

Mins 2015-11

**Blackford Community Council Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting,
held in Blackford Church Hall on Tuesday 24 November, 2015 at 1930hrs.**

Present:	Janet Law	Chairwoman*
	Irene McLaughlan	Treasurer*
	Katharine Huggett	Vice Chairwoman*
	Bett Illand	
	Alison Dawson	Minute secretary**
	Cllr. Ann Gaunt	Perth and Kinross Council
	Cllr. Tom Gray (until 21.00)	Perth and Kinross Council
	Neil Gaunt	Outgoing Chair
	Members of the Public (4)	

*Officers appointed at the meeting. **Subject to completion of processes for Co-opting to Council

Apologies: Andrew Sinclair

Item	Subject and main points of discussion	Actions
1.	<p><i>Appointment of Community Council officers</i></p> <p>AG welcomed everybody to the meeting, congratulated those members of the Community Council (re)elected, and asked for nominations for Chair.</p> <p>Janet Law was the only candidate (nominated IMcL, seconded KH) and was duly appointed.</p> <p>AG passed Chair of the meeting to JL. JL noted that she had previously agreed to support Andrew Sinclair for Chair, but that he had indicated being unable to take on office at this time.</p>	

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	<p>The following officers were elected: Vice Chair – Katharine Huggett (nominated BI, seconded JL) Treasurer – Irene McLaughlan (nominated JL, seconded KH)</p> <p>There was a discussion about the competence of the incoming Chairwoman to nominate an additional person to be co-opted onto the Council. JL noted that names had been discussed with other elected members prior to the meeting. AG suggested that the Council had not been properly constituted until this meeting, but that this was possible.</p> <p>JL suggested that Alison Dawson had previously been discussed with other Council members as a nominee, and moved to nominate and appoint as Minutes Secretary. NG noted that a co-option form needed to be completed and verified. AD agreed to take minutes of the meeting in the meantime. TG confirmed that AD was on the voters' roll for Blackford.</p> <p>AG noted that the Council were required to appoint a data controller whose role is to ensure that the Council abides by data protection legislation. AG had the forms and guidance materials for this post. JL agreed to take this role on.</p>	<p>NG to pass electronic co-option form to JL for completion re AD.</p> <p>JL to complete paperwork for appointment as data controller</p>
2.	<p><i>Adoption of Community Council constitution, orders, etc.</i></p> <p>It was noted that this was a formal requirement for incoming Councils. KH noted that on previous occasions there had been forms to sign and return but that she had not yet received paper copies of these. JL and IMcL noted that they had received emails with relevant information.</p>	
3.	<p><i>Treasurers report (from IMcL)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurers Account balance stands at £1584.44. This includes £750 held on behalf of Blackford Playpark Group. • The new noticeboard had been ordered and delivered to NG. The cheque to pay for this (£472.80) had cleared. • There might be outstanding expenses claims from the former Chairman. • C.I.R. Account (savings account) balance stands at £1188.08. 	<p>NG to check and submit any</p>

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	<p>Under existing rules due to its current healthy financial position the Community Council would not receive any money from Perth and Kinross Council in Aril 2016.</p> <p>JL will need to replace NG as a potential signatory for cheques (cheques require to be signed by two out of three authorised signatories: IMcL and KH are currently signatories). IMcL had requested forms from bank to enable this change, but bank had issued paperwork with the wrong account number</p> <p>IMcL noted that she had previously been the Council's representative on the Blackford Community Funds Panel. She was duly re-elected to this position (proposed KH, seconded JL).</p> <p>IMcL noted that she had also attended Auchterarder Community Partnership Community Networking meetings, and indicated that she would be willing to continue to do so (proposed BI, seconded KH).</p> <p>IMcL noted correspondence from Foundation Scotland (Rachel Searle-Mbullu) requesting a meeting with Council members late Feb / early March 2016 with regard to Blackford Community Funds Panel, its constitution, the fund's terms of reference, etc. Foundation Scotland asked to change the previously agreed date. KH cannot attend in February. IM to notify.</p> <p>TG asked about a vacancy on the Blackford Community Funds Panel that had been mentioned at the last Community Council meeting. IMcL noted that there had been interest from two people at the meeting, but also that Foundation Scotland had included details of the vacancy in their forthcoming newsletter.</p> <p>IMcL noted that she was in possession of details of successful applicants from the last round of awards by Blackford Community Funds Panel, and would pass these on for appending to the minutes of meeting and for display as appropriate</p>	<p>outstanding expenses claims.</p> <p>JL to complete forms for change of signatory</p> <p>Council members to agree a date to meet with Foundation Scotland (subsequently discussed and decided to offer as 1st or 2nd Wednesday in March 2016).</p> <p>IMcL to pass details of successful applicants to AD for inclusion as an appendix to the minutes of meeting</p>
4.	<p><i>Community Council future meeting dates and venues</i></p> <p>JL confirmed that meeting dates for Council were set as last Tuesday of the month, every month</p>	

