



Mount Blair Community Council Minutes
14th March 2016 at 7:00pm in Session House, Kirkmichael

Present: Chair Tony Thompson (TT) John Manning (JM), Colin Murdoch (CM), Robert Brawn (RB), Charlie Brown (CB), Ali Petrie (AP), Cllr Bob Ellis (BE), Cllr Caroline Shiers (CS).

Apologies: None

In attendance: 5 members of the public

1.	Welcome & Apologies	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting 23rd November 2015 Proposed RB, Seconded AP	
3.	Matters Arising Will come up under later Agenda items.	
4.	<p>Report of the Chair Meeting with Bernadette Malone: — Discussed Community Empowerment and the need for the Council to adapt, didn't feel I got my point of view over. Discussed level of service and backup for the Community' Council from PKC, again no positive outcome. I considered this a pointless exercise.</p> <p>Meeting with John Swinney:- Discussed Royal Mail level of service & BT broadband support, waiting for a response. A community member had contacted Pete Wishart, M.P. who had contacted Moira Green; C.E.O. TT said he would make contact with John Swinney and discuss this possible contact.</p> <p>TT has written to Royal Mail regarding the reduced service to Bleaton Hallet and the possible problem with Blackcraigs Bridge of Cally.</p>	<p align="right">TT</p> <p align="right">TT</p>
5.	<p>Report of the Secretary CB had received a request from P&K to submit a form to the P&K Insurance Team outlining the full details of the MBCC activities as this was now being asked for by the Councils Insurers, Zurich Municipal Insurance, as there was concern that so Community Council's activities, such as special events, Christmas lighting, etc. might not be covered by the basic Community Council Insurance provided free by P&K. Any activities not covered in the basic policy would require a special events application to be submitted to the P&K Insurance Team any extra costs for the insurance of these events need to be paid for by each Community Council. CB to return form to the Insurance Team</p> <p>Jenny Brayshaw had resigned as the MBCC Minute Secretary. CB and TT thanked her for all her excellent work and effort since she started as our minute secretary. A suitable replacement for Jenny should be appointed ASAP. CB to set this in motion by identifying a suitable replacement for Jenny.</p> <p>TT to write to Jenny thanking her for contribution to the MBCC.</p> <p>CB and TT attended training session for Community Council Office Bearers in Blairgowrie, organised by P&K. The most of the P&K headline speakers did not turn up and substitutes replaced them. One of the substitutes did not even get out of her seat to talk to a PowerPoint presentation.</p>	<p align="right">CB</p> <p align="right">CB</p> <p align="right">TT</p>
6.	<p>Report of the Treasurer RB reported that we had almost spent our annual budget, having managed to balance the books thanks to a grant from the Drumderg Micro Grant fund.</p> <p>RB had prepared a Drumderg Micro Grant Fund Budget which had been audited and he will submit the details to the Drumderg Panel.</p>	<p align="right">RB</p>

	<p>RB has prepared 3 sets of budget proposals for the next year taking in to consideration the venue(s) for the MBCC public meetings and the number of MBCC meeting in a year.</p> <p>The owner of old Netherton Church has offered to let MBCC have the church premises for a nominal sum to cover heating. AP and CM though it would be good to move the venue round the Mountblair area and we should take up this offer. The problem with this venue was the water was drained from the system in winter and the road the church is on is steep and may not always be gritted in the winter. The council members decided to take up this offer and have the meetings in Netherton for May, July and August meeting in Netherton and October, December and January in Kirkmichael Session House.</p> <p>RB to book Netherton for our next meeting.</p> <p>AP, CM wanted to reduce the number of annual meeting from six to four. TT, JM and CB thought that there was enough MBCC business for 6 meetings a year. It was decided to keep the number of meetings at 6 a year but to review the situation in 6 months time.</p> <p>CB to publish a provisional list of dates and venues for the MBCC meeting this year.</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>TT</p> <p>CB</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Police Report No Police report received. Regular Police bulletins to be sent out via the Newsgroup emails.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Road Maintenance & Closures CB had discovered stones from the parapet of the Kirkmichael Village bridge had fallen to the road and that the mortar around this area was crumbling, as well as other stones around the area being loose. On reporting this on three separate occasions via Telephone, no one responded from the roads Department In Blairgowrie after voice message was left and on two further occasions, the Bridge Department of P&K said someone would get back to me after they came out of a meeting (twice in the one day) I eventually sent details to BE and CS who managed to get the appropriate P&K department to respond and the bridge was inspected and that the bridge was safe and would be regularly checked. Since then more stone have fallen off the parapet on to the road.</p> <p>AP reported that the repairs to the road wall in Ballintuim should be started soon.</p> <p>BE reported that P&K had notified via twitter that they would only effect emergency repairs to potholes on Public Roads over 60mm in depth – an increase in depth.</p> <p>BE urged community members to claim for damage to vehicles and bicycles and to report any potholes and / or complaints to Perth & Kinross Blairgowrie Roads Department through Willie Mahoney (Tel: 01250 871501).</p> <p>A member of the public intimated that P&K’s insurers normally reject any claims to tyres through potholes in the Public Road.</p> <p>CS report that after repair to the bridge abutments involving a large crane at Bleaton Hallet, it is hoped to have the bridge back in operation by September / October.</p> <p>CS was still awaiting details of costs and the possibility of having flashing speed lights on the Bridge of Cally – Kirkmichael and Ballintum roads. CS to update the MBCC on any progress.</p>	<p>CS</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Green Space Maintenance Greenspace:- TT along with AC, CB and CS we had a meeting with Nigel Taylor and Gareth Dimmock of PKC. We discussed the disgraceful attempt to prune the roadside trees. The wrong machinery was used which ripped the branches off.</p> <p>Gareth Dimmock was introduced to the group as the new supervisor for the area. We expressed disappointment again with the level of service which was 50% of the published maintenance plan. We now have contact details for Gareth who has undertaken to meet the maintenance plan.</p> <p>TT expressed further concern to the MBCC meeting about the Tree Pruning mess on the roads in the Mount Blair area and the problems with branches left on the roads. Concern was also expressed about the lack of weed spraying, the time that weeds were spray. P&K had only carried out grass</p>	

