

Blackford Community Council

Approved Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Moray Institute, Blackford.

Present	
Janet Law	Chair
Katharine Huggett	Vice-Chair
Irene McLaughlan	Treasurer
Andrew Sinclair	Community Councillor
Bet Illand	Community Councillor
Councillor Ann Gaunt	Perth & Kinross Council
Councillor Tom Gray	Perth & Kinross Council
Councillor Murray Lyle	Perth 7 Kinross Council
60 Members of the Public (inc. 12 children)	

Item	Subject	Action by
1.	The Chair welcomed those in attendance. Apologies:- Alison Dawson. The Chair, on behalf of all CC's, sends good wishes to AD.	
2.	Recommendation from Blackford Community Funds Panel. JL advised all CC's had filled in a declaration of interest form and that the proposal had been received in time to be added to the public notice of this evening's agenda. IM, Blackford Community Council's representative on the Blackford Community Funds Panel, read out the received email from Foundation Scotland with the Panel's recommendation (see appended). JL stated Foundation Scotland and the Panel are doing a terrific job of managing the fund and distributing the money. The paperwork relating to the Endowment and the TOR is still under revision by BCC. Andrew Sinclair and Shiona Walker gave the background and progress of the BIG project which had enabled it to reach this stage. A number of letters of support for the project had been received by the CC. Diane Cassidy, Community Greenspace, PKC, advised the number of pieces of play equipment is determined by the size of the community. A discussion took place, AS declared an interest due to his involvement in the project and advised he would not be voting, JL declared an interest having filled in the online survey and having a grandson who may use the equipment. The CC's then voted on the proposal which was unanimously endorsed by JL, KH, IM and BI.	
3.	Minutes of the meeting of 31 st January 2017 were read, amended and approved. Proposed AS, seconded JL.	
4.	Matters arising from previous meeting:- JL would deal with them under the Chair's report. There were no other matters arising.	

Blackford Community Council

Approved Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Moray Institute, Blackford.

5.	<p>Chair's Report.</p> <p>JL contacted the office of Murdo Fraser MSP about the PO, the A9 junction and the possibility of a link road at the other end of the village. Letters have been received about the Scottish Government consultation on the planning process.</p> <p>The PKC Planning workshop on 25/02/17 covered this fully. Main proposals in the consultation are about ways to engage communities and cut out the main issues report.</p> <p>Cycle Paths Project.</p> <p>Funding for the feasibility study is in place. The steering group consists of JL, KH, IM, Nina Gillespie of TACTRAN and Dave Stubbs of PKC. The tender process was undertaken with 10 consultants asked to tender. The brief was compiled by JL and Nina Gillespie. JL and IM opened the tenders, JL, Nina Gillespie and Dave Stubbs interviewed yesterday. The successful applicant has to be emailed and the reply received before being named.</p> <p>The first part of the study is a community consultation about cycling.</p> <p>The next newsletter will be issued when the content has been agreed by the CC's.</p> <p>AD will be progressing the walking paths project.</p> <p>JL has reported the large hole in the pavement of Stirling Street near Highland Spring and has a PKC reference number for it.</p> <p>JL will be attending the Strathallan/Strathearn CC meeting with Bernadette Malone tomorrow.</p> <p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Blairgowrie CC has complained about dog fouling. JL passed them the information we received from PKC. TG advised PKC has appointed another dog warden.</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>JL</p>
6.	<p>Treasurer's Report.</p> <p>Treasurer's A/c £2030.11 £1500 of this money is for the Cycle Paths Feasibility Study A cheque has been written for £7.10, payable to PKC, for the extra premium required for insurance cover for the CC noticeboard.</p> <p>Business Bank Instant A/c £1188.78 + probably £0.05 interest.</p> <p>Blackford Community Funds Panel.</p> <p>The closing date for the next round of funding applications is 10th April 2017.</p>	

Blackford Community Council

Approved Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Moray Institute, Blackford.

