

Mount Blair Community Council Public Meeting

Held in Session House, Kirkmichael on Monday 26th August 2013

Present: Tony Thompson – Chair (TT), Robert Brawn (RB), Andrew Duncan (AD), Bernard Noonan (BN), John Manning (JM)

Apologies: Caroline Shiers, Liz Grant

In Attendance: Jan Taylor (JT), Hannah Goodman (HG), Charlie Brown (CB), Dave Summers – Police (DS), Cllr Bob Ellis (BE), Margaret Wynd (MW), Ian Kirkwood (IK), and 3 members of the public.

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Minutes of previous meeting 13th May 2013

BN suggested correction for previous minutes, Item 14 Paragraph 4: Back road outside telephone exchange needs repairing rather than the actual telephone exchange. AD approved. RB seconded.

3. Matters Arising

Maintenance of public areas: As mentioned at previous meetings, P&KC have cut back the amount of maintenance carried out in the area due to lack of funds. A discussion was had about finding out actual figures allocated to Kirkmichael, in order to find out the possibility of handling the maintenance locally. BE to supply contact name with the purpose of developing direct communication with P&KC

Tree Preservation Order – Oakbank: No further action can be taken unless the owner of the trees asks the community council to follow up.

4 Report of the Chair

Access for timber extraction from Tullochcurran Wood: TT said the council had been contacted regarding timber extraction in 2010, however Scottish Woodlands Limited and Forestry Commission are emphasizing their legal right to extract the timber. They have been made well aware of the community's objections. Efforts will be made to find out the scale of the work to be carried out, ie number of lorries, length of time, routes, etc. Concerns were raised regarding the route near the play park and primary school and the safety of the children. DS said the police will make every effort to insure the lorries are complying with road and traffic safety.

5a. Report of the Secretary

JM took over the emails in June and has received 15 emails, most of which are planning applications and the community council action plan.

5b. Data Protection

JM volunteered to deal with data protection. All agreed.

5c. MBCC Email address

New dedicated email address is secretarymountblaircc@gmail.com

6. Report of the Treasurer

RB Main account has a balance of £1025.24, and Drumderg Micro Fund account has £2279.59. One application is pending, and waiting to hear from the bank about changing signatories.

7a. Police Report

Andy Watt has replaced Sandra Burgess as the local police representative but was unable to attend, Dave Summers attended in his stead. He reminded about the new non-emergency 101 number which directs callers to the nearest control at 15p per call. Kirkmichael's nearest control is Dundee.

Incidents: There has been a heating oil theft from Enochdhu, a bothy smoking hut had some alcohol taken. Two thefts from insecure sheds, house break-in with intent in Rattray, and sneak in thefts. The increase in crime is probably due to fuel price rise. DS urged the public to report any suspicious vehicles, and said that the fuel thieves are very well organised with pumps hidden in transit vans which can empty 500 litres fuel in 15-20 minutes. Occasionally drop side lorries are used as well. Extra attention is needed just before winter and whilst folk are away on holiday.

There has been an increase in bogus workmen who go door to door offering to do small jobs for cash, then come back to do a second small job and charge oversized bills. DS said that the council has a list of qualified tradesmen available on demand.

DS informed the council that fixed penalty notices (talking on the phone while driving, etc) has gone up from £60 to £100 and also includes 3 points on your license.

7b. Glenwatch

Postponed to talk to Andy Watt at next meeting.

8. Broadband update

TT said that a contract had been awarded to BT to upgrade rural broadband throughout Scotland, called NGB (Next Generation Broadband) which will be 24mb. The upgrade will be carried out in 15 phases starting in January 2014 and will be completed December 2017. Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally will be in phase 4, with a start date of January 2014 and Glenshee will be in phase 15 with a start date of January 2017. A more detailed report giving post codes will be sent out through News Group.

9. Highways Matters

A discussion was had about forming a road maintenance report which would be sent to P&KC and monitored on the committee agenda. BE to supply a contact name within P&KC to develop communication.

Item 1: Bridge at Bridge of Cally.