	<p>cutting in Kirkmichael on 6 occasions instead of the 13 they were contracted to carry out.</p> <p>The Kirkmichael Car Park was visited and a plan asked from PKC to redesign the complete area to reduce ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>CB reported that Gareth Dimmock had arranged a clean up and grass cutting operation in the Kirkmichael Car Park area since the meeting with him.</p> <p>CS had arranged a meeting with Elspeth Bryce from Community Greenspace on 16th March in Kirkmichael and CB and AP were invited to attend.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the wooden steps from the Kirkmichael Village Car Park to the river. Some of the steps had been washed away and that it was also a danger for young children who might be tempted to go down the steps when the river was in spate. CM and AP did not think there was a problem with the steps being a danger with young children. CM said the local Fire Station used the steps for training purposes and the local Fire station crew would look to repairing the damage done to the steps by the recent flooding.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>CM</p>
10.	<p>Roadside Grass Cutting – Tayside Infrastructure Partnership</p> <p>JM and AP to Liaise with Gareth Dimmock on roadside grass cutting and weed killing on Mount Blair roads.</p>	JM & AP
11.	<p>Defibrillators</p> <p>TT and CB had a meeting with Garry West to discuss the financing of the final phase of the defibrillator project. It is hoped that Drumderg will approve some funding to support the Strathardle Tug of War Team. We now must produce an ongoing maintenance and training plan.</p> <p>A defibrillator had been installed in Ballintuim and the code to open the unit was published on Newsgroup.</p>	TT & CB
12.	<p>Broadband</p> <p>Broadband is progressing but very slowly. We now have some more information on where BT will not be supplying SF Broadband.</p> <p>Meetings have been arranged with Community Broadband Scotland and AB Internet a service provider, to discuss possible solutions.</p> <p>We propose to visit Lunnan Valley and Loch Tay, who are further ahead, for updated information.</p>	<p>TT</p> <p>TT</p>
13.	<p>Spittal Project</p> <p>The Business Plan has been submitted to the Spittal Steering Group and will be sent out to the community this week. There has been no development with regard to our unofficial offer to the sellers.</p> <p>TT was concerned that the Spittal site area was deteriorating.</p>	
14.	<p>Public Transport</p> <p>Public Transport. TT Along with Sue Smith had a meeting with PKC to discuss the Transport Report. PKC are to come back with possible solutions before we meet with the general community.</p> <p>Medical Appointments. TT and Sue Smith had a meeting with Dr Morag Martindale to discuss the problems of the coordination of public transport and appointments. The matter will be discussed at the next 'Doctor's Meeting this month. No date yet given.</p> <p>Prescription Deliveries. TT and Sue Smith are working with Davidsons, Kirkmichael Shop, Bridge of Cally Post Office and the Wee House (formerly known as the Glenshee Pottery) to discuss the implementation of getting prescription deliveries closer to the community. There are one or two issues to be addressed but at this stage we are hopeful that a solution can be found.</p> <p>AP to update a Ballintum resident of the above details</p> <p>TT to ask for updates from Davidsons and Ardblair Medical Practice.</p>	<p>TT</p> <p>TT</p> <p>TT</p> <p>AP</p> <p>TT</p>

