|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Present |  |
| Janet Law | Chair |
| Katharine Huggett | Vice-Chair |
| Irene McLaughlan | Treasurer |
| Iain Paton | Community Councillor |
| Alison Dawson | Community Councillor |
| Bob Watkinson | Community Councillor |
| Chick Haggart | PKC |
| Ron Mellis | Transport Scotland |
| 2 Representatives | Transport Scotland |
| 2 Members of the Public |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Subject** | **Action by** |
| 1. | The Chair welcomed those in attendance.  Apologies:- Councillor Murray Lyle, Councillor Tom Gray. Bett Illand. |  |
| 2. | Minutes of the meeting of 26th June 2018 were read and approved.  Proposed KH, seconded AD. |  |
| 3. | **Matters arising from previous meeting:-**  **Wi Fi for Moray Institute.** Live Active and PKC’s property department have been consulted by JL. JL will find out how other venues manage insurance and how usage could be monitored.  **Curtains and Hearing Loop**. JL reported that Fiddle Group have plans to have acoustic survey conducted  **Strathearn and Strathallan Action Partnership Funding Available for Community Councils**. No applications have been notified to Community Council to date.  **Highland Spring’s new Lorry Park.** This has been completed and is in operation.  JL thanked KH for the very effective engagement with HS, leading to a new email address for residents to report problems with lorries. Details are now available on website. http://www.blackfordcommunitycouncil.org.uk/highland-spring-news/  JL also thanked BW for updating website regularly allowing information to be made available.  **Road at Salt Depot.** New signs have been put in place. Unfortunately Brian Cargill was not available to attend this meeting, but agreed to comment on a couple of suggestion for improving this stretch of road, and responded to a couple of issues raised.  ***Alternative HGV parking:*** PKC do not have any lorry parking sites or proposals to have any.JL asked if anyone was aware whether the new HGV park at HS was having an effect in reducing the numbers of HGVs parked at the Salt Depot. A reduction in lorries parking here has only occurred after KH emailed HS about this issue.  ***Yellow lines beyond the parking area:*** Not something PKC would recommend for a rural road like this. KH has video footage of a lorry and trailer turning after the salting depot, blocking the exit to the A9 for 10 minutes.  **Mark Ruskell MSP** visited Blackford to be briefed on issues relating to HGV noise. Mark may be able to provide noise monitoring equipment and anyone who would like to know more should contact him at the Scottish Parliament. JL and IP also asked MR to support Blackford’s case for an early consultation on the upgrade of the A9 in the area, now we know that Transport Scotland will not consider the two way slip road in advance of this. JL and IP took MR to see the entrance to HS, Abercairney Place and Abercairney Close to understand how near the rail yard will be to people’s homes.  **Commemorating the end of WW1.** JL to contact the local minister, Mairi Perkins. | **JL & BW**    **JL & IM**    **JL** |
| 4. | Chair’s Report.  JL met Luke Graham MP at his street surgery and asked him to consider pressing for an early consultation on the upgrade of the A9 in the area as we are now aware that Transport Scotland want to consider the new slip road in this context. LG intends to approach HM Treasury to make the case for funding for productivity to be used to improve the access to Highland Spring for HGVs. His case is that Blackford is unusual in having two large internationally trading businesses in a relatively small village. JL circulated background info which she had sent to LG by email. (see appendix).  JL and IP have discussed the need for the A9 to be upgraded and IP has offered to help to make the case.  IP will collate all information available. JL asked if IP will write to other list MSPs. KH will try and find the government website with accident statistics. Information is available from the Cycle Paths Feasibility study.  Police Scotland may have accident statistics.  **Correspondence.**  ***(Previously circulated to Community Councillors on email)***  **Invitation to Transforming Tayside Engagement Event Perth 15th September:** (BW and IP can’t go any other volunteers, if not JL will try to find a rep or attend in person) IM offered to go. Email any points to be raised to IM prior to the meeting.  **Emails from PKC with details of Community Learning Exchange, Planning Advice Service and Local Energy Projects**  **Auchterarder and District Community Council:** re the need to establish a Food Bank for Auchterarder & District. Claire Dodds, who runs the Village Shop in Aberuthven has agreed to lead in looking at the feasibility of establishing a food bank. Malcolm Scobie, who represents Aberuthven on ADCC is also involved. For further info, contact [csdodds74@gmail.com](mailto:csdodds74@gmail.com)  JL proposed to contact on behalf of BCC seeking further info.  **Delivering Transparency in Land Ownership in Scotland Consultation on Draft Regulations** (open until 8 November 2018)  **Rural Forum and Rail Action Newsletters,** May be requested from JL.  **Planning and Placemaking Workshop Perth Sat 27th Oct.** JL asked if any CC wished to go. CC’s are otherwise engaged that weekend.  **Correspondence from office of Roseanna Cunningham MSP.** Roseanna had written to Cllr Murray Lyle on the 11th July to ask whether funding for the slip road might be provided from the maintenance fund set aside by the Conservative group in their budget. She has now received a response from Cllr Lyle advising that the priorities of Transport Scotland and Network Rail's concerns about such a project would need to be addressed before progress could be made. No indication was given regarding the availability of funding through PKC for the slip road. Roseanna had also written to Humza Yousaf MSP, in his previous role as Transport Minister, to raise the concerns of the Blackford residents further. She has now followed this up and will hopefully receive a response from Michael Matheson MSP, as the new Cabinet Secretary for Transport, shortly. | **IP**  **KH**  **IM**  **JL** |
| 5. | **Treasurer’s Report.**  A full report will be given next month.  Applications to the Blackford Community Fund close on Thursday, 30th August. |  |
| 6. | **P&K Councillors’ Reports.**  No report. |  |
| 7. | **Strathearn Community Rail Partnership.**  The use of Gleneagles Railway Station buildings is ongoing. There is the possibility of a website being created. |  |
| 8. | **Planning Report.**  JL thanked KH for all her work on the recent responses on the Planning Applications for Alterations to the Rail Yard and for the Footbridge. Also to AD for her research, and for pointing out problems with neighbour notifications which were rectified by PKC, and to all those who commented to BCC.  KH advised there were 3 planning applications in at the same time. A retrospective one for cameras and flood prevention work for their buildings, one for the railyard and one for the footbridge. The railyard and footbridge responses were dovetailed and cross-referenced. The CC has been assured all containers planned for the railyard will be for HS use only. The point was raised that if using government funding it may mean it cannot be limited to HS only. The CC tried hard to get a multi-use footbridge.  KH will continue to monitor all applications.  KH requires comments relevant to the community re the potential traffic management if not already given.  KH may ask for JL or NG to attend future meetings regarding planning matters with HS along with her. | **KH** |
| 9. | **Post Office Working Group.**  There has been no formal meeting but RB is keeping a watching brief. |  |
| 10. | **Police Report.**  No report. |  |
| 11. | **Opportunity for Blackford to twin with Trebsen in Germany.**  JL had been contacted by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) to say that the town of Trebsen in Germany is looking for a community to twin with in Scotland.  Trebsen has an annual Highland Games and is looking for opportunities for cultural and sporting exchanges. COSLA has asked if Blackford is interested. JL has emailed all contacts of the Community Council and has received an enthusiastic response from the Fiddle Group. Andrew Sinclair, Chair of the Parent Council, has put the matter on the Agenda for their next meeting.  JL proposed setting up a sub-committee, on the same basis as the previous Cycle Paths Study Group, which could invite members from the community to help take the matter forward and asked IM to Chair the first meeting. It is hoped that Blackford residents will be willing to beinvolved in such a group**.** JL will circulate all contacts again with information. JL has also contacted PKC to ask if there is anything that they can provide in the way of a professional secretariat in the same way as they do for Twinning arrangements for Perth. Trebsen (population 4000) has a Mayor who is supported by an office.  Some questions were raised – is this a formal process and what costs are involved? JL reported that COSLA advised that all Twinning arrangements are different. JL has contacted PKC to see what help may be available from them and also advised that no financial commitments can be entered into on behalf of the CC without being discussed at a meeting.  It was noted that Dull got support from PKC to twin with Boring. | **IM** |
| 12. | **Traffic Arrangements for the Solheim Cup 2019 at Gleneagles and feedback on the recent European Cup.**  JL welcomed 3 representatives of Transport Scotland and 1 from PKC.  Transport Scotland gave a presentation about the proposed traffic plans for the Solheim Cup, which is a smaller event than the Ryder Cup. The traffic plans were in operation during the recent European Championship event. Access to Auchterarder via the Western Road will be maintained but egress will be via Orchil Road or Aberuthven. No additional trains are planned but all trains will stop at Gleneagles Station during the event.  All present had the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers.  JL thanked the Transport Scotland and PKC representatives for attending. |  |
| 13. | **A.O.C.B.**  **Newsletter.** JL proposed that the CC should distribute a newsletter in the autumn to feature information about Twinning and also the article about energy saving which was dropped from the last newsletter. Any other ideas for articles should be submitted to IM by the next meeting.  IM reported on matters discussed at the Auchterarder Network meeting. Namely, the Auchterarder Bus town service (hoping to start in October), McRosty Park, Crieff, is to have new play equipment, the area round the Co-op is being reviewed and there will be a McMillan Coffee Morning at Ruthven Towers on 21/09/18.  The track at the Danny Burn has been repaired although the speed of some Scottish Water vehicles using it is concerning.  KH has reported road defects in the village, especially at the entrance to the village, entering from the north or the Bardrill Road. |  |
| 14. | **Date of next meeting.**  Tuesday, 25th September 2018.  Venue – Moray Institute, Lower Hall, at 7.30pm. |  |

