

Mount Blair Community Council
Minutes of Meeting
Monday 13th November 2017, The Session House, Kirkmichael

Attendees:

Colin Murdoch, Alison Petrie, John Manning, Bernard Noonan, Donald Cameron, Sandy Lindsay and Darrell Townsend.

Cllr Bob Brawn and Cllr Caroline Shiers
Plus 3 members of the public

CM opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. Apologies from Cllr Tom McNab.

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by AP, seconded by Bob Brawn

Matters Arising

Defibrillators

All the defibrillators have now been registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Greenburn Windfarm

CM reported that following the Applicants' appeal. A Scottish Government Reporter will be in the locality on Wednesday 15th November 2017 to carry out an assessment of the proposed site area.

Straloch School

Nothing to report further to the Development Trust registering their interest.

Fire Service

Nothing to report

By-Election

AP confirmed that MBCC now have the required 7 members.

Report of the Chair – CM.

JM Proposed, DT Seconded

Report of the Secretary

Following September's by election, we are now up to the correct number of 7 elected members for the Community Council.

New Faces are Darrel Townsend and Sandy Lindsay. Donald Cameron and Bernard Noonan are familiar friends to the Committee.

Report of Treasurer

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

The balance currently stands at £3361.56, but it does not include some of the above as the cheques have not been banked yet!

The main account currently stands at £549.50.

The only spending on the account in this period was to photocopying for the election.

Report of the Treasurer – See AP

Transport (Road and Public)

Andrew Warrington and Moray Fraser, Perth and Kinross Council

Background – the role of the Council is that they are responsible for the supportive bus network and to fund services which Stagecoach don't run i.e. fill the gaps. Eg: The 71 Service is at present subsidised by the Council.

The Council has a statutory duty to transport children to school, but in contrast, local bus services are run on a discretionary basis.

Currently PKC have a budget of £7M per annum for provision of school transport and transport 7000 children per day, to and from school. They also have a budget of £600,000 to provide Care Transport. Building local bus services into the school transport buses does make best use of funding, however this does not always work.

Transport Contracts have to be put out to tender every so often, this includes school taxi services. PKC are currently in the process of re-tendering for local bus services and school transport. Tenders close today (13 November 2017).

There is a league table in existence for bus services in the Perth and Kinross Council area. The worst performing services are cut where they are not meeting needs or take up is too low. Where a bus service does not work, PKC try to instead introduce Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) i.e. a taxi bus service, bookable in advance. This has been introduced in the West Kinross area as well as in the Kinloch Rannoch area. In West Kinross the DRT is used especially for club attendance ie youth club, Bridge Club.

The school transport bus in the MBCC area will definitely continue running but any further the bus transport service can only be run according to need and funds.

PKC are however open to options or ideas and are here to listen to the community.

Aim to come up with options in the next 2-3 months, and then put these to the Councillors for consideration.

Notified that as of 20.11.2017 Stagecoach is changing its bus services. There will be cuts in some places but improvements in others. Perth City will be seeing some bus services cut, however the 57 and 59 Services between Blairgowrie and Perth and Dundee will run more often. There are no changes north of Blairgowrie.

Aware of suggestion to re-instate bus service from glens to Pitlochry. They recommended that the community make a decision as to whether a bus goes to Blairgowrie or Pitlochry, and how often. PKC funding will however be dependant on usage and running costs.

Highlighted that a licence could be given to a local taxi service to run DRT in this area. The Taxi operator is paid a minimum amount of money. They will make money on short distance bookings but less on longer distances. They can claim back concessions, fuel duty etc.

Getting DRT in the MBCC area will however hang on whether there is a local taxi operator who will be willing to take on such a service and go through the administrative process to do this, (they would need to apply to PKC for a DRT licence £60 approx, and also Register with the Traffic Commissioner). There are certain restrictions on this special licence which the operator must adhere to.

TT – raised issue with regard to DRT (booking 24hrs in advance) regarding being able to get to health centre as cannot make an appointment before 8am on day.

JM – The Development Trust had been funded to undertake a Transport Survey which has now been done. Heather suggested that a Saturday bus service which went all the way up to Tarvie would be very useful as that is the day things go on in Blairgowrie usually (Markets etc).

CM – Would there be scope to tailor services according to season/demand?

AP – What about needs of walkers on the Cateran Trail??

AW/MF – PKC happy to change the 71 or 784 service, or look at DRT for the future, but this will all be down to costs.

AW/MF – IS there also an option to look at a DRT service from Pitlochry to say Tarvie, i.e. for those people who live closer to Pitlochry and who see getting to Pitlochry as equally or more important, than going to Blairgowrie.

Previous Pitlochry services were commercial.

Key aims from PKC perspective are: Can local people get to essential shopping, can they get to medical care, can they get to school. These are essentials.

At the moment PKC are focussed on provision of daytime services only.

Suggested that AW, MF, members of MBCC and other interested parties meet to discuss options further. AP to progress this.

Police Report/Recent Break ins

There have been some suspected/attempted burglary incidents.

Intruders been witnessed arriving at premises around midnight-1am. Pattern seems to be that suspects arrive in a van. One is dropped off, the other leaves with the van but returns a short while later once the first is suspected to have carried out whatever deed they had planned.

