

Mount Blair Community Council Meeting
7.00pm on 11th May 2015 in Kirkmichael Session House

Present: Tony Thompson (Chair), Ali Petrie, Charlie Brown, John Manning, Bob Ellis, Bernard Noonan, Donald Cameron, Robert Brawn, Caroline Shiers

Apologies: Liz Grant, Charlie Brown

In attendance: PC Alistair Crowe (Police), 12 members of the public

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1. | Welcome & Apologies | |
| 2. | Minutes of previous meeting 9th March 2015 RB proposed, Seconded DC | |
| 3. | Matters Arising | |
| 4. | Chairman's Report | |
| 5. | <p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>JM received emails from David Strachan for PKC heritage trust which has produced a free booklet to explore the archaeology of Glenshee. JM to send to TT & GTA. There have been weekly lists of planning applications and planning decisions but these cover the whole of PKC. Lee Haxton emailed that there is a Social Enterprise Academy with a free training program in Fort William on 28-29th May. The Cairngorm nature festival is being held 15-17th May.</p> <p>JM was speaking to TT about the old red telephone boxes. 2 have already been adopted, but in adopting them BT decommissions them. Once decommissioned they can be placed anywhere and used for any purpose. The phone boxes do not take coins, only phone cards, which makes them difficult to use, it is not widely known where to buy the phone cards. The phone lines still work. About 20 reverse charge calls made in BOC in the last quarter. A member of the public asked if they are paying land rent on the boxes?</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>The balance on the Main Account is £10.34. We should receive a grant of £690 to bring the balance back to £700 which is our allowance for the year.</p> <p>The Drumderg Fund has received a cheque for £2305 and has since issued three awards-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £300 to the Spittal of Glenshee Steering Group towards Administration Costs • £300 to Angela Souter to assist in starting a Beaver Group for children in the area • £300 to Richard Wilson towards the cost of a World War 2 tribute service at Netherton Church. <p>We have a further 4 awards to consider. As we are entitled to £2400 per annum and we have not received this over the last two years, we are also checking to see if any other monies are due to us from SSE.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Police Report</p> <p>PC Alistair Crowe reported that there had been very little crime since the last update. About 10 days ago there was a drink driver on the A93, with another driver detected for a driving offence on the A93.</p> <p>Also he reported that there was an attempted house break in at a property under renovation in Rattray, so please take extra care to keep your properties secure: thieves tend to be opportunists, "so don't leave any valuable items lying around."</p> <p>Community watch is coming online soon, and will include information shared</p> | |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| | <p>between the agencies. This will include appeals for information and traffic incidents causing road closures. It will be shared out over email initially and include texts and social media eventually. It will include the Mount Blair area but also other areas of Perthshire, and is coordinated through Amanda Nicholson.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about HGVs being diverted through the area as the roads are unsuitable for them. If a road should need to be closed due to an accident, Road Traffic Units would be responsible for any diversion decisions.</p> <p>Motorbikes have continued to be a problem, though some of the events organisers have been notifying the police when an event is planned. Ideally there should be a licensing law that made it compulsory to notify local community councils and the police. Any kind of extra signage or electronic speed boards are wanted the Roads Department would need to be contacted.</p> <p>The police service has been experiencing issues with budget cuts, but there still needs to be better communication between the police and the community. Continuity is proving a real problem, officers are being changed every few months and this is having an impact on the community as every new officer has to start with no local knowledge. Constable Donnelly will be in contact with TT.</p> <p>The speed limit outside of Ballintuim had been extended past the caravan park, and there have been a number of incidents, but none reported to the police. PKC roads department would need to be contacted about changes in speed or weight limits.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Broadband Update</p> <p>The Community Council sent out 670 Broadband and communication surveys, and have had about 145 surveys returned. If anyone hasn't filled one out please contact the Newsgroup or Tony Thompson for the information on how to fill one out. The returns will be collated and assessed and decision taken on progressing with a full technical survey appraisal.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>Planning</p> <p>a. Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan 2018 -23 – call for Issues</p> <p>Submission was made and had been acknowledged. The consultation process for the proposed strategic development plan means it is important that we send responses on both regional and local issues.</p> <p>b. Proposed Strategic Development Plan – Tayplan</p> <p>TT went to a Tayplan meeting in Dundee which had been cancelled. Mount Blair is hardly touched in the Tayplan.</p> <p>c. Wind farm proposals</p> <p>There had been four meetings over three days in Feb/Mar, 91 people in Alyth, Blairgowrie, Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally attended those meetings. Leaflets were distributed to the people living closest to the windfarms, and were printed in the Courier, the Blairgowrie Advertiser and circulated on the News group. ABO Wind are going to go to planning in late June and that we are expecting them to hold further exhibitions before that date. There will be an opportunity at the Town Hall in Blairgowrie on the 19th June to see what is going on with various things in the area, and also to see both sides of the story about Greenburn. AP has a group of about 40 people objecting to the windfarms, and will be carrying out a survey using the database for the broadband survey.</p> <p>The public asked if the Community Council would be logging an objection against the Greenburn Windfarm? A survey had been circulated on the News Group and in the shops but there were only 12 replies. Unless further responses are received the Council would not be logging an objection. Other than the News Group the Council couldn't afford to carry out more surveys, TT to investigate financial support from PKC to carry out surveys and other support activities.</p> | |

