

**Mount Blair Community Council**  
**11<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7:00pm in Session House**

**Present:** Tony Thompson (Chair), John Manning, Colin Murdoch, Robert Brawn, Ali Petrie, Charlie Brown, Cllr Bob Ellis, Cllr Caroline Shiers.

**Apologies:** None

**In attendance:** 12 members of the public

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015</b> Proposed RB, Seconded JM	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Ardblair Medical Practice appointment issues are still ongoing, TT to ask for a meeting with the Practice.</p> <p>TT asked CM if he had managed to make contact with Kitty Clare. CM said he had and was awaiting a date for the next church meeting of Glenshee and Kirkmichael Parish Churches.</p> <p>BE was still in the process of contacting the contractors regarding the rubble left behind in the Bannerfield Car Park.</p> <p>TT made contact with Nigel Taylor regarding Green Space Maintenance before Christmas regarding grass cutting processes.</p> <p>AP &amp; JM will be contacting Tay Infrastructure Partnership to ask for support, however identifying the plants to be protected will only begin when the plants begin to grow in the warmer weather.</p> <p>RB said that the Bridge of Cally Bridge had been repaired.</p> <p>AP organised the Christmas Lights through AW Bell Electricians, who would be sending a bill. TT had been under the impression that AW Bell didn't charge for the Christmas Lights. MBCC had taken the responsibility of the Christmas Lights as a few years ago otherwise there would be no Christmas tree or lights in Kirkmichael. Ideally this needs to be taken on by the Kirkmichael Residents with fundraisers organised to cover costs. In the interim the lights are currently stored in Milfords. CM asked if the fire service would be able to put the lights up in future, however the lights must be put up by qualified electricians. A discussion was had about the possibility of simplifying the lights to cut costs, or having a permanent installation that could simply be switched on each year. A permanent tree had already been investigated but the landowners refused. To be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>AP contacted ABO Windfarm regarding the documentation which can be obtained by contacting AP.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>TT</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CM</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>BE</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TT</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>JM/AP</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TT</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Report of the Chair</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Report of the Secretary</b></p> <p>CB had been contacted by P&amp;K Council requesting a copy of the Community Council's Constitution which needs to be signed and returned.</p> <p>The P&amp;K Council Local Development Plan had been sent to CB, if anyone would like a copy CB can put it onto a USB Drive. JM to read and report back to the Council.</p> <p>A community member had spoken to CB regarding traffic speed through the village, there had been difficulty joining the main road from the Riverside as vehicles had been exceeding the speed limit. BE &amp; CS to investigate.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>JM</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>BE/CS</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Report of the Treasurer</b>	

	<p>RB said that the current balance in the main account was £71.55. An application had been made to P&amp;K Council for a top up and the Council had said they would consider it and give an answer at the end of the week. RB suggested that the Council apply to the Drumderg Micro Grant fund to alleviate the problem temporarily. This would reduce the Micro Grant Account balance to £262.23. RB also suggested the Community Council reduce the number of meeting back down to four given that expenses were needing to be watched. TT said he would be having a meeting with the P&amp;K Council Chief Executive and would be bringing up this and several other issues. To be discussed at the next meeting. An offer had been made for the Community Council to use Netherton Church as a meeting place without charge but with a donation made towards the cost of the electric.</p>	<p>TT</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Police Report</b>  <b>DRINK DRIVING</b>  Drink driving causes significant impact on families and our local communities, not just at Christmas but throughout the year and there is a clear message that there is no safe alcohol limit for drivers.</p> <p>Motorists are reminded it will take longer before they are legally able to drive the morning after drinking alcohol. For most people, it takes about an hour to process one unit of alcohol - so it could take up to 12 hours to be safe to drive after drinking a bottle of wine. There is no way of speeding up alcohol elimination.</p> <p>The amount a motorist can drink before being over the limit depends on factors including their gender, age, weight, metabolism, stress levels and whether they have eaten recently, as well as the size and strength of the drink. However there is no failsafe guide as to how much you can drink and stay under the limit. Any alcohol, even a small drink will impair driving ability, so the only safe course is not to drink any alcohol prior to driving.</p> <p>Alcohol is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream, this affects the brain and impairs driving ability.</p> <p>Nearly one in seven of all deaths on Scottish roads involve drivers who are over the legal limit and the risk of being involved in an accident increases rapidly with the amount of alcohol consumed.</p> <p>The amount of drink taken makes no difference. Whether just over the limit or well over the limit, in the eyes of the law, you are still a convicted drunk-driver and the consequences are exactly the same. And if caught driving over the limit the next morning, you also face the same consequences as if you had been caught the night before.</p> <p><b>Recent crimes/issues in the area:</b>  Youth calls since the last meeting - None</p> <p><b>Crimes/Incidents since last meeting</b>  Theft – of 19 black faced ewes from Ashintully Estate between July and November 2015 – undetected.</p> <p>Good work – following assistance from the public, a male was arrested for breaking into a cottage in the Bridge of Cally area on 3 January 2016.</p> <p>TT said that he had been hoping for more current information. AP said that the Bridge of Cally break in happened and nobody knew about until much later. JM said it would be a far more sensible use of resources than sending police officers from door to door. TT said if fuel was being stolen it would be good to be informed as soon as possible through News Group. AP said that she receives texts from NFU Mutual regarding crime. TT had suggested a similar system be used for Mt Blair. BN said there is sometimes only one police officer covering all of Pitlochry and Blairgowrie.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Road Maintenance &amp; Closures</b>  CS had attended a meeting regarding the Bleaton Hallet bridge for the purpose of identifying problems and coming up with temporary solutions. The Chief Engineer and the Head of Service had said that it was going to take a major amount of work to build a new bridge including the use of a 500 tonne crane and removal of trees. Work is estimated to be completed by next August. The residents had been pleased at how proactive P&amp;K Council had been in getting services put in place for Post, waste collection and the eventual replacement of the bridge. CS stressed that if anyone wishes to see</p>	