No vehicle ID's have been noted.

Broadband

4G AP, CM & SC confirmed that they are getting excellent 3G/4G Vodafone service in Drimmie/Ballintuim area.

Openreach has delivered Superfast to Kirkmichael. Available up to 1.2km from Sillerburn. There have been some hiccups, but others have been pleased with the new service.

Blacklunans and Glenshee are still work in progress

Bridge of Cally – Netherton and Hotel are getting fibre to premises in 2018, through Gainshare/

BB – BoC Post Office – last tested was getting in region of 7Mbps

Rest of area still playing the waiting game as far as BT superfast is concerned. EE however has launched its superfast service which may be useful in the meantime. AP getting 63mbps with EE.

AP now working on superfast the Glenshee.

Community Resilience

Nothing to report.

Noted that there are systems in place for emergency situations. Both the Local Authority, NHS and the Fire Service etc have contingency plans in place.

MBCT Report

The MBCDT AGM was held on 25th October 2017 and items covered were Kirkmichael Paths Network, Spittal of Glenshee Community project, Heritage Archive Project, Telephone Box Libraries, Community Oil Buying Scheme, The Ericht Trust Heat Project, The Landscape Partnership Straloch School and the funding application for the Tri Partite Development Officer

Mike Kirby has been appointed a director which brings the number of directors up to 8 with 2 observers

The Accounts and reporting has been completed for the year and returns deposited with OSCR and Companies House and are on the website www.mbcdt.co.uk

Pat Townsend has been very active with the Archive Project. There is a display case by the Kirkmichael Village shop which changes each month. BBC Countryfile has been in touch and the resulting programme will be broadcast on November 26th.

There has been a positive response from SSE Drumderg regarding the Tri-partite Development Officer and they would warmly welcome a re-application with additional information including a Business Plan.

Kate Hunter the director responsible for the Community Oil Buying Scheme has had exploratory meetings about the possibility of bulk wood purchase and supply.

Discussion of Micro Grant Applications

Strathardle Tug of War Team - £300.00 towards new boots

Session House for the continued invaluable running of the News Group - £150.00

Clicking Needles (based at the Session House) for making knitted goods for Mary's meals and the

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal - £265.00

Kirkmichael SWRI - £300.00

Christmas Lights - £288.64

Kirkmichael in Bloom – towards bulbs and equipment £300.00

Netherton Church – for the Christmas Carol Concert on 23rd December 2017 – £300.00

Report from the Councillors

Cllr Bob Brawn

White lines are re-installed round the Kirkmichael School.

Noted that the Play Area in Kirkmichael has no gate. The Council say it is too expensive to supply and install one, and that it is parents' responsibility to look after their children. Bob has erected a sign saying "No Dogs".

There is talk of speed signs coming down from Straloch School to Kirkmichael.

Highlighted that a local farmer has installed motion activated camera on their premises. Has found this to be a good deterrent. Added that if you have CCTV or motion cameras it is a legal requirement to have sign warning you are being filmed.

Cllr Caroline Shiers

Has had a go at Police Scotland re their lack of presence on the roads in the area. This is potentially an issue going into winter with extra traffic on the roads with skiers, and is a worry.

Pointed out that PKC is not going to be awash with money as far as budgets are concerned. This is an opportunity for the community to take ownership of tasks such as grass cutting, cemetery tending etc.

Area Action Partnerships – PKC have funds to get these up and running. We just need to list tasks that need done and submit proposal(s) to the Council. Caroline can help guide MBCC on this matter. CM and AP to meet with Caroline to discuss further.

Reports from the Community Councillors

BN – raised issue re verges again. Concerned that cutting dates were incorrect.

AP – suggested that it would be better to focus on the next year. Following on from what Caroline Shiers said about the AAPs try and look at getting someone local to do tasks such as grass cutting, cemetery tending, and verge cutting etc.

AP – Concerned that the 30mph speed limit in Ballintuim is not being adhered to. Still seeing lorries and cars driving at excessive speeds through the village.

AP – There are still overhanging trees on the A93 and A924, this is causing problems for larger traffic such as livestock lorries coming into local farms which are incurring damage to paintwork.

AP – BT lines, especially around Pitcarmick had been hanging low, these however seem to have been sorted now.

BN – The Footpath from Bridge of Cally Hall to the Post Office appears to be in a mess. BB replied that this matter was in hand.

DT – Nothing to report.

JM – Christmas Tree and Lights are now up. Colin Massey has the lights from Blairgowrie to be put up in Kirkmichael.

DC – Congratulated Cllr Shiers on her article in the Courier

CM – Responded is there any way that the Police can be emailed, rather than hanging on the line waiting.

Cllr Shiers replied that there is a Blairgowrie Community Sergeant Mailbox.

BB – added that there are only 6 police officers on duty at one time.

DC – Suggested with regard to tree cutting which is not done, that this is in future reported to the Council who will in turn tell the relevant landowner to carry out the necessary work. If the landowner fails to do the work then the Council will undertake and charge the landowner accordingly.

Date of next meeting. Monday 12th February 2018, Kirkmichael Session House