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| | <p>Caroline Shiers asked if there was the possibility of a semi-permanent display that people could be directed to. ABO will be having a forum meeting in Alyth on 28th May to discuss further plans for Greenburn.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Spittal Re-development The consultant has started his Report. There is to be a community meeting on Thursday 14th May at the Blackwater Public Hall where the Community can discuss their ideas and concerns regarding the redeveloping the Spittal. The Report, which will comprise of an Appraisal, Feasibility Study and Business Plan will be completed within the next 12 weeks. It was pointed out by TT that any decision on the existence or otherwise of the fuel pumps could not be made at this time.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>MBCDT Report</p> | |
| 12a. | <p>Kirkmichael Path Network BE there had been an initial meeting with a further meeting taking place on the 18th May, which will address the path networks in the immediate area. The forestry commission for this area said that we should look at a car parking area at Dalruzion. BE will be speaking to Charlie Taylor (Forestry Commission Scotland) who heads up this area to see how best to proceed. Andy Barrie is keen for Blairgowrie and Rattray group to work with Kirkmichael, like minded folk are being encouraged to volunteer with the day to day running of the network.</p> | |
| b. | <p>Cateran Common Wealth There is a panel of 12 people driving the project and they have applied for various grants to fund a series of miniature statuettes and/or benches that can be put in and around the Cateran trail. SSE has been approached to see if any of the disused pylons are available, but they could be made of any material.</p> | |
| 13. | <p>Road Maintenance - Rochallie Update Roadworks started today, closures have been scheduled overnight on the 8th of June between 7pm and 7am and 1 or 2 full days on week beginning 15th June. Local businesses have been contacted as well as the Jas. Jones Wood operation near Aboyne. TT had asked if this is necessary and was advised it would be strategically impossible not to close the road. AP had passed the messages onto Cateran Yomp organisers. TT to speak to the council regarding school buses.</p> | |
| 14. | <p>Ground Maintenance</p> | |
| 15. | <p>Digital Media AP attended a seminar regarding digital media, TT trying to get all the websites linked together.</p> | |
| 16. | <p>Rural Transport The current bus service makes it awkward for anybody needing a doctor's appointment, as you can only make appointments on the day. A member of the public stated that most people would rather stick with the current service to avoid losing it. TT indicated that the transport service existing and proposed would have to be assessed through a full public consultation. BE to advertise the service timetables on BEPTA and GTA websites.</p> | |
| 17. | <p>Councillors Report CS said the traffic lights at the Wellmeadow will be switched off in the next few weeks, initially for two weeks with a provisional 20mph put in the area. Further details will be circulated shortly.</p> <p>The O2 mast covering Mount Blair had been causing problems and had been raised by local residents.</p> <p>There is currently a nationwide shortage of maths teachers, the council is working to resolve this</p> | |

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| | <p>Chick Haggert had been contacted regarding the outstanding road issues.</p> <p>Communication between PKC and the Community Councils in the area is still a consistent problem.</p> | |
| 18. | <p>Area Reports</p> <p>BN – BOC wall opposite the Post Office has not moved since the last meeting.</p> | |
| 19. | <p>A.O.C.B.</p> <p>The Credit Union is something for people who struggle with banks and finance. It was discussed that it would be worthwhile to get a meeting set up here for people who might be interested in a credit union, possibly using the village hall. It would be advantageous to publicise the CATERAN Commonwealth, the Spittal of Glenshee project, the News Group and the Wind farm at the same time.</p> <p>Reports of a local puppy farm in the area which is fully licensed and checked by PKC and SPCA.</p> | |
| 20. | <p>D.O.N.M – 13th July 2015</p> | |