

MOUNT BLAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

Draft Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 34th Session of Mount Blair Community Council
held in the Session House, Kirkmichael on Monday 12th September 2011

Present: Doreen McIntyre (DM) (Chair), Andrew Duncan (AD) (Vice Chair), Mike Purdie (MP) (Treasurer), Cllr Bob Ellis (BE), Cllr Caroline Shiers (CS), Fiona Calvin (FC), Sally Fenner (SF), 5 members of the public

Apologies: Susan Scott (SS), Tayside Community Police, Cllr Elizabeth Grant (EG), Donald Michie (DMi)

In attendance: Lynn Moore (Admin)

Welcome and Apologies: DM welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Mike Purdie and seconded by Andrew Duncan.

Matters Arising:

AGM – DM advised that she had just received information from Perth & Kinross Council regarding the Community Council Elections. There would be notices displayed by 15th September with information around these and nomination forms would be available in local shops. The deadline for submission of nominations would be 29th September. If subsequently a ballot was necessary, results would be announced on 4th November. The existing Community Council AGM would take place on 21st November and would be followed immediately by the 1st meeting of the new session.

New Guidelines for Community Councils (update) – DM advised that the new Community Council would be required to sign up to these Guidelines at the AGM and that the paperwork for this would be available at the meeting.

James Small Memorial (update) – Cllr Grant (EG) advised by email that she had been in touch with Historic Scotland but unfortunately this memorial was not deemed suitable for listing, partly due to the fact that it only dates from the beginning of the 20th century.

Broadband – Cllr Shiers (CS) had previously advised by email that this issue had been discussed in the Parliament and that both Murdo Fraser MSP and John Swinney MSP had been involved in the debate. The issues and requirements of the Glenshee exchange had been further highlighted to Alex Neil MSP and CS had also been in contact with the Perthshire Chamber of Commerce. CS emphasised the need to keep up the pressure to ensure BT carried out the requisite investment in exchanges in rural areas and that it was something to which local councillors across P&K were committed.

Council Run Services Which Could Be Run And Sourced Locally – There had been no further discussion on this since the last meeting. BE, AD and DM would arrange to meet to discuss.

Recycling Issues (update) – BE explained that there were recycling bins available and also a recycling facility at Glen Derby but there were currently no further facilities planned. It was felt that although there were leaflets available via the Perth & Kinross website, explaining which items were recyclable, it would be helpful to have a supply available in the local post offices and shop. BE and CS undertook to ensure that these were available in the shop at Kirkmichael and at Bridge of Cally Post Office. This item would be kept on the agenda and discussed again at the next meeting.

Failure of Road Dressing on A924 – CS advised that she had been following up the issue of the faulty work carried out with both Tayside Contracts and P&KC. It was understood that various insurance claims had been submitted to the Council, some of which had been settled in full or in part. There were others still outstanding. BE noted that a request had then been made for a weekly inspection of the road until it was fully repaired and, to his knowledge, this had been carried out and repairs so far had been sound. Both BE and CS undertook to continue to monitor this situation.

Strone of Cally P.S. & Community Consultation – EG had provided an email update on this and DM advised on her behalf that Strone of Cally consultation on closure of the school had now been completed. The recommendation to close the school with the support of HMIE was approved at the Life Long Learning Committee on 1st June. The decision of the Committee and the recommendation from HMIE had been sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

Tarvie House – It was noted that a planning application in respect of Tarvie House had been submitted.

Mount Blair Community Development Trust – MP informed the meeting that, since the last Community Council meeting in May, membership had risen to approx. 180 members. The Trust was making good progress

and was getting good support from the Community. MP advised that the application in respect of the Archive Project had now been submitted with an anticipated turnaround time of 6-8 weeks and advised of another application for lottery funding to facilitate a community consultation. It was noted that there were vacancies on the Trust's Interim Board for 2 more Directors.

Wind Turbines

Graeme Richardson (GR) was welcomed to discuss his proposal for a small wind turbine project (3 turbines with 8mgw capacity each) at Ardlebank. A discussion took place regarding the ZTV (Zones of Theoretical Visibility) i.e. where the project could be seen from and GR provided some pictorial information for those present to view. It was also noted that a TDV (Turbine Delivery Vehicle) survey had been carried out and it found that it was feasible to deliver these turbines by road. The Planning Application had been submitted and notification to neighbours was now in progress. It was anticipated that the timescale for a decision would be approximately 2-3 months. However, it was noted that without a Grid connection, a project of this type could not proceed and it was felt too costly for one applicant to fund, although it was feasible that a link could be facilitated with the merger of similar applications. GR emphasised his desire to ensure the Community would benefit from any eventual income generated from the project and advised of his intention to link with Mount Blair Community Development Trust in this regard. MP advised that the proposed community consultation could identify where funding was required including any major projects which would require substantial funding. GR advised that he was willing to be contacted with any questions around the project and left his email address with the Chair (DM).

Drumderg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Memorandum Of Understanding

This document had been previously circulated to CC Members for consideration. It was understood that Alyth Community Council had already accepted this but SF would establish this and feedback to DM. There was some discussion around the wording of the document in respect of grant funding to "unconstituted" groups. It would be recommended to the Scottish Community Foundation (SCF) that this word was removed to ensure that any group could apply. SF undertook to liaise with SCF over this. It was agreed that, with this amendment, Mount Blair Community Council would accept the MOU.