7.	<p>P&K Councillors' Reports.</p> <p>ML advised the budget was completed last week. It is proposed to increase the Council Tax.</p> <p>TG spoke about the Strathallan Decides Project. Applications for funding closed today. IM had received an email from Jacqueline Walsh advising 13 projects had applied for funding.</p> <p>AG encouraged the public to attend the meeting when voting for the approved projects will take place, on 19th March, 2-5pm in the Aytoun Hall. Each person will have 3 votes.</p>	
8.	<p>Strathearn Community Rail Partnership.</p> <p>NG had nothing to report. The next meeting will be on 14/03/17.</p> <p>TG advised there are 8 rooms available at Gleneagles station. The CAP project will help develop the rooms.</p>	
9.	<p>Planning Report.</p> <p>JL advised the Burnfoot East Windfarm extension will be determined by Clackmannanshire Council. The open day in Blackford was attended by a small number of the public. CC's have been given an extension to 03/04/17 for any comments.</p> <p>KH queried when the consultation for the proposed development for Easterton Farm will take place. AG said it is still to be publicised.</p> <p>Highland Spring extension – KH has been contacted by residents who are concerned about the volume of water being discharged into the culvert. JL has also been contacted about this concern and asked if the PKC councillors were aware of this concern. AG advised they hadn't been contacted but she will look into the matter. JL will advise the residents of this.</p>	<p>AG JL</p>
10.	<p>Police Report.</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
11.	<p>Post Office Working Group.</p> <p>No further meetings have taken place but members will be contacted to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>The mobile PO had contacted the Village Store last Thursday to advise there would be no service due to the snow.</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>Last week's snow caused a number of problems.</p> <p>AS asked why the gritting, which used to be done before the school start time, is now taking place at lunchtime.</p> <p>KH mentioned the number of accidents at the A9 junction.</p> <p>AG confirmed the A9 and Blackford had not been ploughed by noon.</p> <p>KH had contacted Bear Scotland to query where the gritters were. They were seen sitting at Whitemoss.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if there were grit bins for Stirling Street.</p> <p>KH advised there is one at the Cross.</p> <p>A member of the public contacted AG about the pavements in the Mill of Ogilvie not being cleared. AG was advised they are third in the line of priority.</p>	

Blackford Community Council

Approved Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Moray Institute, Blackford.

	<p>KH has been advised by John Handling, PKC, that it is ok for members of the public to clear snow from the pavement outside their property.</p> <p>A member of the public raised the problem of the speed of cars going to Highland Spring at 9am. TG advised PKC has allocated £1.9k to safety. AS mentioned Highland Spring have allocated money for the speed awareness signs but if not spent soon, the money could be reviewed in the budget for the next financial year.</p> <p>AG has been unable to get a response from PKC. JL suggested a meeting between HS and AS. AS proposed asking PKC for an invoice for the signs. JL will write to PKC about the lack of response.</p> <p>A member of the public has contacted PKC about a missing drain cover beside the flats in The Morays. AG has also contacted PKC.</p> <p>There are problems with vehicles being parked close to junctions in Stirling Street.</p> <p>KH raised the problem of the breakdown of the top dressing on the public footpath beside Highland Spring with the contractors working on the HS extension.</p> <p>IM advised the sign for “Joiner’s Close” is lying on the ground.</p> <p>KH thanked D. McLaren and his helpers for removing the trees and debris in the Danny burn on the Games Park side and queried who is responsible for the other side of the burn. AG will investigate.</p> <p>AG has been asking Robertson Homes about the removed seat from the Danny burn but has not got a satisfactory answer yet.</p> <p>KH has noticed a drain at the playpark is displaced.</p> <p>A member of the public commented on the tree on the A9 which needs pruned and queried why trees at the Distillery had been removed. AG advised they will be replaced.</p> <p>Hall setup – JL raised the problem of the hall setup and chairs having to be brought out and put away by the organisers of each event, many of whom are getting older and not so able to be doing this. AG informed the meeting she had already raised the issue. KH asked for a walking broom for the hall to enable hall-users to clean up quickly and efficiently as the current small brush and shovel is not fit for purpose. JL thanked everyone for attending and for their co-operation in bringing out and putting away their seats.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AG</p>
13.	<p>Date of next meeting.</p> <p>Tuesday, 28th March 2017. Venue – Moray Institute, Lower Hall, at 7.30pm.</p>	

Blackford Community Council

Approved Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Moray Institute, Blackford.

