

**MOUNT BLAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**First meeting of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session. 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

Present: Peter Drysdale; Andrew Duncan; Doreen MacIntyre; Donald Michie; Mike Purdie; Ian Rimmer, Cllr E Grant; PC Grev Humphries; Tony Stanger, PKC and 16 members of the public.

Apologies: Alan Stewart

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The secretary noted that Ian Rimmer had requested that the Drumderg Wind Farm should no longer be on the agenda as planning had now been granted, and this had not been minuted.

Minutes - Proposed: I Rimmer Seconded: D Michie

**2. Matters Arising**

Re: animals on the A 93. D MacIntyre got back in touch with J Murray who thought "no fencing = no problem". But that wasn't the issue and the ball is J Murray's court. D MacIntyre to follow it up.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Public consultation on Transport Strategy for Tayside: unfortunately the chairman forgot the relevant documents for which he apologised. A link to the consultation documents has been put on community web site. Consultation closes for comments on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Secretary's Report**

- a) Correspondence including the following was available for member of the public to view: Finalised route of Craighall gorge by-pass; Draft affordable housing consultation; Ward boundaries for May elections
- b) Was a witness at the Scottish Parliament Committee meeting considering John Swinney MSP's proposed to amend the Cairngorms National Park boundaries to include parts of P&K. The Committee will meet next month to come to a decision.
- c) Local community website [www.the-glens.org.uk](http://www.the-glens.org.uk) is now up and running, and is straightforward to keep up to date. Donation of £10 for businesses to advertise. All encouraged to visit and comment.
- d) Eastern Perthshire Access Network- Bob Ellis in talks with Forestry Commission re: way-marking trail in Blackcraig and Kindrogan Forests. D MacIntyre is pressing for the reinstatement of the path up Kindrogan Hill which is currently blocked by path and way marking in Kindrogan Forest.
- e) Cateran Trail: Interpretation panels are to be erected at 4 locations in the area – exact locations still to be determined.
- f) Consultation re Post Office review – covered below.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Draft budget presented, and suggestion was made that a letter should be sent querying the basis for our administrative grant, given our Community Council's geographical spread. Although it was noted that there is little flexibility for additional hall hire, the draft budget was accepted.

**6. Police Report**

New Community Policeman PC Grev Humphries for Rattray and the Glens. His e-mail address will be on the web site. He invited personal enquiries to resolve problems and is also keen to hear about potential problems before they occur. Keen to assist wherever he can. Bogus workers are a problem in the area they are targeting singles and elderly people. Thefts from larger houses is also a concern. Questions asked were:

Q: Responsible access, what is it? A: This is problematic- still being evolved, and involves training and education.

Q, Strathardle Gathering problems? A: It was suggested that the Community Council request additional coverage, where and when in advance then resources can be provided. Action: D MacIntyre

**7. Report from Councillor Grant**

- a) Monument situation covered in separate agenda item below.
- b) By-pass at Craighall, the legal documents out for signing, and the contract will be put out to tender in early March. The preferred contractor will attend the next C.C meeting.
- c) Kirkmichael Car Park; E Grant to hold a meeting to discuss car park plan.
- d) SSE Funding; SSE have contacted E Grant and Ian Miller (councillor for Alyth) re procedure. It has been proposed that a meeting be arranged with SSE and 2 councillors and reps from CC.

## **8. Post Office Consultation**

The Community Council received a letter from PKC asking for the community's views on our post offices, to help inform PKC's response to the current DTI consultation which closes March 8th. Views have been requested via the community e-group, posters, newspaper articles and at this meeting. At the same time Bridge of Cally and Kirkmichael Post Offices have both circulated questionnaires and the findings from these will be incorporated into the Community Council response. D MacIntyre stated that Pete Wishart has given assurances that PH10 will not be affected but evidence is still needed in case of future threats to the services. Bob Brawn from Bridge of Cally PO told the meeting what he knew about the proposals; targets for closure would not be known until June. It is expected that the "voluntary redundancy" mechanism will apply, and probably less than POs will be closed 2500 UK- wide. To some extent the decision will depend on usage and non commercial activity. For the Community Council consultation, it's important to receive individual, personal comments, demonstrating people's passion for the service.

## **9. SSE Funding**

Was covered by Councillor Grant earlier.

## **10. stART**

This action packed program is going ahead on the 24/25th of March. Anne Bailey gave details of the program and thanked Petrina and Andrew for their help. There is Scottish Executive fund sponsoring the "start out" program aimed at P6-P7 children. There will be a procession on Saturday evening from the Wellmeadow to Ferguson Park there will also be entertainment there, including fire performers, courtesy of BEPTA (Blairgowrie and Eastern Perthshire Tourist Association). The aim is to encourage as many people as possible to take part and any volunteers will be put to good use! A full programme is available via the BEPTA website, Post Offices, papers and local radio.

## **11. James Small Memorial**

29/30th December the memorial "fell and broke" and the resulting pieces are currently held in Blairgowrie Highways yard. John Manning presented pictures and possible plans of reconstruction and talked about possible solutions. Initial prices have been obtained for repairing (around £18,000) for recarving (around £30,000 for carving in India with Indian granite). Highways Dept are being asked about landscaping and re-alignment of the road junction. The Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust also have an input. Tony Stanger (Property Division of PKC) said the Roads Dept agree with reinstatement, but not just leaving the plinth as is currently the case. P&KC would also agree to possible road realignment. Possible solutions were discussed at length it was decided that an open day should be arranged within the next few weeks. D MacIntyre and P Menzies to arrange. Note: Open Day to obtain people's views on this and the car park will be held at the Session House on March 21<sup>st</sup>: 9am – 1pm; 2pm – 4:30pm; 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

## **12. Dog Fouling**

A member of the public pointed out that enough was enough! Signs need to be erected in various locations including near school to get owners to pick up. Cllr Grant will put the dog warden in touch with the member of the public raising this issue to assess the scale of the problem. The issue was discussed at length and leaflets to target owners may be the next step.

## **13. Area Reports**

Kirkmichael: The caravan at the Bannerfield is an eyesore & dangerous. Children are now in and out of it and underneath it – the question was raised whether PKC is responsible for this.

Enochdhu: Recycling bins; there is no facility for collecting plastic. Cllr Grant to investigate and report back.

## **14. AOCB**

a) Large pot hole near Solizarie.

b) Dead-end sign needed for Balnald, by Kirkmichael. Cllr Grant to take action on both counts.

## **15. Next Meeting**

Will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007. All welcome.