

## Mount Blair Community Council

### General Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7 pm at Netherton Church, Bridge of Cally

Present: Chair – Colin Murdoch (CM), Alison Petrie (AP) (Secretary), Donald Cameron (DC), Bernard Noonan (BN), John Manning (JM),

Cllr. Caroline Shiers (CS), Cllr. Bob Brawn (BB)

In attendance 10 Members of the Public

**Welcome and Apologies** – Welcome to our new Councillor Bob Brawn and we look forward to meeting Tom McEwan to our meetings (AP to organise)

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – proposed by Bernard Noonan and Seconded by Colin Murdoch

#### **Matters arising**

The **defibrillators** in Blacklunans and Glenshee (Gulabin Lodge) still need to be registered with the Scottish Ambulance Service. (DC). Signs and additional training Dates are to be organised (Garry West). The Fire Service can offer CPR training if asked.

**If faced with having to deal with a Heart Attack, it is still important to call 999 to ask for an ambulance in the first instance and then get the defibrillator from the nearest point.**

#### **Greenburn Wind Farm**

The Council rejected the application on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. The Applicants may appeal. At the planning meeting, Bob Ellis spoke on behalf of the Applicant, and stated that CM and AP had signed a Memorandum of Understanding dividing up the Community Benefit with Blairgowrie and Rattray CC and Alyth CC. CM and AP did not sign this document.

**Report of the Chairman** - CM welcomed Billy McLintock, the area manager of the Fire Service to give his perspective on the tragic death of Jacob McIntyre in March. CM had asked John Swinney MSP why the two local Fire Appliances had not been called out to the incident. Mr McLintock stated that the speed of deployment from Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus was faster than our local volunteer service. Perth and Glenrothes (with water capability) were then called out.

It takes 10 minutes from call to departure, and then a further 19 minutes to get to Drimmie from Kirkmichael.

MOP asked if local knowledge was not important. Jake Kitt (Kirkmichael Station Manager) is aware of the excellent skill base in the area and Mr McLintock praised the local gamekeeper who was on the scene.

#### **Report of the Secretary**

Following Bob Brawn's success at the Local elections, the Community Council is short of 2 members. This may trigger an election!

Secretarial assistance is also needed to help with the administration.

Phone Boxes – Bridge of Cally and Blacklunans are now owned by the Community Council.

All other matters will be discussed as per the agenda.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

There were 6 successful applications to the Drumderg Microfund in 2016-7. The Fund has been topped up by a £3400 grant and so the account currently stands at £4961.56. Please contact the Community Council with projects.

The Current Account stands at £490.00 on 31<sup>st</sup> March, which is a big improvement on the previous year. The drop has been due to reduced rent (sharing the meetings between Nethererton Church and the Session House), 4 meetings a year instead of 6, and no secretarial costs.

MBCC is due to get additional funding for this financial year.

We will be seeking a new Treasurer. AP will stand in for the time being.

**Visit of Billy McLintock of the Scottish Fire Service** - In addition to matters in the Chairman's report above

BN – commented that the fire pond in Black Craig was overgrown and inaccessible to any appliances in a forest fire. Johnnie Wilkinson thought that was not the Fire Service's responsibility.

DC asked if in the case of an incident in Glenshee if the Kirkmichael Appliance would be called out in preference to the Glenshee one. Mr McLintock did not think so.

The **Fire** Service are trying to get better communications in the area – Manx Phones.

Following the Pitcarmick Moor Fire, AP suggested that the equipment brought by some fire appliances was antiquated and disintegrated.

**Broadband** – AP reported that the CBS funding was no longer available. A member of the public said that there were other options and AP will arrange to meet privately on the matter. AP & ML

AP reminded everyone on the Strathardle Exchange that they have to be proactive with the superfast broadband that is coming into that exchange this year. They will not just be connected, they have to ask to connect. The delay is due to extensive numbers of blockages between Blairgowrie and Kirkmichael.

The Cabinet is beside the cemetery. So anyone 1.2k from there will get Superfast at 24mb but only if they register. [www.superfastscotland.com](http://www.superfastscotland.com) Strathardle exchange properties further from the Cabinet will still get faster connections, **but only if they register**.

The other exchanges are more complicated and the situation has not changed since the previous meeting.

### **Community Resilience**

AP has sent round a reminder to all the places that have offered assistance in a crisis that there is £20,000 available in one off grants. She has asked the premises to apply for funding themselves and to work with John Handling. Please contact AP for further information.

### **Transport and Roads**

CM has spoken to Angie Mackie, Kirkmichael School Bus Driver, who says she has no problem about taking people up and down to Blairgowrie, on her return trips.

AP reminded people that the Car Buddy Scheme set up by Petrina Menzies at the Session House is now up and running. Further drivers are needed but 9 is a good start. It is only for taking people to the Doctors' Surgery and to wait while they collect their prescriptions. Please contact Petrina if you can help.

Now that the local elections are over a meeting with Andrew Warrington of P&KDC is planned to sort out some of the issues with the buses in the area.

There are various road closures in the area.

### **MBCDT Report**

**Heat Project** – joint with Blairgowrie and Rattray CC for PH10 7 postcode area. Martin Mathers has been appointed adviser and will be in the Session House on a regular basis for consultation. This project only has funding (at the moment) for 1 year. Miles Goodman is the director representing MBCDT on the Heat Project

**Development Officer** - Mount Blair Community Development Trust wish to make an application for total funding of circa .£100,000 over 3 years to allow employment of a full time Tripartite Development Officer able to support the Trust, Mount Blair Community Council and the Glenshee Tourist Association. This will help ensure progress on key crucial initiatives such as the Spittal of Glenshee development project, the A93 Snow Route proposals and improvement in Community Broadband provision all of which are in gestation. All three organisations would benefit from the much needed project management, and capacity building this would bring. The role would also include strengthening of community engagement across the three organisations. It is intended that the role would include the development of an income generation strategy which would allow the post to become self funded beyond the grant period.

Colin Murdoch and Alison Petrie were advised last week and have approved in principle.

Current Development Officer is Colin Reed who is providing a part time contractor service replacing Sue Smith who stood down last year and utilises existing Drumderg funding available until August this year.

This is to be distinguished from what we hope will be a new application to Drumderg for a 3 year funding package in support of a role which will it is hoped be able to support all 3 community organisations. We hope to hear if we can proceed to make such an application after the panel sits in June.

Woodland purchase at Kinballach (part of Drimmie woods) – agreed with Blairgowrie and Rattray CC not to pursue due to so many to so many other things going on. Mike Tovey from FE came to one of our meetings and gave us much information. If the timing had been right MBCDT would have taken on this project.

**Straloch School** - The School has been signed off by the Council, so we await further news. It is still hoped that the property will be sold and the funds used within the community not dispersed. JM said that the MBDT have registered an interest in the property.

Archive Project display cabinet up by Kirkmichael village Shop. .

The Landscape partnership with PKCT has been postponed for a year.

The Spittal project ongoing towards getting the purchase agreed. David Stewart resigned due to ill-health. A Sub-committee has been set up with Darrel Townsend in the lead and the Steering

Committee has been revived to communicate and consult with the community. The report in Across the Glens of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 gives a more detailed report.

Telephone boxes - contract awarded work to be completed by the end of May

CBOPS continuing to provide a service for the purchase of all types of oil.

Footpath network – planning with PKCT for maintenance in the 5 and 10 year terms.

Date of the Next Meeting Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August at Netherton Church – 7pm