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	<p>except December and July, and that this arrangement would continue.</p> <p>NG indicated that the Moray Institute hall had been booked for meetings up to 26 April 2016. IMcL noted that works to the Moray Institute were supposed to be finished by 11 January 2016. It was likely that Council meetings would revert to this venue once the Institute became available again.</p> <p>JL asked for clarification about the date of the next Community Council AGM. It was confirmed that this would be in May 2016. This was out of kilter with elections but had been set previously to allow for changeovers to happen following the end of the financial year and was a standard part of Community Council constitutions in Perth and Kinross.</p>	
5.	<p><i>Training opportunities for Community Councillors</i></p> <p>JL noted that a training session had been notified for the day before the meeting, but had subsequently been cancelled. IMcL noted that it had related to the process of development of the local plan. NG noted that this happened every four years, and AG indicated that this was around consultation as part of the process.</p> <p>JL sought to gauge Council members' interest in future training opportunities. KH suggested that it made more sense to wait until the Council were notified of new training opportunities and then check who if anyone might be interested in taking them up.</p>	
6.	<p><i>Any other competent business</i></p> <p>a) Correspondence</p> <p>JL noted that there seemed to be no standing section for the announcement of correspondence received by the Council. She had a number of items to note/discuss under this heading. A general discussion of the difficulties of sorting and dealing with correspondence to the Council ensued, with KH noting that Andrew Sinclair was looking at ways of improving on the current system, before the following items were noted/discussed:</p>	

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	<p>i) Papers for a Community Partnership meeting on 1 December 2015 AG noted that this correspondence comes from the P&K Community Capacity Development Officer. TG noted a recent paper discussed by P&K Council on 'The next five years'. The purpose of Partnerships was to bring councillors, council officers and others together to talk about Strathearn and Strathallan and the wider area. The Community Partnership meets four times a year. AG noted that the Blackford representative at these meetings needed to be a Community Council member.</p> <p>ii) Scottish Community Alliance newsletter NG noted that regular correspondence was received from this group but that the Council had not been directly involved with the organisation.</p> <p>iii) Drop-in session for people with hearing impairments at St Margaret's Health Centre in Auchterarder, 2nd Thursday of every month, 10am-12pm Noted. JL indicated that the Council would do its best to publicise such services.</p> <p>iv) Consultation on Crieff monuments Noted</p> <p>v) Notification from organisers of T-in-the-Park that 2016 tickets had gone on sale Noted. It was suggested that the Community Council were probably on a list of consultees for such information.</p> <p>vi) Notification of attendance at meeting by Community Police Officer JL noted that despite the correspondence an officer was not attending. KH informed that often officers were called away on other business at short notice.</p> <p>JL noted that the names and contact details of Community Councillors needed to be forwarded to Perth & Kinross Council.</p>	
b)	<p>Questions arising generally following October's Council meeting relating to planning matters</p> <p>JL noted that since the discussion of the planning application relating to the rail freight facility last month she had been approached by a number of Blackford residents with questions about the planning process, and asked Ag and TG if they would be prepared to provide answers to those at the meeting if possible. AG and TG noted that they could not provide opinions on</p>	