	the bridge that they should do so on foot, as the road is currently unsuitable for vehicles.	
9.	<p><b>Green Space Maintenance</b></p> <p>TT is still in the process of organising a meeting with Nigel Taylor, Nigel had disputed the number of times the grass had been cut (we recorded 6 times). The PKC specification states that the grass will be cut 13 times. CB &amp; TT had walked around the village identifying problem areas, and discussed the Bannerfield Car Park maintenance. The weeds were over 2ft high and the picnic tables were in a very poor state of repair. TT was unsure whose responsibility they were but was to let CS &amp; BE know when the meeting was.</p>	TT/BE/CS
10.	<b>Roadside Grass Cutting – Tayside Infrastructure Partnership</b>	
11.	<p><b>Defibrillators</b></p> <p>TT had been speaking with Garry West regarding applying to Drumderg to finance enough defibrillators to cover Mt Blair. They had also discussed acquiring some form of insurance to cover the defibrillators in the event that they get damaged. CS to contact Sue Smith. RB had said he would be happy to have a defibrillator at the Bridge of Cally Post Office.</p>	CS/TT
12.	<p><b>Broadband</b></p> <p>TT said that a group had been formed and had carried out a survey which indicated that 50% of properties were not likely to get superfast broadband from BT. The community of Butterstone are presently out to tender for the installation of Broadband. Butterstone has similar geographic problems to Mt Blair. TT will be having a meeting with their steering group following their tender meeting, however until BT tells the community council where they are installing the superfast broadband, they are unable to decide where to install their own broadband.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Spittal Project</b></p> <p>TT said that an offer had been made previously which had been rejected; a further meeting with the owner was suggested but this was also rejected. The site has been made more secure since the last meeting.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Public Transport</b></p> <p>TT had seen the draft report of the recent survey in Mt Blair, which is to be finalised and discussed with the transport manager in P&amp;K Council.. Other rural areas are rising to the challenge of meeting these needs as well as their own tourism needs, and Mt Blair can learn from them. For example the Heather Hopper used to come from Aberdeen to Mt Blair but none of the locals were aware of it until it stopped running as there was no advertising. The next stage is being reviewed by P&amp;K Council and the report will be circulated on News Group.</p> <p>Sue Smith and TT will be having a meeting with Davidsons Chemist to see if something can be done regarding prescription deliveries. CB said it had been mentioned that Davidsons could deliver prescriptions to local shops to be collected as long as they weren't controlled drugs</p>	
15.	<p><b>Kirkmichael Footpath Network</b></p> <p>The contract had been put out to tender, and progress is being made. The Network should be up and running in time for summer, with leaflets being produced by the Community Council and distributed on stands in various locations. TT to speak to MBCDT regarding the leaflets.</p> <p>BE said that the path between Bridge of Cally and Kirkmichael has had new stone steps built between Pitcarmick Estate and Pitcarmick Burn.</p>	TT
16.	<p><b>Electric Car Charging Points</b></p> <p>TT had mentioned this previously and wanted to see the local view of putting in an Electric Car Charging Point somewhere in Mt Blair. There is a grant of £10k available with further costs being covered by 50%. There is currently a charging station at the Library in Blairgowrie, however it is not clear how well used it is. If it brings more people into the area then it would be worthwhile, however if it is cost prohibitive then it simply won't be installed. TT to investigate further</p>	TT
17.	<p><b>MBCDT Report</b></p> <p>JM said that the transport survey was currently being analysed.</p> <p>The Archive Project held three events, two of which weren't very well attended but the third event held in Bridge of Cally was very successful, with volunteers coming forward and lots of data collected. Sally Gingell is currently investigating making the website more user friendly.</p> <p>Mike Purdie had recently stepped down as Chairman with Phil Smith taking his place.</p>	