15.	<p>Kirkmichael Footpath Network BE attended a meeting with the Cateran Trail stakeholders which include discussions about Phytophthora. BE to discuss this with JM</p> <p>BE said that Jean Lindsay had given permission for materials from her old steading to be used to repair a 100 metres of causeway on the Cateran Trail</p> <p>BE to contact Roger Clare regarding joint maintenance on the new Kirkmichael Paths.</p> <p>CB said the Kirkmichael Path Project is well advanced and it is hoped that it will be open very soon.</p>	BE BE
16.	<p>Electric Car Charging Points TT had been in contact with Energy' Saving Trust and PKC. PKC are to investigate the viability' of installing a rapid charging point in Kirkmichael Car probably located in the car park.</p>	TT
17.	<p>Kirkmichael Village Christmas Lights AP said that the putting up of the Kirkmichael Village Christmas lights was expensive and a palaver and not the function of the MBCC through the Drumderg Micro Grants. Also that the Session House had asked AP for a donation of £30 towards the electricity for the lights from the Community Council funds.</p> <p>Supported by CM, AP said the village people should set up their own village group to fund raise, finance and put up the village Christmas lights including charity boxes in the village shop. Two members of the audience were in favour of the CC being involved as they were enjoyed by both Children and Adults.</p> <p>JM, who provides the free annual village Christmas tree, thought it was essential we had a tree and lights in the village at Christmas. It was agreed that JM looked into putting up the Christmas lights and that MBCC come back to this at the next meeting</p>	JM
18.	<p>Kirkmichael Village Hall TT and CB attended a meeting regarding the Kirkmichael Village Hall. The only office bearer left on the Hall Committee was Susan Mackenzie-Low. John Milne was appointed as Temporary Chair of the Hall Committee and it was decided that an AGM would be held on Monday 21st March at 6:30pm, in the Village Hall. A crèche will be run by Angie Soutar to allow parents to attend with young children.</p> <p>Members of all the hall user groups and other interested community members were invited to attend.</p> <p>It is hoped that new Hall Committee members will be nominated / elected / get involved from group users and interested community members in managing and creating a lively and vibrant village hall.</p>	
19.	<p>MBCDT Report JM reported that Phillip Smith had taken over as Chair of the MBCDT.</p> <p>Funding was provided for the Archiving Project until the middle of this year.</p> <p>A volunteer was transcribing hand written documents.</p> <p>MBCDT hoping to produce a Photo Archive . More volunteers are needed.</p>	
20.	<p>Reports from P&K Councillors CS is meeting with Community Greenspace on Wednesday 16th March and will report back.</p> <p>CS had a trip on the P&K snow plough and gritter and saw for herself the problems with overhanging branches on the roads. School routes will continue to be gritted.</p> <p>BE attended the Straloch School Consultation events and that there were some interesting suggestions from parents and children. As to the future of the school building.</p> <p>Members of MBCC who had visited the school expressed concerns about the ongoing costs of mothballing the building, including £4000 for heating, and the continued running of computer servers and telephone lines. P&K Lifelong Learning Committee will consider the future of the building in June and then forward their plans for the building to the Scottish Government. The Lifelong Learning Committee consultation would involve MBCC.</p>	

	<p>The Cateran Yomp has already had 700 application so this year compared to last year's 250 applications at this time.</p> <p>The Ultra Marathon round the Cateran Trail will be held on the 13th May.</p> <p>BE, TT and Colin Massey had a meeting about a safe passageway between Kirkmichael village and the Strathardle Inn. Colin Massey is to investigate the ownership of the land on the North side of this road. BE is to consult with Andy Barrie PKCT on the viability and practicality of any route.</p> <p>A member of the public though that the piece of land in question to the North side of the road belonged to the Church of Scotland.</p>	
21.	<p>Area Reports</p> <p>CB attended the Session House AGM and Straloch School visit. Other things cover already.</p> <p>CM Attended the Session House AGM.</p> <p>AP Concerns about road works.</p> <p>JM Concerned about after visiting Straloch School about the mothballing costs and the resources there which could be used by Kirkmichael Primary School.</p> <p>JM attended a Cateran Commonwealth meeting about the 100 objects which directly relate to the Cateran trail</p> <p>BE said there would be 3 themes around the Trail with an emphasis on Arts and Crafts.</p> <p>JM wondered if the MBCC could arrange to have the Enochdhu Phone Box painted.</p>	
22.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Red Telephone Boxes:-</p> <p>TT confirmed at this time that of the 5 red boxes 2 are in community' ownership and 3 are own by BT. BT are also going to investigate the lack of access to box in Glenshee.</p> <p>Slochnacraig Glenshee - Owned by BT. It appears that the box contains phone equipment but you are unable to gain access. Door fixed closed. BT hopefully will respond to TT regarding this.</p> <p>Blacklunans - Owned by the Community.</p> <p>Bridge of Cally - Owned by BT</p> <p>Enochdhu - Owned by the Community</p> <p>Ballintuim - Owned by BT</p> <p>Community Water Survey:-</p> <p>Hannah Goodman, one of the Community Researches appointed by Glasgow Caledonian University, updated the meeting about the Water Survey on managing Private Water Supplies.</p> <p>Interviews had been carried out with people who experienced Private Water Supply difficulties.</p> <p>An Open day on 21st February saw a good turnout looked at water quality, systems and what worked for some people. From the information gleaned it was clear that with the diversity of the water systems there was no single solution to problems.</p> <p>An Information Day will be held next month in Kirkmichael Village hall with experts from different area of the water supply including designers, demonstrations, C.A.B. and Perth & Kinross Council.</p>	<p>TT</p> <p>TT</p>
23.	Date of Next Meeting - 9th May 2016 at 7pm in Netherton Church	