

MOUNT BLAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING - 28th November 2005

DRAFT

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the 29th Session of the Community Council held in the Session House Kirkmichael.

PRESENT

Andrew Duncan, Doreen MacIntyre, Donald Michie, Ian Rimmer, Alan Stewart (arrived 8 o'clock) and 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Peter Drysdale, Jean Lindsay, the Police, Cllr. Grant.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Proposed by Andrew Duncan.

Seconded by Donald Michie.

MATTERS ARISING

A new version of the Community Website is currently being worked on, and it is hoped that it will be up and running by Christmas.

Street lighting in Kirkmichael (south of village) is still ongoing.

There was a good turnout for the Craighall gorge planning and Local Plan meeting and the purchase of ground for the re-aligned road is underway.

REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN

Rumours of any school closures in the area are completely unfounded, would parents of children not yet school age please be encouraged to support local schools.

REPORT FROM SECRETARY / TREASURER

Correspondence about the community consultation which took place for Kindrogan Forest is on going, but slow.

Correspondence was entered with John Swinney to obtain a position from BT on universal provision of broadband in the area, but no definitive reply has been received as yet.

Administration grant has been received and banked

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY POLICE

No report as no one present from Tayside Police.

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRANT

Cllr. Grant will be holding a surgery in Kirkmichael Tuesday evening (29th November), if anyone needs to see her.

The Kirkmichael car park continues through the legal process. Cllr. Grant will inform the Community Council as this progresses.

Information about the paths at Bridge of Cally - the footpath from Bridge of Cally to the village hall is currently being assessed for maintenance. Cllr. Grant understands that the Council have taken over responsibility for it, but the fence along the path is the responsibility of Ian Nimmo. The current status is being checked, and Cllr. Grant expects an e-mail from the relevant Council official about it any time now.

Although a price has been agreed for the land purchase for the new road at Craighall Gorge, the legal contract hasn't yet been finalised, so there might be some slippage on the commencement of work until early spring 2006. Everything is ready to go on the project, plans etc. are just waiting for the landowner to sign on the dotted line.

DRUMDERG PUBLIC ENQUIRY

The Reporter for the public enquiry has been appointed, and there will be a pre inquiry meeting at the Town Hall in Blairgowrie on December 12th. This will be a briefing meeting to finalise numbers (of representations) for the enquiry. Someone representing the Community Council will attend.

BROADBAND

Has been successfully installed to at least one customer in Blacklunans, however the local telephone communications infrastructure is a cause for concern. Much of the phone line up the glen from Bridge of Cally is being checked and parts which are below standard are being replaced. Murdo Fraser is helping to investigate the supply of Broadband to rural areas.

AREA REPORTS

STRALOCH

Nothing to report.

BRIDGE OF CALLY

There has been correspondence within the Council about the possibility of installing street lighting between Bridge of Cally and Corriefodly Hotel; it would appear that installation would be a difficult issue due to the lack of road width and footway. There are no suitable positions for street lighting columns apart from the edge of the road where they would be hazardous. The Council agrees that there is a need for lighting on the section of road from Bridge of Cally to the village hall, and the work could be considered for inclusion in the 2006/07 street lighting programme if the necessary funding is available.

KIRKMICHAEL

Doreen MacIntyre reported that the salt bin was missing from opposite the Session House.

The Play park is gradually deteriorating and getting to be dangerous.

Doreen would talk to Liz Grant about these matters.

The pavement over the bridge and round the corner above the school was discussed and so were some alternative ideas to keep children safe while walking to and from school but none were considered to be practical.

BLACKLUNANS

Could a barrier be erected between the river and the road at the start of the Glenisla road at The Lair. This could save unfortunate motorists from ending up in the river.

A.O.C.B.

Cairngorm National Park.

A discussion was held as to the merits of a consultation proposing changes to the National Park boundary to include part of the Mount Blair area. (Current proposals for the area include the top part of Glenshee and some of Glenfernate.) The results of this consultation will form the basis of a member's bill which John Swinney is intending to present to the Scottish Parliament. As this is potentially relevant to local people and businesses, it was decided to organise a public meeting at which Andrew Thin, Convenor of the National Park Authority, and John Swinney would be invited to talk on the subject and to answer questions from the audience. (Note : This meeting will take place in Bridge of Cally Village Hall on January 16th 2006.)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Mount Blair Community Council will be the A.G.M. in Kirkmichael Session House on Monday 20th February 2006 at 7.30 pm.