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| Present |  |
| Janet Law | Chair |
| Katharine Huggett | Vice-Chair |
| Irene McLaughlan | Treasurer |
| Iain Paton | Community Councillor |
| Alison Dawson | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Tom Gray | PKC |
| 4 Members of the Public |  |

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| **Item** | **Subject** | **Action by** |
| 1. | The Chair welcomed those in attendance.  Apologies:- Bob Watkinson, Bett Illand. |  |
| 2. | Minutes of the meeting of 30th January 2018 were read and approved.  Proposed KH, seconded JL. |  |
| 3. | **Matters arising from previous meeting:-**  **Brookfield House Right of Way**. The owner is willing to remove the wire fence he put in place if required to do so. His planning consultant is asking to see the signed original copy of the relevant document which is being retrieved from the files by PKC. The electronic version has been made available to the owner, and to the CC. The interactive online map available via the PKC website shows the Right of Way.  **BCC Website.** BW is making great progress.  **A9.** Letter to RC. Response from RC’s office that she has written to the  Chief Executive of Transport Scotland seeking the assurances we asked for. The CC will get confirmation in writing from RC.  **Network Rail proposed Pedestrian Bridge.** An email was sent to Lesley Ann Cain. The response stresses NR need to consider a business case for the footbridge. The CC agreed that JL will write to LAC again asking that the CC arguments in favour of footbridge be considered as part of business case.  KH to update Scotways with map references for the Netherton and Panholes crossings.  KH queried of the term “loop” was misleading with regards to proposed track changes. JL advised there is no documentary evidence for the loop.  There are concerns about how the HS sidings, NR loop and the core paths will fit together.  TG queried the implications of electrification of the line on any bridge.  A member of the public mentioned the Victorians were able to build bridges which spanned numerous tracks and motorway bridges also have a huge span.  JL will email LAC the link to the Blackford Historical Society website showing the footbridge which existed at Blackford Station.  **CC Newsletter.** Proposed articles for inclusion are the Network Rail Footbridge, Home Energy, Blackford Highland Games, Blackford Community Funds Panel, Mother & Toddler Group, CC new website, how to report a road fault and the speed limit in the village.  **Bardrill Road Bridleway.** KH advised the gate is unlocked.  **Danny Burn Path.** KH advised the dog waste bin request is being looked into by the Dog Warden. The requested additional bin at Moray Street/ Stirling Street is awaiting additional information. | **JL**  **KH**  **JL**  **IM** |
| 4. | **Chair’s Report.**  **Road fault reporting:**  Road surface at Distillery Bridge **FS-Case-25810002.**  Road Surface between Panholes and Blackford Level Crossing **FS-Case-25810118.**  **Meeting with HS:**  Vehicle Activated Signs. There was a discussion about the effect of them on speeding traffic.  HGV traffic: HS told us that new barriers are being put in place. There is already less queueing due to other measures being taken, with further plans to create more space on site and external warehousing to avoid night time despatch as far as possible.  New road entrance: HS have had a meeting with Transport Scotland and the Transport Minister. The idea of the new road entrance is acceptable in principle and TS are working on technicalities. Chris Livingstone will let CC know when it might be helpful to approach the Transport Minister further.  Footbridge. HS have regular meetings with NR and are aware of our concerns that there are delays in finding a location for the bridge.  **Meeting with PKC.**  JL attended with reps of Auchterarder and Braco and the following items were discussed:  **A9 junctions between Keir and Broxden Roundabouts.**  Jim Valentine, Deputy CE, agrees we are right to be concerned about the priorities changing following the review and suggests writing to the Transport Minister. JL proposed that we do this after we have seen Transport Scotland’s response to RC’s letter on our behalf. This was agreed by the CC’s.  **Road repairs.**  PKC is moving to a new policy of “first time repair” but it is difficult to apply in winter when temporary repairs are still needed.  **Proposed new road entrance to Blackford.