

**Blackford Community Council Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 23rd February 2016 in the Church
Session Room, Blackford.**

Present:

Janet Law	Chair
Katharine Huggett	Vice Chair
Irene McLaughlan	Treasurer
Bett Illand	Community Councillor
Andrew Sinclair	Community Councillor
Alison Dawson	Volunteer Minute Secretary
Ann Gaunt	Perth and Kinross Councillor
Murray Lyle	Perth and Kinross Councillor
Tom Gray	Perth and Kinross Councillor
Neil Gaunt	Representing Council on Strathearn Community Rail Partnership
Richard Beith	Representing COBRA
Members of the public - 21	

1. Apologies: None

2. Highland Spring presentation and Community Council Response to Application for 'Alteration to Railyard, etc.' 15/01637/FLL (Deadline extended for comments from Community Council from this meeting).

JL gave meeting an overview of how this item would proceed and indicated that questions from the floor would be identified as coming from 'Member of the public' rather than named individuals. JL then introduced the representatives from Highland Spring.

JL noted that this meeting was to shape the response that Blackford Community Council should make to Perth and Kinross Council ('PKC') in relation to the planning application. JL indicated that before the presentation from Highland Spring, Community Councillors would like to make two points:

- a) PKC could have chosen to require a formal pre-application consultation process and the Community Council thinks that this might have been wise for a variety of reasons, including allowing more time for the discussion process.
- b) The formal notification letter from PKC to the Community Council was sent to the wrong person. As a result it was not possible for the Community Council to put forward a considered view in the time available, which is for various reasons quite constrained. PKC agreed to extend the time available for the Council to make comment, and JL recorded thanks to Cllr Gray and PKC Planning Department for this.

JL provided the meeting with a brief background summary, indicated that the Council could only comment in relation to appropriate legal grounds for suggesting refusal or imposition of conditions in accepting the application. The Community Council and, via the meeting, members of the public did have power to make suggestions for conditions and the Council had a duty to give voice to the concerns of residents who for whatever reason had not been able to comment individually.

The representatives from Highland Spring then gave a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the revisions made since the initial application.

Following the presentation from Highland Spring, JL outlined the views that Community Councillors had discussed in advance of the meeting and which would be included in their comment on the proposal.

These are detailed in a separate document appended.

Members of the public were then invited to make comment and/or ask questions of the Highland Spring representatives. Comments or questions raised related to:

- Vehicle emissions
- Third party use of the proposed facility
- The opportunity presented by the proposal to take freight off of roads
- Issues around potential flooding on the site (with reference to proposed developments in Greenloaning)
- Proposed hours of operation
- The heights of the crane and of the containers to be used on site
- Routing of the current footpath and rail crossing
- Noise levels generated through container movements

The following points were noted by Councillors during the discussion:

- Network Rail had just contacted the Community Council with an invitation to discuss their ambitions to replace the pedestrian level crossing at Panholes with a bridge across the railway. This is part of Network Rail's own programme of safety improvements and timing of this invitation is coincidental and not related to the planning application.
- Community Councillors had received information which suggested that PKC Environmental Health officers had concerns about the noise assessments provided thus far and would be maintaining a keen interest in this area.

JL thanked Highland Spring for their input and noted that any further comments from members of the public could be given to the Chair at the end of the meeting and would be considered in relation to the Community Council's formal comment on the application to PKC.

3. Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 26th January 2016

JL noted that draft minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to Council members and made available on the Council website. A number of minor errors had been identified and these were indicated to AD. Corrected minutes were proposed by KH and seconded by IM.

Actions: AD to complete amendments and forward final minutes as requested.

4. Matters arising

a) Signed copies of the constitution for return to Perth and Kinross Council

It was noted that Councillors have now received printed copies of the constitution from PKC.

b) Council communications, website, and noticeboards

JL was very impressed by the website and by the usage statistics that were generated in relation to it,

and thanked Andrew Sinclair for these.

JL also noted that the new Community Council noticeboard is now in place.

