

## MOUNT BLAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

Draft Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of Mount Blair Community Council  
held in the Session House, Kirkmichael on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Present: Doreen McIntyre (DM) (Chair), Tony Thompson (TT), Bernard Noonan (BN), Sally Fenner (SF), John Manning (JM), Andrew Duncan (AD) (Vice Chair)

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Shiers (CS), Constable Sandra Burgess (Tayside Police), Cllr Bob Ellis (BE), Cllr Elizabeth Grant (EG), Tony Thompson (TT)

In attendance: Lynn Moore (Admin), 1 member of public

**1. Welcome and Apologies:**

DM welcomed everyone and apologies were noted as above.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Apologies were given for the delay in distributing the minutes of the last meeting. They were, however, accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by John Manning and seconded by Bernard Noonan

**3. Matters Arising:**

Broadband – CS had provided an email update which DM spoke to on her behalf. With regard to the ongoing broadband issues, CS advised that she will seek a meeting in Blairgowrie with Council Officers and other interested bodies to try to ensure the effectiveness of the bid to the Scottish Government. CS indicated she would liaise with TT on this matter. AD noted that broadband was a good service when it was operational and that coverage was generally good, with the exception of Glenshee. However, if a service was being provided, everyone should receive this equally regardless of location. AD also noted that there were issues with the effectiveness of the call centres when problems arose.

Council Run Services Which Could Be Run And Sourced Locally – There was no update available and this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Recycling Issues (update) – BE had indicated by email prior to the meeting that he understood the recycling stickers for bins had been distributed. It was pointed out, however, that stickers advising ‘no glass’ had been put on public shared bins but that it was understood that they were also required for private communal bins i.e. for holiday lets. BE’s guidance and assistance will be sought on this matter.

Mount Blair Community Development Trust – JM advised that funding was in place for the Community Consultation and selection of a Consultant was ongoing. JM also noted that the first Mount Blair Community Development Trust AGM is scheduled to take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm in Blackwater Hall at which all are welcome and refreshments will be provided. JM went on to advise that the application for funding to Drumderg for the planned Archive Project had been successful with an application for further funding due to go to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Path Networks – BE indicated by email, prior to the meeting that the numbers already signed up for the CATERAN YOMP are currently just under 400 and that all other path network issues and plans are progressing. Those present at the meeting then spoke of the CATERAN TRAIL MARATHON due to take place in the next week and it was felt that there was an issue with signage on the Trail from Lair to Kirkmichael being difficult to see. This will be brought to BE’s attention.

30 mph proposals for Kirkmichael, Ballintuim and Bridge of Cally – It was noted that the 30mph posts are now in place. However, signage warning of “vehicles in centre of road” were still required both at Ballintuim and Bridge Of Cally. DM confirmed that she had written to Perth and Kinross Council highlighting this issue. In addition, the poor state of the road surface at Bridge of Cally was discussed and attention was drawn to an area where the word ‘SLOW’ painted on the road was now illegible. DM agreed to contact EG to advise her of this issue. Note was taken of the Police presence in the area targeting speeding vehicles with the ‘speed gun’. This had been appreciated and it was hoped it would continue.

**4. Report from the Community Police:** SB had provided an email report for this meeting which DM read on her behalf. In the report, it was noted that theft of fuel from vehicles, particularly agricultural vehicles and HGV’s whilst parked overnight continues to be a problem. Access to the fuel tank is gained by force and fuel is siphoned off. In addition, SB advised that theft of fuel from domestic fuel tanks was still causing concern. The report went on to mention theft of lead from vacant buildings and public buildings which have been targeted by thieves who have forcibly removed lead flashing from roofs. SB urged the public to be vigilant in the coming months with regard to any suspicious vehicles or persons in and around farms or areas where

there is fuel or metal and NOTE vehicle registration numbers, make, model, colour etc. (as much information as possible) which should then be passed on to Blairgowrie Police. SB's report concluded with a reminder that, during the school holiday period, increases in vandalism to school buildings and grounds can occur and asked for the local community to pay particular attention to Kirkmichael Primary School where damage occurred to the nursery area in the summer of 2010. With a combination of warnings, youth work and added patrols in 2011 the school remained damage free. SB advised that she is keen to build on this in 2012 and would greatly appreciate assistance from local residents. Any information can be passed to Blairgowrie Police on 0300 111 2222 or email [sandra.burgess@tayside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sandra.burgess@tayside.pnn.police.uk)

#### Community Watch (Glenwatch)

TT was not present at the meeting and SB's report contained an update which was read out by DM. Both SB and all present at the meeting wished to pass on their thanks to TT for the time and effort he had devoted to getting this initiative operational once again in Glenshee north. In addition, SB has added the Farmwatch text alerts which are sent via NFU and these will also trickle through the system from the original point of contact. It is hoped that this will be a two way information system with non urgent information, sightings and concerns being passed back to the Police via email or phone. The aim is that through the success of this, other new watches will be encouraged to be formed providing good coverage throughout the Glens. In the meantime, SB will continue to send information out through Newsgroup emails and can be seen at the regular Police surgeries held in both Kirkmichael and the Spittal of Glenshee. She can be contacted at other times on the non-emergency number and email address above and it was noted by those present that SB will also be giving a talk at the WRI on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

5. **Road Improvement on A93 (The Hutt/Dalhenzean Farm)** – There was no update available and this will be carried forward to the next meeting.

