

**Mount Blair Community Council Public Meeting  
Session House, Kirkmichael Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Present:** Tony Thompson, Andrew Duncan, Bernard Noonan, Robert Brawn, John Manning, Donald Cameron

**Apologies:** Bob Ellis, Liz Grant

**In attendance:** Cllr Caroline Shiers, 7 members of the public.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting 26<sup>th</sup> August</b> AD proposed, RB seconded	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b> Tree Preservation Order at Bankfoot: No further communication had.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Co-option of new member</b> TT welcomed Donald Cameron onto the council as a representative for Blacklunans.	
<b>5a.</b>	<b>Report of the Chair</b> TT said there were reports of the snow cutter being removed from the A93 this year, after investigation it was discovered that this was untrue. However the snow cutter is over 30 years old and it has become difficult to source parts. Concerns were raised that in the event of a breakdown in winter the area would be left without adequate snow clearing plant. A new snow cutter costs in the region of £350k. CS has expressed the seriousness of this issue to PKC. A discussion was had about the usefulness of snow fences to stop snow drifts from blocking the roads. CS to investigate.	<b>CS</b>
<b>5b.</b>	<b>Access for timber extraction from Tullochcurran Wood</b> TT had been in contact with Crawford Taylor to get more information, without success. The Highways Department had not received an application for access, but could foresee no reason for objection.	<b>TT</b>
<b>6a.</b>	<b>Secretary's Report</b> JM will be resigning from the Drumderg panel and would like to suggest a new member of the community council to be put forward. AD proposed TT, BN seconded. would be put forward. What we actually need is some more applications. TT put onto Drumderg council. AD proposed, BN seconded.  JM there was another meeting regarding building new circular footpaths in Kirkmichael. It would be a great benefit to the community but is proving quite difficult. Circular paths in Dunkeld have proved very successful. A discussion was had about the maintenance of the Cateran trail, and the likelihood of new footpaths being set up but continued maintenance being neglected. TT to contact Bob Ellis regarding upkeep of the Cateran trail.	<b>TT</b>
<b>6b.</b>	<b>Council Members contact details</b> TT still compiling details. I've got everything but can get them.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Report of the Treasurer</b> Current balance of £908.44, Drumderg Microfund balance is £1745.79. The Microfund received 4 applications since the last meeting of which 3 were approved and paid out and 1 was declined. Still awaiting paperwork to be sorted for changes of signatories.	<b>RB</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Police report</b> Theft of heating and diesel oil has been an issue periodically over the years and the	

police have always noticed and increase in this type of crime whenever the price of crude oil rises. A rise in the price of fuel at the petrol pump inevitably leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil.

It therefore makes good sense to take precautions to protect your oil tank, with the following few ideas about what can be done to make life more difficult for the thief. After all, would you leave of £600 in cash lying around in your garden?

#### General advice

1. Make sure the tank is situated away from the main road, but equally good surveillance from the main house and neighboring houses. This will increase the offender(s) anxiety.
2. Closed boarded vertical strutted fencing offers the best wooden fence security. Trellis can be used to raise the fence height. Prickly plantation should also be a second option. Gravel around the tank is a good deterrent due to the noise when someone is walking on it.
3. Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and the electricity isolated.
4. Use decent 'Closed Shackle' padlocks. These are harder to bolt crop.
5. Lighting should be 'site specific'. If overlooked, light up the tank area using 'dusk to dawn lights'. If less overlooked, use PIR lighting that 'draws attention' on a short cycle – perhaps for 3-5 seconds. If in the middle of nowhere keep the site completely dark.

#### Fuel Theft

1. Always park in a well lit and well used area
2. Try to park with your fuel tank either facing the road so passing traffic make it less of a target
3. Locking fuel caps are a useful deterrent
4. There are devices that can be fitted to the filler cap that can activate the vehicles alarm when tampered with

#### Crimes/Incidents of note

26 Oct (during the day) – theft of a yellow trail bike from the driveway of premises in Balmoral Road – undetected

Overnight 30/31 Oct – theft of a trailer from premises in Skirmie Park, Blairgowrie – under enquiry

Overnight 19/20 Oct – in Glenalmond Road – force open a shed in rear garden using bodily pressure - undetected

13 Sept – at a house under renovation near Bridge of Cally – attempt to break in to premises - undetected

Couple of incidents of fuel tanks being breached on motor vehicles in Rattray – under enquiry

Good work – number of vandalisms in the Rattray area have been detected and appropriate action taken

For information - There have been a few break ins and attempts to break into premises in Perthshire, mainly to secluded or isolated properties. Sheds and barns are being targeted but if you have any information or see anyone or vehicles acting

	<p>suspiciously, please contact the police with vehicle details.</p> <p>It is important that you ensure the security of outbuildings and sheds/barns etc are robust and fitted with efficient closed shackle padlocks (which are difficult to crop) or alternative ways of securing the premises.</p> <p>Bogus workman – in the Perthshire area, one of the incidents involved pretending to the elderly occupants they needed work done to the roof, obtain money up front for purchase of materials but never returned. If you suspect anyone pretending to be a bogus caller, please contact the police immediately.</p> <p>There have been reports of males trying to sell tools, including chainsaws in and around Perthshire - if you have any information regarding these individuals or their vehicles, please contact the police.</p> <p>A recent incident of a fake £20 Royal Bank Of Scotland note in Alyth.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Broadband update</b>  TT said there was no further information but is hoping for more details on areas where there will only be 2MB speeds. CS said a report will be issued beginning of December.</p>	<b>TT</b>
<b>10a.</b>	<p><b>Ground maintenance</b>  TT proposed to have a meeting with AD regarding the lack of ground maintenance being carried out in Kirkmichael in an effort to find out the feasibility of a local contractor carrying out the work. BE and CS to chase the council.</p>	<b>TT/AD</b> <b>BE/CS</b>
<b>10b.</b>	<p><b>Highways matters</b>  TT to write again to Perth &amp; Kinross Council to express the Community Councils concerns on these items:</p> <p>Item 1: Bridge at Bridge of Cally.</p> <p>Item 2: Drains on the Bridge at Bridge of Cally are blocked with weeds making them useless.</p> <p>Item 3: Road subsidence south of Bridge of Cally, (Raharley).</p> <p>Item 3: Road surface from Raharley to Windy Corner needs attention.</p> <p>Item 4: The wall from Bridge of Cally Post Office to Corriefodly is bulging and there is concern over the trees.</p> <p>Item 5: Dounie Bridge sandstone and wood is crumbling away and needs pointing.</p>	<b>TT</b>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Report on Construction work at the Lair</b>  TT said the Lair works are running on schedule for 13<sup>th</sup> Dec completion. Senior Engineer Bob Morrison tragically died a few weeks ago in a motorbike accident. He was a great help to the community, and was very good at keeping the community informed. A Cairn will be put at the Lair with his name on a plaque in his memory.</p> <p>TT has had reports that the U51/B951 has not been being gritted. CS to follow up.</p> <p>DC said the Cray Bridge has a drop right after you come off it, very hazardous for drivers when icy/snowy, why was it left that way? TT can investigate.</p>	<b>CS</b> <b>TT</b>