JL noted that she was still working on development of Council communications strategies, but that the Community Council may not have capacity at this point to consider additional methods of information exchange with members of the public.

c) Regarding Green Knowes windfarm extension planning application and Community benefit

JL had been in contact with Scottish Power Renewables in relation to this and had received an email response from Vicki Turkington, Senior Project Manager. Vicki had indicated that the current focus was on securing consent for the application and that consideration of the community benefit package and administration of this would follow once consent had been obtained.

d) Regarding Post Office services in Blackford

JL had been in contact with both Roseanna Cunningham and Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh's offices. They had now been briefed regarding this matter, and it was hoped that Tasmina would have an opportunity to lodge a Parliamentary Question on the subject of provision of rural postal services given that provision in Blackford was now falling short of government targets for proximity of postal services.

IM had been in contact with Grant Sinclair of Royal Mail regarding uplifts of post. He confirmed that there were still two uplifts per day at the shop location and one per day at the Bank House (top of village).

IM had also discussed the issue of incorrect information plate on the Village Store postbox with Grant Sinclair, and had been told that a replacement plate had been ordered and delivered for fitting prior to the New Year. This had not happened, which suggested that the postbox might not be a standard size. IM had confirmed that it was a 'King George' postbox. A new information plate has been ordered.

e) Regarding Kirkton Farm development and footpath signs

Councillors had confirmed that the PKC Access Officer was aware of the issues. The Access Officer is in the process of arranging for new and improved signage and footpath markers.

f) Regarding T in the Park

KH and JL had attended a meeting held by the event organisers. It appeared that the organisers had done a considerable volume of work following the evaluation of the 2015 event. They would shortly be applying for an event licence for the 2016 event.

5. Correspondence

a) Invitation to consult with Network Rail over proposed replacement of Panholes pedestrian crossing with bridge over the railway

Network Rail had very recently contacted the Community Council with an invitation to discuss Network Rail's ambitions to replace the current pedestrian level crossing at Panholes with a bridge across the railway. The Community Council had invited Network Rail to make a presentation on this issue at the next Community Council meeting on Tuesday 29th March 2016. This will hopefully provide information on where Network Rail might be proposing to site the replacement bridge. Highland Spring have suggested that it would not be possible to accommodate a replacement bridge at the site of the current pedestrian level crossing in their rail freight facility proposal.

6. Office bearers' reports

a) Chair's report

JL noted that all matters for inclusion in the Chair's report had already been covered in 'Matters arising' and 'Correspondence' sections

b) Treasurer's report

The account balances are as follows:

Treasurers account: £834.44, C.I.R. (savings account) £1188.18

The change in the Treasurer's account balance was accounted for by a £50 cheque written to the Kirk to cover use of the Session House for meetings.

IM noted that Community Councillors will be meeting with representatives of Foundation Scotland to review the terms of the Community Fund.

c) Planning

The Railyard application No additional items were noted.

d) IT report

AS indicated nothing to report.

e) Community Rail Partnership

NG updated on progress:

- The Community Rail Partnership had held its first meeting last night (22nd February 2016).
- Ten members had been formally appointed out of an anticipated full membership of fifteen, including representatives of Highland Spring and the Gleneagles Hotel (as local businesses having an interest in Community Rail matters).
- A Chair was elected, and NG has volunteered to be Treasurer.
- A constitution had been discussed but not adopted as yet.
- The Partnership's first task will be to discuss Network Rail proposals for the next 20 years (NG noted that this included mention of a possible station at Blackford)

f) Perth and Kinross Councillors' reports

AG noted that there is a forthcoming by-election for Bridge of Earn, and further elections coming up in May of this year.

7. AOCB

• Moray Institute

KH noted that the Moray Institute was still closed for repairs. Water ingress over the New Year had caused considerable damage and the lathe and plaster has had to be stripped from the stage wall. It was estimated that the Institute would be available again by May, in time to host a Polling Station in the elections.

Proposals to change the course of the Allan Water between Blackford and Greenloaning

A member of the public reported that there had been a meeting with local landowners, at which presentations were made, by qualified experts, about the possibility of allowing the Allan Water between Blackford and Greenloaning to flood a large area of land as a way of protecting potential developments downstream. This idea had not been at all well received by the representatives of local

landowners attending.

Date of next meeting

The next Community Council meeting will be on Tuesday 29th March 2016 in the Kirk Session House. The agenda for the next meeting will include:

- A presentation by Network Rail in connection with their aspiration to replace the Panholes pedestrian level crossing with a footbridge over the rail tracks, and
- Further information on the potential flooding related issues associated with proposed developments downstream as raised by a member of the public at the current meeting.