

Mount Blair Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Monday 28th August 2017, Netherton Church, Bridge of Cally

Attendees:

Colin Murdoch, Alison Petrie, John Manning, Bernard Noonan and Donald Cameron

Cllr Robert Brawn plus four members of the public

CM opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. Apologies were received from Cllr Caroline Shiers, and Cllr Tom McNab.

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by AP and seconded by Colin Murdoch

Matters Arising

Defibrillators

The defibrillators at Blacklunans and Glenshee still have not been registered. CM confirmed that there is one at the Blackwater Hall and one at Gulabin Lodge, and he will chase the registration with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Greenburn Windfarm

AP reported that the Applicants have now appealed and that the Application is now with the Reporter. Unaccompanied site visits are to commence week of 04/09/17.

AP stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had not been signed with the developers.

CM added that the MOU was based on a Notional Fund (subject to Planning Permission being granted).

JM suggested that maybe it would be appropriate to get a Resolution and put this before the Community Council.

AP highlighted that all meetings this far had been held between ex CC Chair and Secretary Tony Thompson and Charlie Brown. AP reported that what was said re the MOU by ex Councillor Bob Ellis at the Council's Planning Meeting in Perth had been incorrect.

This matter will be brought to the Council next time. Of course a resolution would be discussed at the MBCC prior to any agreement.

Straloch School - The Development Trust have registered their interest. The application is proceeding to Stage 2

Fire Service - It was noted there had been an incident in Glenshee, however there has been no information re this as yet.

JM – aired his concern with regard to public participation in council debates. Although valid points had been brought up these tended to take over the meeting.

By-Election

AP confirmed that MBCC would need 4 new members in order to get the membership up to the required 7 members.

New members are to be voted in on 28th September 2017 with results two days later.

AP has sent the relevant paperwork out via the Newspapers and the News Group.

Bernard Noonan and Donald Cameron are co-opted members of the Committee and so have to apply to be voted back on to the Committee.

Report of Treasurer

Drumderg Micro Grant:- There have been 4 payments made totalling £1150.00 made since May.

MBCDT received £300.00 towards a Gazebo, for use at shows. Those attending the Strathardle Gathering will have seen it in action on Saturday.

Kirkmichael Primary School received £300 towards Stephanie Inglis (Judo Silver Medallist at the Commonwealth Games) – the visit is 30th August 2017.

Glenshee Ladies received £250 towards their travel costs on a great day out!

Glenshee and Strathardle Tourist Association was given £300 towards the running costs of the Webcam north of the Spittal of Glenshee.

The balance currently stands at £3811.56.

The main account currently stands at £609.50 following a top up grant from the Council for £210.00.

The only spending on the account in this period was to Across The Glens for circulating the minutes in their newsletter.

Police Report/Recent Break ins

AP highlighted that there has been a spate of break-ins in both glens. She recommended that everyone should be vigilant, and that people should sign up/join the private networking site "Next Door" <https://nextdoor.com/>

Alex Winton agreed with this suggestion. She is already a member of this network and although she finds it very useful she also reported that it does contain some irrelevant information from other Communities.

AW added that it is also a more instant form of notification compared to Newsgroup which can take a few days.

AP told the attendees that some of the offenders from the glens break ins had been found by the police.

Broadband

Broadband in the Strathardle exchange area has been very bad.

AP is collating a list of people who are experiencing problems with their broadband. This is an area where AP would welcome assistance.

Cllr Bob Brawn reported that there is much better broadband speed at the Village Shop at Cally.

It was pointed out that although the broadband speed had been poor in Strathardle there was now 4G service available through Vodafone to the residents near the top of the Strathardle exchange.

AP reminded the attendees that Superfast Broadband in the Strathardle area had been due to commence in May, but that this date was now probably nearer the end of 2017. She also highlighted the importance that anyone in the local communities who has not already done so, should sign up to SuperfastScotland.com

Bridge of Cally, Blacklunans and Glenshee are all a different matter. AP is looking at other options for these localities. AP will be attending a meeting in Stirling to find out more re Broadband issues and resolutions, she will report back afterwards.

Community Resilience

No news

Transport (Road and Public)

There is a list of current road closures on Newsgroup.

AP – Questioned why the road between the bottle bank and Bridge of Cally is so bad?

Pointed out that a meeting is still needed with Andrew Warrington.

Trevor Taylor (Public) raised issue re size of school bus, 30 seater is always full with school children, meaning that members of the public have to stand.

TT suggested that MBCC find out how many people use the Saturday bus, and if there would be any interest in running a bus to Pitlochry instead.