6. **Report from the Chair & Secretary's Report** - There was nothing to report from the Chair.

#### 7. **Treasurer's Report**

TT was not present at the meeting but subsequently provided an email report as follows:-

##### Main Account

The last financial year 2011/2012 finished with a surplus of £648.32. However there are some elements of expenditure that should have been applied and was not that will have to be included in the current year. The present balance for the Main Account stands at £679.53.

##### Drumderg Micro grant Account

The financial year 2011/2012 finished with a surplus of £1500.44. An additional payment of £2,400 was received from the Drumderg Community Fund on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012. We have granted 2 awards so far this financial year for £235.00 and the account stands at £3,665.44

#### 8. **Councillor's Report(s)**

Cllr E Grant – There was no report available at the meeting. Since then, EG has advised by email that the A93/B951 junction improvement is currently in the detailed design stage, and initial consultations with the landowners and environmental authorities have been favourable. After completion of the design and also allowing time for landowner discussions, advert for tenders will be placed in October this year with a view to putting out tenders for construction in March next year. Construction is envisaged to commence in July 2013 and continue through to the early spring 2014. EG's report went on to advise that the tenders are in for the Cray bridge replacement works and the preferred bidder will be known within a few days. Works will commence in July this year and completed by November this year. Timescales have been agreed with SNH, SEPA and Tay salmon fisheries, in essence to protect the salmon spawning grounds of the Shee water.

Cllr C Shiers - CS had noted by email prior to the meeting that the new speed limits in Kirkmichael, Ballintuim and Bridge of Cally were now in place and there was now a need to ensure they were enforced.

#### 9. **Area Reports**

JM spoke of the questionable necessity, taking into account increasing fuel costs, for grass and verge cutting, given that there were wild flowers growing there. After a brief discussion, the feeling was that wild flowers should be viewed positively but it was fair to trim areas near entrances for visibility. AD pointed out that this could be a locally sourced service and AD, DM and BE will arrange to meet to discuss this possibility.

JM went on to speak of an issue with rubbish being dumped on grass verges and roadsides. He urged the community to be vigilant and to highlight any areas of concern.

AD highlighted that there are weeds in the pavement around the telephone box at Kirkmichael. PM had some photographs of this area available which she tabled for those present. JM advised that he had already undertaken to have this area treated with weedkiller and that he would repeat this measure. Discussion then took place on maintenance of the graveyard and a suggestion was made that all of these areas of maintenance could be locally sourced services. DM will compose an email for PM to circulate asking the community to suggest other ideas for services which can be delivered by local people. DM will then seek to meet with BE to discuss.

SF advised that she had received an enquiry about the minutes of the last Mount Blair Community Council Meeting not having been displayed on the notice boards. DM advised that this was due to unforeseen circumstances and that this would be rectified immediately following this meeting. SF went on to speak of the area of fencing between Bridge of Cally Village Hall and Strone House which was deteriorating and posing a significant hazard. In addition, the drain on the bridge was an ongoing issue and SF undertook to follow up on these issues with EG.

BN spoke of the ongoing issues with road surfaces in the Mount Blair area and he reinforced the need for attention to the areas he had mentioned at the last meeting. In particular, the rough state of the road surface and pot holes on the stretch of road at Stepps of Cally and in addition, he highlighted the poor state of the road surface between Bridge of Cally and Rochalle. BN noted that despite resurfacing work, the Drummore road remained poor. SF suggested that a letter is sent to the Local Councillors detailing these issues.

**10. AOCB**

Petrina Menzies (PM) noted that the door is missing on the telephone box at Ballintuim and she asked for letter to the relevant department at BT. DM agreed to action this.

PM advised of the free community Diamond Jubilee Street Party, Picnic and Fun Day which will take place at Dalmunzie Golf Course, Glenshee on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, from 12 noon. All information on this event is available on the Glens website.

Additionally, official bonfires will be lit in the area on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. These events were understood to be by invitation only.

**11. Next Meeting** - The next meeting will take place on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012** at **7 pm** in the Session House, Kirkmichael. All welcome to attend.