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

Agreed Minutes of the Community Council ordinary meeting
held on 11th January 2024 at 7pm at the BaRi Building and online via ZOOM.

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| **ATTENDANCE**BRCC MembersDavid Cuthill (DC)Steve Johnson (SJ)Gina Purrmann (GP)Lesley McDonald (LM)Jamie Louise Morrison (JLM)Andrew Scott (AS) | Vice-chairTreasurerSecretary | PKC Local Councillors Bob Brawn (BB)Caroline Shiers (CS)Laura Rodger (minutes)5 members of the public  | **APOLOGIES**Scott MacGregor (SM)Pete Richardson (PR)Sue Hart (SH)Pat Marshall (PM)Police ServiceFire Service**ABSENCES**Tom McEwan (TM) |
| **Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**DC welcomed everyone to the meeting at 19:03 due to technical difficulties. He is chairing the meeting, as SM cannot attend. DC asked all attendees for permission for the minute taker to record this meeting solely for the purpose of writing up the minutes; they will not share the recording and will delete it as soon as the minutes have been written. DC made all aware that no fire alarms are planned, and the location of emergency exits and bathrooms. The members of Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Council were introduced for the benefit of the members of the public. |  |
| **Item 2 – Apologies**DC noted that SM was not here to chair the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. Apologies also received from PR, SH and PM.  |  |
| **Item 3 – Adoption of draft minutes of the 14th of December 2023 meeting**JLM noted a minor spelling error. The minute taker will correct this. Decision: Approved with amendment. Proposed by SJ and seconded by AS.  |  |
| **Item 4 – Police & Fire Reports Fire Report:**No fire report received.**Police Report:** Winter Road SafetyAdvice for pedestrians:· Dress for the weather by wearing reflective or bright-coloured clothing so other road users can see you when it's dark or visibility is poor· If you are walking home late at night, make sure someone knows where you're going and when· Vehicles can take up to ten times longer to stop on slippery road surfaces so take extra care crossing the road· Stick to pedestrian crossings· If there are no crossings nearby, find a place with a clear view and wait for long gaps in the traffic before crossing the road· Don't cross the road between parked vehicles, unless it can't be avoided then take extra care (look out for vehicles that suddenly pull out or reverse)· Never cross the road behind a bus· If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so you can see traffic coming towards you.Advice for cyclists:· Make sure your bike can be seen by people on the road· Use a good set of front and rear lights (white at the front, red at the back)· Wear clothes that help you be seen on your bike, such as bright and light reflective items· Pay attention to road signs, markings and particularly red lights· Do not cycle on the pavements, they may be slippery and can also endanger pedestrians· Be mindful of the effects poor weather can have on other road users· Make sure you know about the dangers around you· Cars can take twice as long to stop in wet weather· Braking can be unpredictable in ice and snow.Advice for drivers:· Make sure your car is ready for winter· Check that your tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows are free from defects and clean· Drive to the road conditions. Road conditions can change without warning, stopping distances will be affected by the weather· Make sure your windows are clean and aren't misted up· Make sure there is no snow and ice on your windows before you drive· When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in a high gear· Accelerate and brake very gently· Driving distracted (for example, using a Sat Nav) can cause additional stress. It is dangerous to you, passengers and other road users.Domestic abuse is not just physical; it can also take the form of psychological and emotional harm, controlling behaviour, coercive behaviour and financial abuse. If you have concerns about your partner or the partner of someone you know, please report it. Reporting concerns is confidential and the person at risk will never be told who reported it. You can contact the police about your concerns by:· Calling 101 (or 999 in an emergency) and speaking to us directly · Using our Contact Us online form for reporting incidents (not to be used in an emergency)· Using the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)· If you’re not comfortable speaking to police you can speak to any of our partner organisations who can provide practical and/or emotional support including advice about reporting it to police. Details can be found on the Police Scotland Website |  |
| **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. a) Green Bin on Keay Street**Overflowing bin reported by member of the public. CS will report this. The issue of overflowing dog bins was also raised. CS responded that this had already been reported. **b) Dog Fouling**DC raised the issue of dog poo bags being left as litter rather than properly disposed of. CS noted that this is an issue everywhere.  | CS |
| **Item 6 –** **Matters arising/reports back****a) Top-Up Tap**No update, still ongoing. **b) Black Gate Croft Lane**This will be dropped down to the bottom of the agenda, awaiting an update.**c) Nativity Display Items**DC summarised the issue discussed last month about the allegation that not all Nativity items (electricity boxes and cables) being handed over as per the agreement made. DC had promised to follow this up. DC wrote to a member of the public regarding this to let them know that they had reviewed the matter. DC communicated that following research, BRCC had not purchased any boxes or cables and that these had been borrowed from the Illuminations Committee. As no inventory had been taken, BRCC had prepared a handover document in good faith and allowed the Nativity group to review this, and no issues had been highlighted at the time. The Illuminations Committee has a labelled inventory of all cables and boxes. There were some donations from a member of the public which have now been returned. All further correspondence will be between the member of the public and the Illuminations Committee. **d) Keay Street Laundry**No update. The appeal has been lodged and is waiting to be called. BB noted that it is going to the review committee and suggested that this should now be dropped to the bottom of the agenda in order to be fair to all of those involved.  |  |
