

Mount Blair Community Council Meeting

13th March 2017

Welcome and Apologies

Apologies have been received from Cllr Bob Ellis. All Community Councillors were presents. Cllr Shiers was present and 5 members of the public.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Bernard Noonan proposed the minutes and these were seconded by Colin Murdoch

Matters arising from previous minutes

The Strathardle Defibrillators are being registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service by Garry West. Donald Cameron will check on the Blacklunans and Spittal of Glenshee Defibrillators. Signage is still being sorted having been approved by the Roads department. Training dates are to be arranged.

Straloch School – Perth and Kinross Council have recommended that the School should be closed and revert to the Council for disposal / liquidation. Still unclear what the premises will be used for after closure.

Greenburn Windfarm is up before the Development Planning Committee on 1th March. The Planners are recommending refusal.

Interested parties have requested an evening on Dulater Wind Park on the 28th March. This development is much larger and is being handled by the DPEA. This decision is in the hands of the Reporters, and the decision will not be instant.

Report from the Chair

The Committee would like to record the passing of Charlie Brown, resident of Kirkmichael and a long serving member of the community and the Community Council.

It has come to the attention of MBCC that the local fire service stations at Kirkmichael and Glenshee were not summoned to an incident in Bridge of Cally on 19th February, when Jacob McIntyre, two years old, went missing and tragically drowned in the River Ericht. Chair of the MBCC has written to John Swinney asking for an explanation. The matter has been sent to Alistair Hay, Head of Fire and Rescue Service Scotland. We are awaiting a response. CM being an employee of the fire and rescue service could not make any further contribution in this regard. Caroline Shiers has spoken to Colin Grieve and suggested that he would respond favourably to an invitation to attend a meeting of MBCC (AP to organise).

Secretary Report

AP reported that most of the subjects to be covered in the main agenda.

Treasurer Report

There were three applications for grants for the Drumderg Fund in the last year amounting to £590.00. Leaving a balance of approximately £3400. Six applications have been received and granted in 2017.

Bob Brawn will be standing in local council elections in May and will not be able to take part in any further Community Council procedures in the meantime. Should he be successful in achieving a post, he will have to stand down from the current position with the Community Council.

Broadband

BT has installed a cabinet near the Exchange in Kirkmichael. Those living within the Strathardle exchange should have a better faster connection. Those living within 1.2km from the exchange will get around 24mg. It is important that if you are on the Strathardle exchange you sign up. www.superfastscotland.com. Please let AP know if you are successful – alipetrie.mbcc@icloud.com

Other exchange areas. Sadly the way the Scottish Government is funding the rollout of Broadband is changing. It has just become a lot slower and more complicated. SG's aim is still to ensure that all premises in Scotland have access to superfast broadband by 2021. This is the R100 programme.

We as a Community are registered with BT's Community Fibre Partnership. There is a "Better Broadband" Scheme, whereby community members can apply for a £350 voucher to give to a supplier to provide a broadband connection. Some people may benefit from the 4G masts which are being put up.

Currently for those who don't have BT lines in Strathardle, and for the other exchanges there are a confusion of options.

If anyone would like a copy of the notes from CBS Scotland about the R100 programme, please contact AP and she will forward it on.

Community Resilience

John Handling(P&K DC) came to talk about Community Resilience. He is the chair of a Multiagency Committee of emergency responders. With the police, fire service, Scottish Ambulance and emergency planners, the purpose of the group is to support communities with forming an emergency plan. These are developed within the community for the community and are dependent on resources available in the area. It works through a network of first responders and emergency respite centres in the area.

A good example of Community Resilience is Comrie after the flooding in 2013.

Funding is available from the SSE amounting to £20k pa. This is available annually until 2023. Funding can be used to upgrade local facilities such as village halls so they can provide respite facilities. Upgrading can include works to fix wiring so that external generators can be used in power cuts. Communications could be upgraded.

The CC needs to develop the Community's Emergency Plan. They are looking for local service suppliers who have equipment (excavators, snowploughs, and chainsaws. These suppliers must have certificates of competence and public liability insurance) and services (First Aid, tea making skills). Please register with Alison Petrie, who will be compiling the list. Alipetrie.mbcc@icloud.com

The main aim is to make people safe and comfortable in a crisis and to provide and respite facilities.

Funding applications can be made from April.

Emergency beds are available in the area at the Blackwater Hall and Compass Christian Centre. The Emergency services are to be provided with the Basic Plan list of Contacts.

Transport

There are a number of roadworks planned for the coming year which will involve road closures. A meeting between a Councillor, the Roads Department and MBCC is to be programmed following the local elections.

There are ongoing discussions regarding the local bus service and the local community is putting together a list of drivers to may be able to offer lifts to those without cars in order to attend emergency appointments at the Surgeries.

MBCDT

Volunteers have been engaged to assist with the local archive project. New signage is due to be erected by the Village shop in Kirkmichael.

The Forestry Commission is to sell a proportion of woodland at Drimmie. MBCDT with Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Council (BRCC) and the Ericht trust have put forward a note of Interest.

Through BRCC funding has been secured for HEAT to appoint a home energy adviser in the area. Further details please contact John Manning. HEAT only provides advice not funding.

The Spittal Project has been resurrected. JM will submit a pre-application. AP to invite David Stewart from the Spittal to attend the next meeting.

Telephone Boxes – Blacklunans is to be restored. The Enochdu box has been painted by Mr & Mrs Paine who live next door, which MBCC appreciates. Funding has been secured for a mini library.

Footpath Network – volunteers are required for carrying out maintenance and it has been suggested that Castle Huntly could work with the MBCDT on this project.

There are funds available for the maintenance of the Cateran Trail. Janet Hunter.

Councillor Report

Caroline Shier spoke of organising a meeting with the roads department in May. Elspeth Taylor is the contact for cemetery and road verges. (CM & AP)

New Community police office is Sgt John McCaig.

New comment from Provost Elizabeth Grant or Cllr Bob Ellis.

Area Reports

Netherton Bridge had some damage to the coping stones.

Speed still an issue in Bridge of Cally, and traffic calming measures were discussed. Flashing signage thought to be the best option.

Concerns were voiced regarding deer shooting in Blackcraig Forest. The use of high velocity hunting rifles near houses with young children is a concern. Shells have been found on the forest track, and in a separate incident a hunting knife was left with a pile of guts.

The Police and the Forestry Commission have been informed.

MBCC will invite Colin Grieve of the Scottish Fire Service and David Stewart (Spittal of Glenshee Project) to the next meeting.

Date of the Next Meeting – 7 pm on 15th May 2017 at Netherton Church – this meeting includes the AGM.