Appendix

Recommendation from Blackford Community Funds Panel.

At the Panel meeting on Thursday 15th February, the Panel agreed to support an application from the Blackford Improvement Group to contribute to the cost of re-developing the park in the centre of Blackford adjacent to the Primary School into a safe and inclusive play and recreational space, picnic area and garden space for the enhancement and well-being of the whole community both young and old. The grant of £45,774 would represent about 36% of the total project cost, budgeted at £124,773.

Foundation Scotland and the Community Council are in the final stages of reviewing Fund Agreements and this large grant enquiry has been received during this period. Given the timing of the project, the encouraging overall performance of the Blackford Endowment since inception, the encouraging level of community interest in and support for the project, the Panel agreed to consider the Application subsequent to accepting an initial Enquiry from the BIG group at the Panel's November meeting and at which point the project was deemed eligible.

Since November Foundation Scotland has done a thorough independent assessment of the project and is satisfied that the project has been thoroughly planned, that appropriate technical advice has been sought, that required match funding is in place, that the project will be competently managed going forward, that there is wide support for the project within Blackford and that it will bring significant impact to the community and serve as a legacy project for the Fund.

By way of context, Foundation Scotland's current investment policy recommends that drawing down up to 4% of the capital from a Fund where there is predictable, year on year grant-making required and to ensure sustainable capital value of the Endowment is sustained. At the time of the Fund's establishment it was actually 6%. However the Blackford Fund has a bespoke context since it also now receives annually up to a minimum of £10,000 from wind farm income and demand for grants from groups is not predictable. Therefore the 4% guidance in the Blackford context is arguably less relevant since it has not actually been applied and less has been withdrawn from the Fund over the years.

In its decision to support this request the Panel took guidance from Foundation Scotland who advised that as of Dec 31 2016 the Fund value was £416,000. It was reported that the Growth and Income Fund for Charities fell by 2.3% in the quarter to Dec 16 but grew 14.5% in the calendar year to Dec 2016. In the month to 31 Jan 2017 the Fund had grown by a further £3,000. Foundation Scotland also advised that the grant equates roughly to 10% of the Fund which has grown significantly since inception and which can probably cope with this withdrawal and that the grant effectively equates to the performance gains of the last year or so. However, Foundation Scotland also reminded the Panel that the long term effect of course depends on future investment performance and the requested levels of withdrawals going forward.

The Panel had the opportunity to thoroughly review the application, assessment and supporting materials and also interview the applicant and were satisfied that the project represented a sensible use of some of the Endowment that would provide long term, tangible benefit for the community.

Blackford Community Council

Approved Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Moray Institute, Blackford.

In making this decision they also took account of the four critical factors to take into consideration as stated in the Panel Terms of Reference, one of the governance documents still under review between Foundation Scotland and the Blackford Community Council, namely:

- The performance of the Fund over the previous year;
- The need to include a contribution to Foundation Scotland;
- The need to preserve the value of the Fund in real terms;
- The need to release funds for grant-making

The Panel is requesting the Community Council to endorse this important decision, mindful that it is an important decision and a departure from the usual level of award approved by the Panel.

To emphasise again, the Panel does appreciate the various Fund governance documents have still to be finalised but would wish to stress that the application is time sensitive and various important committed funds from other sources could be compromised if there were further delays. It is fair to say that this grant would assure other funders that the total funds required for the project had been achieved and the project could commence. It will not commence without the grant from the Blackford Fund and would likely be abandoned.

Given the significant voluntary effort by the applicant to date and other reasons already stated the Panel were of the view that the request is supported and the drawdown instructed. In the event of the Fund therefore not performing so well in the coming months this sum would be protected within the Blackford Community Fund and retained to support the park project in line with any stipulated conditions. These will include for example stipulation that a copy of all the submitted tenders is provided, together with the evaluation of the tenders; that the Panel reserves its right to reduce the amount of the award in the event of an underspend in the project and that the Council provides written commitment to not renege on a verbal commitment not to sell the land at a later date and/or that if this were to ever happen they would move the equipment and the surfacing to another fit for purpose site within the village.

The Panel looks forward to the Community Council's endorsement of this decision