**Appendix**

Dear Luke,

I was pleased to be able to meet you during your recent visit to Blackford. Thank you for taking the time to listen to Blackford Community Council's case for the upgrade of the junction on the A9 to be a priority.

Since becoming Chair in 2015, I have been in correspondence with Transport Scotland and Roseanna Cunningham MSP on behalf of the Community Council to press for the junction on the A9 to be upgraded.  In 2016 we wrote

**"A priority for the village would be to have a route which allows access to Highland Spring for HGVs avoiding Moray Street which is a residential street.**

**..............and for all options to be considered including:**

* **a slip road off the A9 to the west of the railway adjacent to the HS factory,**
* **making the existing slip road onto the A9 two way allowing HGVs to enter and leave the village at the east end**
* **a new grade separated junction at the east end of the village replacing the junction to the west**
* **a road bridge over the railway replacing the existing level crossing.**
* **and any other options which Transport Scotland could suggest to benefit the village**

**At the minimum, the Community Council would want to be reassured that all these options are given serious consideration in the process of the planned update of the STPR, and that we have not missed the opportunity to press the case for road safety issues in the village."**

I also had the opportunity to raise this matter with senior officials at Perth and Kinross Council. Until recently it had been understood that the stretch of the A9 from Broxden to Dunblane would be the next major road to be upgraded under existing priorities. Transport Scotland is now conducting a refresh of the Strategic Transport Priorities Review (STPR2).

The Community Council is concerned that STPR may set back progress with the Blackford junction which we believe should be the priority, and we have asked Roseanna to take up our case with Michael Matheson MSP the new Cabinet Secretary for Transport. We understand that she has written and is expecting a response soon.

Kind regards,

Janet

**Janet Law, Chair, Blackford Community Council**

**07720 272204**