

## **Minutes of Mount Blair Community Council Meeting**

**held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**at the Kirkmichael Session House.**

Cllrs Bob Ellis and Cllr Caroline Shiers sent their apologies. 5 members of the public attended.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September were proposed by Bob Brawn (BB) and seconded by Bernard Noonan (BN)

### **Matters Arising**

- a) Dates of future meetings – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the Session House. The AGM is to be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May at Netherton Church. Dates for the early Autumn meeting tbc, but 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> August were suggested.
- b) Donald Cameron (DC) and Bernard Noonan have been officially co-opted as members of the MBCC.
- c) Another Member is needed to make up the numbers. Please let Colin Murdoch (CM) or Alison Petrie (AP) know if you are interested or have any suggestions.

### **Chairman's Report**

Colin Murdoch attended the opening of the Kirkmichael Paths Network on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The Network was opened by Polly Murray from Glen Derby. Leaflets are available at both Village shops, The Wee Shop in Glenshee and Eco Lodges. They can also be downloaded from PKCT.org, where it is on the left of the 'Our Leaflets' section in orange.

Phone Boxes – BT are still planning to remove 2 un-adopted phone boxes. Ballintuim Phone Box – MBCC are applying to adopt it. (AP)

The Enochdu Box has a grant to move it and turn it into a Library. The Paines who live next to the Box, are happy to look after it and so MBCC will write to MBCDT to say that they are not interested in moving it and so the grant won't be drawn down from Drumderg. (CM / AP)

CM attended a meeting set up to distribute the Drumderg Funds. There is still £70,000 available for projects within the area – which rolls over into the next year.

### **Report of the Secretary**

PKDC are visiting AP to set up the Community Resilience Paperwork.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

There is £530.00 in the Main Account.

Drumderg Microfund Account - there is £3071. We are looking for projects to use it up, otherwise it doesn't get topped up (at all? Or In full?) Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

It was suggested that extra lights could be bought for the Kirkmichael Village lights.

## Road Maintenance and Closures

**Good News!** The Bleaton Hallet Bridge at Blackwater is open!

Police Scotland and PKC have agreed **winter maintenance** protocols, especially the plans re: the A93 in bad weather. Communications are in place to advise when the road is opened or closed.

Use PKC Social Media for Road Status.

There will be a meeting in the New Year with the Roads Department to look at proposed road works.

Bridge Parapets – work will be carried out in the New Year on the bridge on the A93 just north of Rattray.

The Parapets on both Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally Bridges also sorting out. The Drains are still blocked on the Bridge of Cally Bridge after the crash repairs.

A member of the public commented that the work carried out in Kirkmichael is a great improvement.

### Greenspace Maintenance

The tidying up has been more regular than previous years. The Picnic tables have not been renewed and there is still some plastic fencing at the car park which should have been removed earlier in the year. AP will contact the council about this.

Comments have been made that there has been inadequate / careless weed-killing / strimming in the Churchyards.

### Defibrillators

Lessons still needed – AP to talk to GW about organising some more lessons.

The Ballintuim Defibrillator is not obvious to members of the general public.

### Broadband

The Strathardle Exchange is about to be upgraded to Superfast Broadband. Hopefully in the first half of this year. If you live within 1.2km of the Cabinet you should be able to get 24mg+. To find out if you are able to connect, have a look at the Digital Scotland Website ([www.Scotlandsuperfast.com](http://www.Scotlandsuperfast.com)). Please register an interest in connecting. Remember that if you live over 1.2km from the Cabinet in Kirkmichael, you may not get 24mg+, but it should be faster than today's speeds.

Other exchange areas - We were considering a joint venture with Lunan Valley (Butterstone) and Amulree. They are ready to go ahead, while we are still in the early stages, and so they are going ahead without us.

CM and AP have met with Community Broadband Scotland and with BT to discuss the 2 options. CBS would supply a service similar to Lunan Valley's. BT have a system called Community Fibre Partnerships.