CM has spoken to Angie Mackie who said that she is open to her bus being used after her school runs. Angie does not however operate the bus during school holidays.

BN raised issue of roadside verges not being cut.

BB pointed out that there are only 2 machines operating in the area, and that there had been staff problems.

CM added that overhanging trees on the roads had been causing problems for coaches and lorries.

AP suggested that Nigel Taylor be consulted regarding the verges not being cut and the overhanging branches.

1. MBCT Report

MBCDT Report to Community Council meeting 28.08.2017

The application for funding of the Tri-partite Development Officer had been submitted to SSE. A great deal of work had been put into the application

HEAT Project

The uptake of home surveys was disappointing and JM encouraged everyone to partake; the survey is free and gives advice on upgrading insulation and improving heating and advice on sources of funding where available.

Sessions for initial enquiries are held:

Mondays 09.00 – 12.00 at Netherton Church 13.00 – 16.00 at the Session House

Wednesdays and Fridays 13.00 – 15.00 5 Davie Park, Rattray

The Red Telephone Boxes at Enochdhu and Blacklunans had been converted to Libraries and were proving popular. Alex Winton said that she was the Librarian for the Enochdhu Telephone Box and asked whether there was a stock of replacement books and suggested a Visitors Book be provided. JM agreed to look into these matters.

The Kirkmichael Footpath Network – there is now an active volunteer group carrying out maintenance.

The MBCDT held a display at the Gathering, showing the work of the Trust as above and the Snow Gate Camera and a display of the Archive Project – items include the Keir Family Children's letters and the Death of a Boy Soldier from Enochdu who fought in WW1 and died on 31st July 1917.

The Spittal of Glenshee Hotel – an application has been submitted by Yorsip / Brian Waller.

2. Discussion of Micro Grant Applications

Grants are to be given to Richard Wilson for the Carol Service at Netherton Church in December. The CC has also given a donation to the News Group as it is currently the best way to know what is going on in the area.

AD (Strathardle Tug of War) – unhappy with letter from MBCC saying that their application would need to be discussed. AD added that there was no agenda between the two teams. AP and CM pointed out to AD that MBCC had not said no to the application, just that it did need to be discussed. The Strathardle TOW team were successful.

JM asked if the Christmas Tree Lights could be replaced as the current ones are now past it. JM resolved to just put the tree up

3. Report from the Councillors

BB – Speeding Signs for Bridge of Cally and Kirkmichael are now on the list. Could be 18mths to 2 years. Ballintuim is not classed as an urgent case.

BB – There will be signs erected in Bridge of Cally warning of emerging traffic from hotel. The hotel may also erect mirrors for emerging traffic to be able to see along road.

BB – Notified that there is to be a demonstration by the Scottish Defence League on 10th September 2017. Likely also to be attended by other anti-facist groups.
Noted that this date is also when the Farming Yesteryear event is being held at Scone Palace.

BB – Wall at Bridge of Cally – Tree has not moved.

4. Reports from Community Councillors

BN – raised issue re verges again. Requested that the council guarantee verges be cut by 1st July 2018.

DC – voiced concern over the amount of traffic on the road on the same day as the Gathering, with a Cycle Race taking place that no-one knew about, as well as the Blair Castle Horse Trials and the Thunder in the Glens Motor Cycle event.

DC – Added that the marketing of the Snow Road has already seen an increase in traffic. He has concerns that the increase in traffic will cause accidents or worse that someone is killed.

AW – reported to meeting that both the A924 and A93 are both marketed in Germany as roads to ride and drive.

DC – there is a need for more police presence.

AW – suggested that MBCC, GCTA and the Development Trust all write letters to the Police.

5. AOCB

AD – Raised issue regarding the grass cutting at Kirkmichael Church and Sillernburn Cemetery. An abysmal mess, not regularly cut, and when it is the long cut grass is left on the ground and splattered onto headstones. Not acceptable.

Highlighted what a good job Angus Council do at Glenisla, so what is the problem with PKC?

BN – Said he believed that the cemetery and church yards are supposed to be cut 7/8 times per year.

JM – Raised point that the Netherton Church proves difficult for those hard of hearing

AW – Highlighted that the Drumderg Micro Grants are there for everyone and that SSE are keen these should be awarded. There are so many things that the Micro Grants can be used for in the MBCC area. The Micro Grants need to be promoted and that people know that it is not difficult to apply. It is important that the money available is spent and that people realise it is available.

BN – Notified that the parapet at Netherton Bridge has still not been mended.

6. Date of next meeting.

Monday 13th November 2017, Kirkmichael Session House