<p><b>18.</b></p>	<p><b>Reports from Councillors</b></p> <p>CS said that the Council is looking into the Flashing Speed Signs at Straloch School and getting them switched off. They will also be looking at dealing with the overall appearance of the building and sorting the weeds etc. There will be information imminently regarding the next stage of the process and a 6 week consultation period will include a chance for community input. AP asked if the lights at Straloch were available for another purpose. CS said the problem is that the school is only temporarily closed, however in 6 months we'll have a more definite answer. TT asked if CS knew the cost of the speed signs with the idea of installing some in Bridge of Cally and Kirkmichael. CS to investigate.</p> <p>There will be a meeting held regarding the permanent removal of the traffic lights in the Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie, as well as where the new pedestrian crossings will be built. The costs of the consultants will be included in the costings.</p> <p>A Flood meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February regarding specific areas affected and how best to prevent further flooding. CB said that the debris has been left on the roads and would the council be cleaning them up. P&amp;K Council are working on priority roads first. BE said that he had asked for a complete audit of East Perthshire to include each and every incident that was caused by floods in an effort to work out a costing of putting it right.</p> <p>CS said the webcam at Glenshee had encountered unforeseen problems with BT Openreach who had provided a quote for setting up the webcam and a timescale but both were completely inaccurate. Since the North Road is not open it is much more important to get it up and running.</p> <p>CS said there had been an incident at Blacklunans during the bad weather, parents are being encouraged to find alternative means of transport or keep their children home in particularly bad weather.</p> <p>There will be a CATERAN Landowners meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2pm at the Strathardle.</p> <p>BE said that there had been an outbreak of Phytophthora on Pitcarmick Estate. He had spoken with the Forestry Commission and signs have been put out on either end of the CATERAN Path in the outbreak zone. Individuals walking the CATERAN Trail are being encouraged to clean their boots after they walk through. The Yomp this year is expecting 600 -700 participants.</p> <p>Colin Massey from the Strathardle suggested the Primary School make some signs that could be put up by the Inn. Street Lighting is also badly needed between the Inn and the Village as it is very dangerous. TT and BE had spoken to Chick Haggert and Andy Barrie about it but weren't successful. The project was never taken any further because of Health and Safety issues. A verge for people to step onto to avoid vehicles would be better than the current situation. TT to investigate with full support of CS and BE. CB asked if the council would consider Priority signs. The bends in Ballintuim would make it problematic. Bernard Noonan asked if it were possible to get speed cameras out.</p>	<p>CS/BE</p> <p>CS/BE</p> <p>CS/BE</p> <p>CS/BE</p> <p>CS/BE</p> <p>CS/BE</p> <p>TT</p>
<p><b>19.</b></p>	<p><b>Area Reports</b></p> <p>AP said that Stagecoach will be funding the repairs to the wall in Ballintuim with traffic lights being a likely part of it. AP had received a letter regarding overhanging trees, but this appears to be a generic letter sent out to the community.</p> <p>JM had spoken to Mhairi Ivey regarding the water research. TT said the Caledonian University in Glasgow had been given money to research domestic water supplies in rural areas and to identify problems with the hopes of improving current systems, which are poorly designed and expensive to maintain. Property values would also increase if they were on mains water.</p> <p>CB had been informed of vehicles exceeding the speed limit in the local villages. CB had sent a bin lorry collection date flyer for Christmas and New Year to the News Group but sadly this was not circulated, which resulted in many bins not being collected around the holiday period.</p> <p>RB said that the bulging wall at Bridge of Cally had not moved. AP said the drainage at Rochallie appears to be working.</p>	

	<p>CM had received a letter from the Post Office informing him that they would no longer be delivering to his house due to the potholes in his road and that he would have to collect his post from Blairgowrie. He was told that it was due to increased costs in maintaining the vehicles being damaged by potholes. CM to give details to TT to investigate.</p>	<b>CM/TT</b>
<b>20.</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b>  The Kirkmichael Village shop is currently discussing the likelihood of continuing to sell diesel, as it is too expensive to buy in bulk. CM said that the local Fire Engine would need to drive to Blairgowrie to fill up in future which can only be done with a full crew. CM asked if it were possible for the shop to team up with the Community Council for support, however the problem is cash flow. TT said the rural filling stations find it difficult to fill up as they are charged higher prices for not being on a main road. JM had asked if it could be done through CBOPS but it couldn't.</p>	
<b>21.</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 @ 7pm at the Session House</b></p>	