Please go to the Digital Scotland Website ( [www.Scotlandsuperfast.com](http://www.Scotlandsuperfast.com)). Add your postcode or STD phone number, and even if they are 'Exploring Solutions', **PLEASE** register an interest.

The Survey Data from 2015 has been given to the MBCC Committee and they will be working through it and contacting the respondents to see if their attitude / needs have changed. These emails will come from [Alipetrie.mbcc@icloud.com](mailto:Alipetrie.mbcc@icloud.com)

DC thought that there might be a possibility of funding from the Drumderg Fund.

We will be holding a series of **Public Meetings** in March/April with both interested parties attending – please, please attend. Date to be confirmed.

AP has registered with BT's Community Fibre Partnership on behalf of the Community Council. We are very lucky that we have a Member of the Scottish Board of BT living in the CC area.

It is vital that if we are going to become a Superfast Broadband area, that we put the effort in.

**Apathy is not an option!**

## Transport

There are still problems with the 71 Bus. CS has been in touch with Stagecoach and Andrew Warrington from PKC. The Stagecoach Area Manager left and a meeting will be organised when the new person is in place.

The 71 bus is still occasionally a 60 seater, causing problems with the elderly and babies and buggies. There was an incident when the school had to be called after a journey with abusive behaviour and language from the 14-15 year olds on the bus. It is not up to Stagecoach Staff to control the schoolchildren.

## Mount Blair Community Development Trust

John Manning reporting                      There are 4 new Directors.

Kirkmichael Paths Network – the MBCDT were very involved in raising money and developing the Network. It is good to see it open, and they will be needing volunteers for maintaining the routes.

The Mount Blair Community Archive Project is 95% complete.

Community Action Plan

CBOPS (Community Bulk Oil Purchase Scheme) – Operates monthly. The next date is 21<sup>st</sup> February. Remember it is 2 – 3 p cheaper!

Morag Watson - £1-2 million - Manager at Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust. Landscape Projects and Thriving communities – potential partnership.

CM sits in the DT Board Meetings to bring together the works.

## Straloch School

The decision is being made on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. The Committee wanted to remind the Community that it has cost £4000 per annum since it's closure. JM is frustrated that the School has been mothballed for 5 years and the children at Kirkmichael have not had access to the equipment at Straloch.

## Windfarms

Greenburn has closed for the second time for comments on the supplementary information they were asked to submit.

Abo Wind (developers) were pushing for the 3 Community Councils to make a decision as to how the Community Benefit would be allocated. 20% of the Community Benefit will be given to Blairgowrie High School and Grow Biz and Perth College.

They propose that the remaining 80% should be divided between Blairgowrie & Rattray CC, Alyth CC and Mount Blair CC.

This is to make GOOD THE DETRIMENT that the windfarm imposes on an area!

A decision was taken not to sign the 'Memorandum of Understanding' as the Current CC had not been involved in any of the discussions.

CS had met Abo Wind in November and made it clear that the community were not happy about how discussions about the Benefit Fund had been conducted.

### **Councillors Reports**

Cllr Caroline Shiers's comments have been mentioned throughout the minutes where appropriate.

No comment from Provost Elizabeth Grant or Cllr Bob Ellis

### **Area Reports**

**AP** – A924 is still needing some overhanging trees cut and some of the walls fixed. Esp between Blackcraig Drive and Bridge of Cally, and the walls fixed opposite where the bus crashed just south of Ballintuim.

A93 – DC – there have been 2 upturned cars trying to overtake between Mains of Dalrulzion and The Council's Outdoor Activity Centre.

Signs are needed on the A93 by the Old School.

There are going to be new limits north of Kirkmichael at Balvarran and Enochdu.

## Private Water Supplies Project

Hannah Goodman – the project started a year ago funded by the Scottish Government, Glasgow Caledonian and James Hutton Institute. They have been researching and collating people's experience of Private Water Supplies. The project is nearly finished. It highlighted a lot of different issues – responsibility, difficult land ownership, access, who pays.

Hannah and Mairi have set up a Facebook Page for Q&A and sharing problems and resolutions.

AOCB - none

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the Session House at 7pm