**  A further meeting re a proposed new road entrance to Blackford is to be held next week, called by the Transport Minister with TS, NR, HS and PKC. This may relate to the need to act now because of the construction of the rail yard. JL stressed the importance of this, and the decision by BCC to encourage Blackford residents to write to PKC Councillors regarding the need to have something in PKC budget for this road, albeit that contributions may come from TS and HS.  **Action Partnerships: A r**eview is being conducted by “What Works Scotland”. The Participatory Budgeting event received 1000 votes. The SSCAP meeting was postponed due to the weather alert. JV to propose to the next meeting that Community Councils will not now receive the £2500 to disburse. Projects coming forward will be expected to agree to be able to demonstrate how they have met agreed objectives. JL asked if the information sent to CC’s could be written to clearly show how small groups could apply and that money was specifically for their CC area. It is likely that applications will have to be submitted by June.  **Auchterarder Car Parking:** Auchterarder CC is seeking a consultation on improving parking. JL asked if Blackford CC could be involved too. as many Blackford residents have to travel to Auchterarder and choose to go by car.  **Proposed closure of A823 for Scottish Water:** Auchterarder CC and PKC agreed that SW had not consulted properly and the closure is now postponed. A meeting is to be held at Glendevon, to be chaired by Malcolm Best, Glendevon resident and Auchterarder CC Chair. BCC to be notified of the date and time.  **Correspondence.**  The following correspondence was forwarded to CC’s by email:  Mental Health and Learning Disability Service Redesign Transformation Programme Update  TAYplan: Action Programme Adopted/Approved  Planning & Development Training Workshop  Numerous emails from J Walsh, Community Education re training opportunities, funding sources etc.  Consultation on Loneliness and Social Isolation  PKC Insurance receipt forwarded to IM. |  |
| 5. | **Treasurer’s Report.**  Treasurer’s A/c £255.76  Business Bank Instant A/c £1189.43  IM advised the Blackford Community Fund closing date is 28/03/18. |  |
| 6. | **P&K Councillors’ Reports.**  TG advised the budget was passed yesterday. Skips will not be closed.  Murray Lyle is now Leader of the Council Administration. |  |
| 7. | **Strathearn Community Rail Partnership.**  The SCRP met on 13/02/18. The AGM will be on 21/04/18 at 9.30am in Bridge of Allan Parish Church Hall. The group is looking for information about walks for the noticeboards and for leaflets.  They met with Scotrail representatives to look at the redundant buildings at Gleneagles Station. A potential use is for a Men’s Shed.  The Scottish Government has designated 2018 as the “Year of Young People”. |  |
| 8. | **Planning Report.**  KH advised portacabin applications for Highland Spring have been passed. |  |
| 9. | **Police Report.**  No report. |  |
| 10. | **Post Office Working Group.**  No report. However the Network Rail Bridge works in Stirling means recorded delivery post, posted at the Mobile Post Office Van, is not going into the postal system until the next day. |  |
| 11. | **AOCB.**  PKC's Gaelic Language Plan.  JL reported that the CC could have responded to the consultation last year. The CC cannot respond to all consultations and prioritise those things which are of direct relevance to the village, and where our views/actions can make a significant difference, especially where no-one else can do whatever is necessary.  Following the comments about £160,000 being spent on bi-lingual signing which were made by a member of the public at the last CC meeting, JL had  done some research online on the press comment which presumably sparked the question, and the PKC papers which informed the Council's recent decision.  The document mentions a number of commitments including: "Use bilingual signs when town/village nameplates are being renewed or replaced."  This is very similar to the previous approach from 20 years ago.  There was a full and frank discussion of views.  KH suggested the CC runs a competition to provide a logo for the CC. This to be open to High School pupils in the Blackford Parish area.  KH advised there may be the potential for charges for using the Link Cash Machines. |  |
| 12. | **Date of next meeting.**  Tuesday, 27th March 2018.  Venue – Moray Institute, Lower Hall, at 7.30pm. |  |