Path Networks Report

BE advised that the CATERAN YOMP attracted 240 participants and the total amount raised was approx. £200,000 pounds. The date for the next Yomp would be 30th June/1st July 2012 coinciding with the Kirkmichael Festival. He advised that maintenance on the CATERAN Trail was ongoing with plans for further signage on the minitrail from Lair to Kirkmichael. Consideration would also be given to charging a registration fee to groups using the Trail to ensure maintenance. BE advised of 2 new routes under consideration including a link with Kirkmichael and Pitlochry via the CATERAN Trail and Rob Roy Way. In addition a new route starting in Deeside and linking eventually with the West Highland Way was being considered. It was pointed out that Kirkmichael was a potential hub for all of these paths which would increase the demand for more budget accommodation.

30 mph proposals for Kirkmichael, Ballintuim & Bridge of Cally

DM tabled maps showing the proposed stretches of road being considered for a speed limit of 30 mph and invited those present to look at them and provide comments for feedback to P & KC. There followed a lengthy discussion during which it was generally agreed that a 30 mph would be appropriate for Kirkmichael but that Bridge of Cally would benefit more from signage warning of "vehicles in the middle of the road" particularly at the sharp corner by Bridge of Cally Hall. It was also felt that 30 mph was, in fact, too fast for Ballintuim and a comment was made that variation of speed from 30 mph to 20 mph in villages would perhaps be more desirable. There was general agreement that an electronic countdown speed limit sign such as the one at Burrleton appeared to be extremely effective but that any speed restrictions would only be beneficial if enforced. DM would write to P & KC to feedback the comments made.

Report from the Community Police

As apologies had been received from Tayside Community Police, there was no report given.

Glen Watch – CS advised that she had met with Inspector Ged Fitzpatrick and that he was happy for the telephone tree format to be utilised to get information out across the Glens. There followed a discussion on how to implement the system again, including asking people to opt into what would now be called "Community Watch", and having the email system utilised to run alongside the telephone system. There would require to be volunteers for each area to inform the people on their list and AD volunteered to take responsibility for the B950 between the Monument and the junction at Blackwater. Similarly, Tony Thompson

volunteered for the Glenshee Tree. Further volunteers would be sought and FC undertook to take this project forward and would liaise with both Sandra Burgess and Petrina Menzies who were felt to be essential to the set up and running of this system.

Report from the Chair & Secretary's Report – DM advised of BT's intention to remove the telephone kiosks at Blackwater and Enochdhu unless the Community was willing to purchase them at a cost of £1 each, although the handsets would be removed. A letter had been sent informing BT that they were wanted by the Community and volunteers had already been found to ensure they were maintained. DM would now enquire about any insurance issues, e.g. Public Liability, which may arise.

Treasurer's Report

The figures from the 2 accounts as at 12th September were as follows:-

Community Council Main Account

- opening balance of £568.39 and following an interest payment and the P&KC Administrative Grant 2011-2012 received and 2 payments out, the current balance was £924.68.

Community Council Drumderg Micro Fund Account

- opening balance of £2504.07 and following an interest payment and 3 payments out, the current balance was £2051.43.

Councillor's Reports

Cllr Elizabeth Grant – an email update from EG was read by DM in which EG advised that Straloch School had been mothballed but, at the request of the Cabinet Secretary for Education, the Life Long Learning Committee agreed to postpone the public consultation on both Straloch and Struan Primary Schools until June next year when the Commission on the Provision of Rural Education was expected to report back. She explained that the reason for agreeing to postponement was that if the Commission decided to change the criteria for consultation already carried out, it would have to be redone which would be a huge waste of time and resources.

Area Reports

It was noted that the Kirkmichael Car Park had been a great asset to the area but that the ground around it had not been maintained. An enquiry was made as to P&KC's Policy on planting and maintaining and BE and AD agreed to discuss this further and update at the next meeting. Attention was drawn to a local development close to one of the few banks of oak trees in the area and concern was raised regarding the conservation of these trees during this and any possible future developments. A request was made that this was investigated further to ensure preservation of the trees.

Bridge of Cally – A query was raised regarding what would happen to the Strone of Cally Primary School building. It was believed that the building belonged to P&KC and that it would possibly be put on the open market. It was noted that any enquiries regarding the building or its contents should be directed to P&KC. Concern was raised regarding the footpath between the Village Hall and Post Office as it had been noted that the growth of what was believed to be Butterbur was compromising the foundation of the path. In addition, the fence at the Village Hall was in a state of disrepair and was now impacting on a new fence. It was felt that this area required attention. A question was then raised regarding the fate of the war memorials at Nethererton Church, given that it was up for sale. It was suggested that the Church of Scotland or British Legion would be the appropriate points of contact for this.

AOCB

- It was noted that the inaugural Cricket Match between Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally had been extremely successful and enjoyable. The trophy had gone to Kirkmichael with a win of 106-30 runs.
- A query was raised about a possible update from Tayside Community Police on a meeting regarding "Speeder". CS undertook to liaise with the Police to find out.
- It was pointed out that maintenance of grass verges by P&KC was impacting on wild flowers and sheep grazing and that perhaps cutting of grass could be done only where necessary. BE agreed to look into this.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will take place on **Monday 21st November 2011** (2nd Monday) at 7pm preceded by the AGM. All welcome to attend.