| **Item 7 – Regular Reportsa) Resilience/Flooding PR/SM**No report has been received. CS updated that the Lornty Bridge and all the wood that was stuck there should be removed within the month. **b) Climate Action DC/GP/JM**No update**c) Twinning GP/SM**Crest received from Brebières. It is going to be displayed in the Town Hall and thanks have been sent. AS and DC updated that on the 13th, there is going to be a Burns Supper at the International Cafe. There will be a full supper and a piper. All welcome!! A video recording will be made and edited highlights sent to our Twin Towns. **d) Maintenance in Blairgowrie & Rattray** **i. Built Environment** – LM updated that the public toilets in Blairgowrie are closing and that there is a survey that is being put out regarding this by BRCC, BEPTA, Business Association and BRDT. There has already been a big response online and paper copies are available. Most people have indicated that they would like to keep the public toilets. The survey is also looking for people who can volunteer to help with the ongoing cleaning of the toilets. SJ said that the survey is live on Discover Blairgowrie. A member of the public noted that this is an essential service, not a moneymaking venture. LM noted that there needs to be a sensible use of money. A member of the public highlighted that it would deter visitors from coming to the town. CS also highlighted her disappointment that capital investment to put in barriers and cameras had not been considered, as the investment would likely be recovered in a couple of years. CS asked if BRCC would consider making another appeal to the Perth and Kinross Council to see if they can extend the opening of the public bathrooms for a while longer while volunteers are put in place. SJ pointed out that there have been 58 responses to the survey so far. The toilets in Blairgowrie bring in £3000 per year, but the outgoings are currently £64,000 per year. The BRCC and members of the public discussed the issue of Blairgowrie not being seen as a destination for tourism in Perthshire. LM requested that as many surveys as possible be filled in. It will also be shared on the BRCC Facebook page. The survey is closing at the end of March. **ii. Open Space** – LM updated that if anyone is interested in volunteering work with amphibians to contact the biodiversity group.  | BRCC |
| **Item 8 – New Projects**No new projects |  |
| **Item 9 – Traffic Matters**Ongoing maintenance issues. BB updated that there had been an online meeting with Daryl just before Christmas and there will be an in-person in meeting in March. SM should be invited to this. CS added that there are 81 projects on the list for the Blairgowrie and Glens area and that we are beginning to see some action on putting these through.  |  |
| **Item 10 –** **Planning Matters** GP updated a letter had been received about the application for an extension at Gateside Farm. This application has been approved. BB updated that this case was heard yesterday at the planning committee. It transpired there was no objection to the extension, just the position of the garage. The impacted house will only be in the shadow for 36 minutes per day in the winter. The planning was approved by a vote of nine to three.  |  |
| **Item 11 – Chair’s Report**No update.  |  |
| **Item 12 – Treasurer’s Report Treasurer’s Report Jan 2024****Admin** Dec balance £60.06Minutes £30 £30.06**Jan balance £30.06** **Projects**Dec balance £5,720.63 £5,720.63**Jan Balance £5,720.63**Fireworks/Community Event £211.89Resilience £4,261.12Well (Defib) £547.44Bench £253.52Christmas Tree/Festive £446.56   |  |
| **Item 13 –** **Secretary’s Correspondence**. Secretary highlighted that would be good to get a start on the Local Place Plan. PKC is sending reminders. |  |
| **Item 14 –** **PKC Councillor’s Reports**BB updated that there is going to be a meeting regarding the effect of traffic from West Park. BB and SM had a walk around just before Christmas and identified the problem of Glenalmond Road not having maintenance done. Temporary speed cushions will be put in to address this. Auchterarder have a community group fund which was set up as part of the local development plan. SM asked if there was something similar that could be done in Blairgowrie. The answer is that yes, we can. However, this could not be done until the next development plan which will not be actioned until 2027. This will also not be retrospective. CS updated that CD is no longer working with the Blairgowrie Advertiser. CS and BRCC expressed their thanks to CD for all of her hard work in communicating news from BRCC. Pub Watch will be meeting next week, members are conscious that the presence of police tends to ebb and flow in the town. The recycling skip site has advised that the glass bins are being relocated to the Tesco Car Park. Notification about this will be circulated. The Christmas Lights were beautiful; CS expressed her thanks for all of the efforts put into this. The parking around the school has become an issue again. BB, TM and CS attended a meeting regarding the impact of flooding at Bridge of Cally. The meeting was well attended. CS also highlighted that a future agenda item should be the electrical supply points at the Wellmeadow. This is very expensive. The community may need to make funding bids to get those upgraded. If we want to have events in the Wellmeadow, this will be a necessity. CS suggested that a subgroup could be set up for this. DC asked who would be putting in the funding application. SJ said that there is someone working with BRDT who can put in such applications, but in the meantime, SJ will do this on behalf of BRCC. CS thanked Nathan for his work in contacting Christ Martin regarding maintenance at Riverside.  |  |
| **Item 15 –** **AOCB**LM updated that there are two quiz nights coming up on the 19th of January and the 2nd of February at the Rattray Bowling Club. On the 7th of February, there will be a murder mystery evening. The meeting closed at 20:16. DC wished everyone all the best for 2024. |  |
| Date of Next Meeting: 8th February 2024, 7pm at the BaRi Building & 6.45pm online. |  |

Distribution (email)

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David Cuthill - Vice Chair Bob Brawn

Steve Johnson - Treasurer Tom McEwan B. Leslie (Blair High School)

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