

**Mount Blair Community Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
**The Session House, Kirkmichael**

1. Present – Colin Murdoch, Donald Cameron, Sandy Lindsay, Darrel Townsend, John Manning, Bernard Noonan and Alison Petrie. Councillors Tom McEwan, Caroline Shiers and Bob Brawn were also in attendance. 2 member of the public.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by DT and BN.
3. Matters arising
  - Greenburn Windfarm – no further progress. The project is still in the hands of the Reporter.
  - Straloch School – see MBCDT report (item 10)
  - Fire Service – they have been looking at an improved Communications system recently.
4. Report of the Chair – nothing to add
5. Report of the Secretary – nothing to add
6. Report of the Treasurer – The Treasurers Account stands at £499.50 and the Drumderg Micro Fund account stood at £2196.56 on the January Statement. There are a couple of cheques for micro grants still to clear.
7. Transport (Road and Public) – following Andrew Warrington’s appearance at the November meeting there has been no progress.

The Car Buddy Scheme has been used, but not as much as was hoped.

**DT mentioned that the Development Trust are looking at setting up a Time Bank, and he is going to discuss the idea with the organiser of a successful scheme in Stanley. Insurance was one concern.**

BN and BB reported that the Netherton Bridge has been partially destroyed by the snowplough. It has been made safe and will be repaired in the late spring / summertime.

8. Police report / Recent Break-ins – there has been another incident of diesel being stolen in the area. A recently stacked pile of domestic firewood was taken on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb from Fender's sheds.
9. Broadband – AP reported that there have been fewer comments about bad telephone service and Broadband. There have been a few who had hoped to get onto the Superfast system available in the Strathardle exchange who have decided not to bother.

AP observed that 4G is available in the session house. AP reiterated that people need to have the right equipment to access it. Phones and Tablets have to be 4G enabled.

Alison Mullholland at Solzairie is still battling with the lack of broadband in the Blacklunans exchange, and knows that others have the same problems as she does with her business. AP will be in touch regarding whitespace and other non fibre options.

#### 10.MBCT Report –

- 1 Community Woodland - Some residual forestry on Balnakilly is on the market and MBCDT is looking into it in order to provide a community resource.
- 2 Archive Project – New archive photos are in the display cabinet at Kirkmichael
- 3 CBOPS continues to provide a service for the supply of all types of oil fuels. Contact can longer be provided though the News Group for technical reasons so members will be contacted directly. Anyone wanting to join the group should contact Colin Reed.
- 4 Landscape partnership – two projects had been identified for inclusion on the Cateran Trail, being organised through PK Countryside Trust.

- 5 Development officer – the tripartite application had not met with enthusiasm so the the Development Trust are pursuing other avenues for funding.
- 6 Straloch school; the Development Trust continues to take an active interest in trying to acquire the school as a community asset and has set about finding all the information regarding the building its condition and title. CS looking at progress from the council end.
- 7 Heat Project; there was a Fair at Bridge of Cally Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. There were various organisations providing information and related goods and services.
- 8 CNPA consultation – the main area of note is the provision of housing sites in upper Glenshee. The plans are available to be seen on line!
- 9 Telephone boxes; all the red telephone boxes are now decommissioned and belong to the Community Council. There is enough money to convert the Ballintuim one into a library. The CC could not see any problem there. AP said she would check on the paintwork and the door. The Trust are wondering what to do with the Glenshee phone box, which is also owned by the CC. The general feeling was that it was too dangerous a place to stop for a library. As it is a landmark they also felt they did not want it moved either.
- 10 Milestones: JM brought to attention the cast iron milestones along the road down to Bridge of Cally and suggested that the MBCDT get them repainted.

11. Planning applications pending – AP feels it would be a good idea for the CC to discuss up and coming planning applications. Other CC in the area do this.

Planning applications in progress currently are:- The Former Spittal of Glenshee Hotel which is being handled by the Cairngorms National Park. Alterations and extensions to Leonach Cottage, Dalmunzie which is P&K, and a renewal of permission to change use of an agricultural building to a holiday accommodation unit at Dalnoid, also P&K.

There are apparently other applications in the system, but AP has had no joy with the P&K planning portal in getting the online list of applications.

- 12 Spittal of Glenshee Hotel Derelict site – DT has written to John Swinney MSP complaining about the dangerous condition of the site. Mr Swinney said in a letter that the fencing had been redone and that the windows have been boarded up. DT showed photographs with no boards on the windows etc.

The council have to serve notice to the Owners to do the work to make the site safe. Nothing has happened. Cllr Brawn has raised it with the Enforcement Officer.

DC said that the Fire brigade had recently been called out to the site. There had been a theft of copper from the wiring. No one knew if the police had been called out.

The site will have a sizeable bill for clearing and there is also likely to be asbestos and the fuel tanks to decommission. DT has complained to the Petroleum officer at P&K about the tanks.

12. Discussion of Micro Grant Applications – CM and AP have had applications from both the Beavers and the Cubs in Kirkmichael. CM has recommended to the Beavers that they apply to the Main Drumderg account for funding as they are asking for much more. The Cubs have been funded for a First Aid course. It was agreed that the Beavers should get their funding for this year as usual.

13. Report from the Councillors – Cllr. Brawn - They are looking at putting a 20mph speed limit around the Kirkmichael Village School. They will use the posts etc from Straloch School. The current speed notices are only advisory.

Cllr Brawn is holding further meetings with Chic Haggart of the Roads Department about the outstanding road works in the area.

Cllr Shiers has a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February about the school estates held by the Council and will find out what is going on with Straloch.

14. Reports from the Community Councillors

DC, SL and BN commented on the state of the potholes in the roads. Not helped by the frosts we are having at the moment.

DT is worried about the effect that the closure of the post office in Kirkmichael will have on local businesses. He hoped that there would be a satellite post office there, but Cllr Brawn stated that there will NOT be a satellite Post office in Kirkmichael.

15. AOCB

16. Date of the next meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm at the Ballintuim Village Hall.

This meeting includes the AGM.