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	<p>applications, but would answer factual questions about the planning process if they could.</p> <p>JL asked ‘Is it possible to comment on an application without either objecting or supporting it?’ TG – yes, it was possible just to comment. KH noted that the P&K Council planning portal displayed differently depending on the device used to access it (e.g. PC, tablet, smartphone) and some options may not be visible on some devices.</p> <p>JL: ‘How long would it be before applications were determined?’ TG/AG – not possible to say. This depended on the circumstances of individual applications, whether consultees, had asked for additional information, etc. E.g. like SEPA in rail freight case, who could ask P&K to get additional information. KH noted in relation to the rail freight facility application that SEPA had asked for clarification on several points, e.g. on whether the site was brownfield or mixed brownfield/greenfield.</p> <p>JL ‘At the School Parents’ Group meeting after the Council meeting in October Highland Spring indicated that they might be willing to look at a smaller crane. Is that something that the Planning Committee could require as a condition of any approval?’ TG – is aware that that is being looked at – a shorter crane with different potential for stacking containers.</p> <p>JL ‘The need to transfer loaded containers from the HS site to the freight facility was noted at the meeting. Is it possible to specify the use of particular vehicles for this, e.g. electric vehicles?’ TG said that this was something that an applicant could be asked to consider. KH noted that there might have been confusion over what had been meant by use of the term ‘tractor unit’. A member of the public added that the vehicles might be ‘tug’ vehicles as used in airports, etc. TG indicated that any request would be in terms of asking an applicant to consider ways to ‘mitigate’ effects of development, e.g. noise. KH noted that the vehicle used would need to be powerful enough to move the loaded containers quickly and safely across the proposed intersection with Moray Street.</p> <p>JL indicated that she had been asked by a Blackford resident about the possibility of moving the</p>	

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	<p>junction from the A9 into Blackford, e.g. to the other end of the village. Was this possible? AG noted that there had been previous requests to consider this, or having a second entrance to the village at the far end, but that this was not possible due to the engineering challenges involved. KH wondered whether, given that Blackford Farms owned the land adjacent to the A9 extending from the current site all the way up to the Distillery, it would be possible to create an access road to HS around the back.</p> <p>JL 'Is the latest application from HS for an extension to its bottling site lined to the success of the rail freight application?'</p> <p>AG – No. Ag also noted that the planned extension was smaller than one for which HS had previously had planning permission.</p> <p>JL noted what she felt was an obligation on the Community Council to keep on top of letting Blackford residents know of new developments. KH noted that when seeking community feedback re O2 mobile telephone reception the Council had distributed questionnaires and only had 135 responses from an estimated 600 service users. JL said that she would like to see the Council making information available.</p> <p>JL asked about the scope and mechanisms for planning applicants to offer planning gain, e.g. a play park, as seemed to happen with some developments. AG noted that this might be the case for major developments, but the rail freight development had not been classed as a major development: it had been categorised as a 'transport project' and did not meet the criteria for being considered a major development of this type. AG noted that HS already gave a lot to the local community, citing support for a number of local organisations.</p> <p>TG noted that questions around planning gain were controlled by Perth and Kinross Council policies and that applicants in some cases were asked to contribute to costs where additional infrastructure, e.g. new roundabouts, were seen as necessary.</p> <p>JL: 'Is there a mechanism for householders badly affected by a proposed development to be compensated in some way?'</p>	