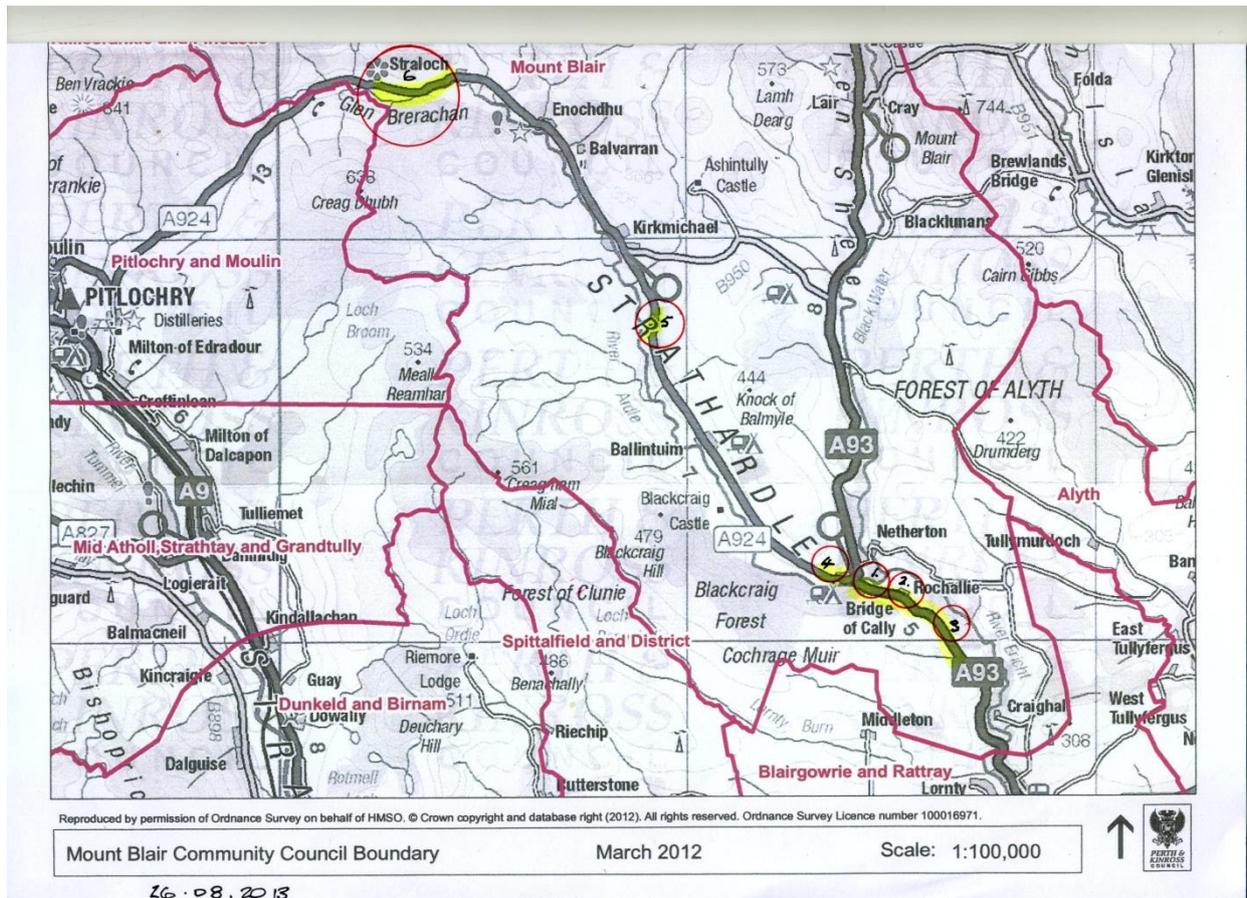
Item 2: Drains on the Bridge at Bridge of Cally are blocked with weeds making them useless.

Item 3: Road subsidence south of Bridge of Cally, (Raharley).

Item 3: Road surface from Raharley to Windy Corner needs attention.

Item 4: The wall from Bridge of Cally Post Office to Corriefodly is bulging and there is concern over the trees.

Item 5: Dounie Bridge sandstone and wood is crumbling away and needs pointing.



Road closure between Glenfernate and Straloch: A discussion was had about the size of the diversion during the working hours, and if the road closure was really necessary. The health and safety of the workers was the main reason for the closure, and there were no objections to the work voiced. BE said he would ask if another system might be available, ie night work, or convoy etc.

10. Report on Construction work at the Lair

Construction work at the Lair on schedule.

11. All weather sports court – Kirkmichael Primary School

A discussion was had about the resurfacing of the sports court. If the council owns the land then applications for funding are not possible. If the council would consider gifting the land to the community then other sources of funding could be sought out.

12. MBCDT Report

The Archive Project Officer (Richard Stratton) has purchased all the necessary equipment he requires and is scanning documents, photographs and starting on the oral survey.

13. Reports from Councillors

Kirkmichael Path Network: A group has been set up headed by Andrew Barrie of P&KC to investigate the construction of a series of paths around Kirkmichael. The first meeting was held on the 20th August. Further meetings have been planned with local landowners. BE said that Kirkmichael could be a great hub for walkers and will be used as a starting point for the many walks and trails.

14. Area Reports

RB said the Bridge of Cally Hotel's new owner has written to the council about installing a crossing from the car park to the hotel, which he has volunteered to part fund.

AD said the Bannerfield car park still needs attention. BE said the budget has been reached for the maintenance of the car park.

JM construction on hydroelectric scheme starts 27th August 2013.

BN asked BE if there were any grants available for improving the war memorials in time for the First World War Centenary? Perhaps move the war memorial down to the Bannerfield?

15. AOCB

BN asked about the wind farm development? No decision has been made yet.

16. Date of Next meeting – 11th November 2013

BN unable to attend.