion then took place regarding submission of claims for damages. A member of the public advised that a download claim form was available for anyone who required it. AD suggested that this should be circulated.

Cateran Yomp – MP advised that the most recent update indicated that there were 170 entrants which was encouraging. 400 were hoped for and it was anticipated that there would be a number of late entrants.

Strone of Cally P.S. & Community Consultation – Cllr Grant advised that the first part of the consultation had now closed. HMIE Inspector had visited Strone of Cally Primary School and the report had now been received.

A Consultation Report would now require to be done and then collated and sent out for consultation. Following this, a recommendation would be made to the Lifelong Learning Committee on 1st June. SF enquired as to whether the 12 blue flower pots, currently at Strone of Cally Primary School could be relocated to the Community Village Hall. EG agreed to look into arranging permission for this.

Mount Blair Community Development Trust – MP reported that there were currently 130 members representing approximately 75 households (14% of households in the area). The Trust now had funds from a grant received from PKC. MP also advised that the application for the Archive Project was nearing completion and should be ready for submission to the Lottery Fund in a couple of weeks' time.

4. **'Climate Challenge Fund'/Wester Bleaton Quarry**

Donald McKerracher (DMcK) (retired from D Geddes (Contractors) Ltd) referred to a previous meeting some 5 years ago and spoke of a ring fenced fund at that time from which the community could get grants for projects. Since then, procedure has changed and monies from Aggregates Levy is put into a fund from which Scottish Government then allocates funding. DMcK advised that it was still possible for the community to apply to the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) for future funding for services such as specialist advice but not for equipment. However, the deadline for applications to the 2011/12 budget had passed. The amount of funding available from the CCF is unknown at the present time but DMcK spoke of other communities which have benefitted from this type of funding. It was highlighted that the new community hall will require heating and that it may be worth considering a green source of energy. It was suggested that once the source of energy was agreed, consideration could be given to applying for funding from the CCF for this. The Mount Blair Community Development Trust may provide assistance with this.

It was noted that the reopening of the quarry had been of benefit. However, it was pointed out to DMcK that since stone has been removed from the quarry, water levels on the road outside the quarry entrance were higher during periods of rainfall. DMcK agreed to investigate this and email EG who will inform the Roads Department.

5. **Report from the Community Police**

DM welcomed Sergeant Ness and Inspector Fitzpatrick to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Community Officer, Sandra Burgess. The update was provided as follows:-

- Crime in the Mount Blair area is fairly low in general.
- Vandalism in Bridge Of Cally is currently under investigation
- Theft of power tools from building under construction occurred in March.
- Fuel thefts are on the increase with holiday cottages and tractor tanks identified as targets. Large quantities are being taken at one time and members of the public were asked to report anyone acting suspiciously to the Police. In particular, note should be taken of suspicious vehicles without company logos. **Please report any suspicious activity to Tayside Police on Tel. 0300 111 2222.**
- Note should be taken of possible bogus workmen operating in the area especially those offering to tarmac driveways. If anyone has reason to believe they have been in contact with any bogus workman or if any households were to receive 'cold calls' or leaflets offering such work, they should inform the Police and if possible provide a description of the vehicles these people were using. It was pointed out that the NFUS operate a system to get information out to farmers about people operating in the area. It was noted that at least one person present had experienced difficulty with the call handling aspect of reporting matters of concern during the hours that the Blairgowrie Police Station is closed. This was brought to Sergeant Ness's attention and he advised that he would look into this.
- A red Citroën Xsara, registration number **T623 LMS** has been seen in the Glenisla area around remote properties. Members of the public should report any sightings to the Police.

Road Policing Issues

Sergeant Ness advised of an initiative called "Around the Corner" which was aimed at reducing the number of collisions involving motorcycles. They will engage with motorcyclists at events and will target Kirkmichael and Glenshee roads in the enforcement aspect. Sergeant Ness also advised that 11th May was to be a day of action in the enforcement of seatbelt wearing throughout Tayside.

Engaging with Community

It was noted that a Community Police van would visit the area once a month. There was some discussion about the timings of the visit and it was suggested that it could coincide with the visits from the Library van. With regard as to where it could be located, it was suggested that the fire stations could be suitable. These suggestions will be considered further. It was noted that there would be a Police presence all day at the Strathardle Games (Saturday 27th August 2011) to enable Police and community engagement.

Transforming Tayside Project

It was noted that this was a core project but that it was susceptible to the Scotland-wide public sector budget constraints and with that in mind a small project team, "Transforming Tayside" had been formed to identify a way forward in balancing financial demands with community requirements. Every effort would be made to ensure a level front line policing which communities would expect as well as the less obvious police work which contributes to supporting safer communities.

Glen Watch – C Shiers had advised by email that she would be meeting with Inspector Ian Scott to discuss a revival of the Glenwatch telephone contact scheme. Action CS to update at next meeting.

6. **Report from the Chair & Secretary's Report** – DM drew the meeting's attention to print outs of correspondence regarding core paths for the area which she had made available.

7. **Treasurer's Report** –

The figures from the 2 accounts as at 9th May 2011 were as follows:-

Community Council Main Account

- opening balance of £1715.22 and following and interest payment received and 3 payments out, the current balance was £568.39
- the PKC Administrative Grant 2011-2012 was pending and would be received in due course.

- Community Council Drumderg Micro Fund Account

opening balance of £773.80 and following receipt of the Drumderg Community Benefit Grant and 3 payments out, the current balance was £2504.07.

8. **Councillor's Report(s)** –

Nothing additional to report.

9. **Area Reports**

Bridge of Cally – SF reported that there was an issue with the fence outside the Village Hall. 3 of the wires had broken and was a potential hazard. EG advised that she would look into this and asked for any other matters like this to be brought to her attention via email.

Glenshee – MP advised of a road safety issue involving the s-bend outside the "hut". He had knowledge of a recent accident but on investigation of the site, there was evidence of further incidents. MP had spoken with Mike Lees (PKC Road Safety Officer) regarding this and was advised that financiers would be consulted to look at the possibility of widening the road. However, it may be that road markings may be provided instead.

10. **AOCB**

It was noted that a public meeting was taking place on Tuesday 10th May at 7pm at Blairgowrie High School at which new plans for the Blairgowrie Community Hospital would be discussed. It was hoped that this would be well attended. EG advised of an open day hosted by NHS Tayside which had taken place on Saturday 7th May at which plans were available to view. This follow-up meeting would provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions they may have.

It was noted that Tarvie House had been demolished and that it was unclear about any future plans for development. DM will make enquiries to the Head of Planning at Perth & Kinross Council.

11. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will take place on **Monday 12th September 2011** (2nd Monday) at 7pm. All welcome to attend.