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	<p>TG spoke about a development at Cherrybank where a condition was imposed regarding the fitting of some houses badly affected by traffic noise with triple glazing. Such things would only be applicable to situations where there was a proven effect of the development that could not be mitigated in any other way. TG noted his understanding that HS had been in discussion about ways of mitigating different aspects of the proposed rail freight development, e.g. noise, lighting, etc. TG suggested that it was worth remembering that the proposal was for latest computerised industrial equipment, not older and noisier lifting gear.</p> <p>JL: 'It was important to recognise that Blackford has always been an 'industrial village' with businesses such as distilleries, breweries and latterly bottled water providers.</p> <p>TG: All comments on planning applications are carefully scrutinised. Any relevant planning issues identified in comments were considered by the Planning Officers and Planning Committee. Not everything constituted a relevant planning issue. If there were potentially undesirable effects of a proposed development which could be mitigated, then conditions can be made requiring these to be mitigated. If it was not possible to mitigate undesirable effects, then the Officers/Committee would consider recommending that the application was refused.</p> <p>c) The bridge on the path to Carsebreck</p> <p>JL noted that this was a longstanding issue which had been discussed at the end of October's meeting. The Council had now received an email from the contractor asking that for confirmation of arrangements for the ongoing maintenance of the proposed bridge by the end of the month, failing which the funds to build the bridge would be put to other uses.</p> <p>KH gave the background history to this item.</p> <p>A member of the public indicated that the previous bridge had been maintained by Perth and Kinross Council and that the path was a recognised right of way.</p> <p>JL noted that Perth and Kinross Council had indicated that they did not wish to take responsibility for the maintenance of a new bridge (although this was believed to be a statutory duty). AG noted that previous attempts to persuade them to do so had not been successful.</p> <p>KH indicated that: she had been in contact with ScotWays, who could not understand why there</p>	

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d)	<p>were issues; in offering to construct the bridge the developers were going further than asked in the planning consent; EDF were now about to withdraw funding for the bridge; no-one appeared to be giving the Council an information on how to fix the issues relating to maintenance.</p> <p>JL: 'If building the bridge is part of the current planning consent and the landowners were content to do so, could the developers go ahead and build the bridge without the maintenance issue having been settled?' 'Was there any way that P&K Councillors could take this forward for the Council?'</p> <p>TG agreed to take this forward, indicated that he wanted to understand the basis for EDF's recent suggestion that funding would be lost at the end of this month. KH asked JL to forward the ScotWays advice to TG.</p> <p>Loss of Post Office services in Blackford</p> <p>JL noted that this matter had arisen before the last meeting in October but had developed further since then. IMcL had been dealing with this.</p> <p>IMcL explained: NG had responded to a previous letter on this issue, raised a complaint about lack of services and asked for the Post Office to provide a van service in the short term. IMcL had personally registered a complaint about lack of counter services in Blackford and difficulties this caused, but had no response. Other Councillors had been emailed and contact information for those wishing to complain had been made available in shop next to scratchcards. IMcL had also given out information at a Rural Network meeting two weeks ago. No responses from Post Office, so had contacted TG.</p> <p>TG: Post Office were aware that they most and they are committed to providing a service in Blackford, but their mobile unit is currently fully scheduled to provide services elsewhere. TG noted reading that the new shop owner is prepared to offer counter services.</p> <p>JL: Noted that she had prepared a press release on behalf of the Community Council, having spoken to the new owner who had confirmed that he wanted to provide services, but on his own account rather than via the outreach service based in Doune used by previous owners and on a limited hours basis. The press release had been picked up by the Strathearn Herald and, this week, by the Perth Advertiser.</p> <p>Member of the public: he had phoned the complaint number, had a 10-minute conversation with</p>	<p>JL to forward correspondence from ScotWays to TG</p> <p>TG to investigate situation re planning consent, speak to P&K Officers, report back.</p>

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	<p>person who had told him that she would report his complaint but that he would not be contacted in respect of it. However, he thereafter got a standard 'PR' response from the Post Office having written to the freepost address provided in the contact details.</p> <p>JL: another issue seems to be that this might be part of a formal Post Office consultation on counter services, although this is not made clear in any correspondence. CAB website has a page which explains the consultation process. Appears to be a requirement that if the new owner did provide counter services it would need to be as a 'PO Local' and be provided for all of the same hours that the shop was open. The new owner does not want to do this.</p> <p>JL noted that Muthill Post Office is run on this basis. 'PO Local' has to operate for the same opening hours as the premises in which it is based. This condition does not apply to counter services provided by a Postmaster based elsewhere as an outreach service. There seems to be no model for services available which suits the current circumstances in Blackford. JL is not sure how to get wider coverage for this issue or whether Council should play further part. KH and IMcL both noted difficulties caused to Blackford residents from lack of services and urged further action.</p> <p>TG: recommended that JL contact Roseanna Cunningham.</p> <p>JL Noted that Council can draw matter to the attention of different elected members. MP has some responsibility in this area, as do MSPs, P&K Councillors and others. JL copied in elected members when emailing the press release – is willing to write to MP/MSP if Councillors want this.</p> <p>TG advised that any action should be taken swiftly.</p> <p>e) Play Park</p> <p>JL reported that Andrew Sinclair had intimated to JL that the group formed to redevelop the Play park had finished their planned consultations and would start fundraising activities shortly. It was noted that there would be a meeting at the Primary School on Thursday 26 November at 7.30pm</p> <p>f) Poor state of the area for lorry parking beyond the level crossing near the salting depot</p> <p>KH noted a number of indications that this area was in a poor state: poles were being blocked by</p>	<p>JL to write directly to elected members to draw the situation to their attention.</p> <p>KH to forward copy of</p>

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	<p>lorries; bins had not been returned to correct positions; there was a lack of appropriate road markings.</p> <p>Gordon Banks (MP until April 2015) had dealt with this in the past: KH had a letter indicating that developments had been planned, but nothing had since happened.</p> <p>AG noted that Perth and Kinross Council had no money for anything.</p> <p>JL asked KH to forward a copy of the letter from Gordon Banks so that this matter could be considered further by the Council.</p>	<p>correspondence from Gordon Banks to JL</p>
g)	<p>Inconsistency in times of collections on mailboxes in Blackford</p>	
h)	<p>IMcL noted that she had contacted Grant Sinclair who had confirmed that a replacement plate had been ordered to provide consistent information, but there was not date for the arrival of this.</p> <p>Community Rail Partnership</p>	
i)	<p>NG had indicated at October's Council meeting that he was on the Steering Group for the new Partnership, that all Community Councils in Strathallan area were being invited to provide representatives with a view to becoming members of the CRP, and that despite standing down from the Council he would be willing to represent Blackford on the CRP.</p> <p>JL indicated that this was in part why she had earlier raised the issue of whether those representing the Council on different bodies needed to be Community Councillors.</p> <p>NG noted that the CRP would be announced in December with meetings on 19 Jan and 9 Feb 2016. TACTRANS would like representation from all CCs in the area. Other Councils were being represented by individuals who were not current Community Councillors.</p> <p>JL indicated that the Council were happy for NG to represent them at the CRP and for NG to report back to the Council as and when Partnership meetings occurred.</p> <p>Strathearn Forum</p>	<p>NG to represent Council at CRP.</p> <p>NG to provide reports of CRP meetings to Council</p>
	<p>NG explained the origins of the Forum and indicated that representatives at this Forum needed to be Councillors, NG could no longer represent Blackford, and the Council would have to find someone to replace him.</p>	<p>Council to seek volunteer to be alternative representative on Forum</p>

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<p>j)</p> <p>k)</p> <p>l)</p>	<p>Perth and Kinross Council interactive 'budget cuts' website tool</p> <p>AG noted that in December Perth and Kinross would be launching an interactive 'budget cuts' tool which allowed members of the public to understand the complexities of saving money by illustrating the effects on different service areas when decisions were taken to cut money from specific services. The tool was for illustrative purposes only and would not influence actual decisions about cost savings.</p> <p>Flooding on road out of Blackford near the salting depot</p> <p>BI noted recent flooding on the road out of Blackford near the salting depot and asked if anything was being done to combat this in future. AG said that she would take this up, and that the drainage channels needed clearing</p> <p>New Community Council noticeboard</p> <p>NG noted that this was currently in his possession. It was of aluminium construction with shatterproof glass and was lockable. It would be exclusively for the display of Community Council communications.</p> <p>KH noted that the previous noticeboard had been damaged when being taken down by Perth and Kinross Council, that this would be re-erected for use by community groups, and that it was necessary for both boards to be fixed in place at the same time to ensure that there was room for both. AG indicated that she would contact the relevant project officer to advise them.</p>	<p>AG to take up this issue with relevant authorities.</p> <p>AG to speak to Perth and Kinross project officer re erection of noticeboards.</p>
	<p>JL thanked attendees and closed the meeting (21.15 approx.), noting that there was a Christmas break in December and the next meeting would therefore be Tuesday 26th January 2015, starting 7.30pm.</p>	