**Blackford Community Council**

**Minutes of Twinning Meeting 27th Sep 2018 3pm, Moray Institute**

Present:

Andrew Sinclair (Blackford Primary School Parent Council), Mairi Perkins (Blackford Parish Church), Morwen Mands (Highland Spring), Moira Hanslip (Blackford SWI), Sabine Hallyburton (Tullibardine) Margaret McMillan (Blackford Primary School) Maggie McLeman (Highland Spring Group) Janet Law (Chair,Blackford Community Council) Irene McLaughlan (Treasurer, Blackford Community Council)

Apologies:

George Bunyan, Wendy Bunyan, Bob Watkinson (Community Councillor), Neil Gaunt, Ann Gaunt, Murray Lyle (Perth and Kinross Councillor), Cath Rollo, Darren Rollo (Secretary Highland Games Committee), Iain Paton (Community Councillor)

**1.Welcome**

Janet Law (JL), Chair of Blackford Community Council welcomed Blackford residents and representatives of local organisations and businesses to the meeting.

JL reported that the August meeting of the Community Council agreed to take forward the opportunity for Blackford to Twin with the Community of Trebsen in Germany, by forming a group which could involve anyone in the community who may be interested. This followed an approach made to the Community Council, on behalf of Trebsen, by The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA ). Trebsen are interested in cultural and sporting links with a community in Scotland which has a Highland Games. Trebsen has an annual Highland Games.

JL reported that emailed information to all the contacts of the Commmunity Council. When Community Council met at the end of August, there had been a positive response from the Games Committee and the Fiddle Group, as well as a number of residents. Since then, more positive responses have been received.

JL explained that the Community Council saw the Twinning Group as having a role in exchanging information amongst organisations and individuals interested in links with Trebsen. As Chair of the CC, JL undertook to keep all the wider contacts of the Community Council informed.

It had been agreed at the Community Council meeting that Irene McLaughlan (IM) would Chair the Twinning Committee so JL handed over the Chair to her for subsequent items.

**2.Introductions**

 IM presented a short history of Twinning from the [Council of European Municipalities and Regions](http://www.ccre.org/en) (http://www.twinning.org/en/page/a-quick-overview#.W6xv7mhKjIW)

IM then invited those present to introduce themselves

**3.Membership of Committee**

IM invited JL to explain the status of the Twinning Committee. JL explained that it will be a sub-committee of the CC. This means that all meetings and minutes will be public. Under the terms of the standard Constitution which all Community Councils in Scotland operate, the CC can appoint people to a sub committee.

JL proposed that everyone in attendance should be put forward to the next meeting of the Community Council as members of the Twinning Committee, along with Community Councillors Iain Paton and Bob Watkinson. JL agreed to take minutes for the present and to look for someone to pass this on to for the future.

**4. Correspondence**

JL circulated a copy of her letter to the Mayor of Trebsen (for text in English see appendix)

**5.Ideas for Twinning Links with Trebsen**

Margaret McMillan (MMcM) agreed she would contact Community School of Auchterarder (CSoA) German Department

Mhairi Perkins (MP) said that the Church is keen to develop links with Churches in Trebsen of all demoninations

JL offered to ask the office of the Mayor of Trebsen for contact details for schools and churches in Trebsen

JL reported Councillor Crawford Reid has offered contacts who can translate letters to and from German

JL plans to extend an invitation to the Mayor of Trebsen for up to 5 people from Trebsen to stay at her self-catering holiday house over the weekend of the Blackford Games 2019.

JL has also asked the Games Committee if they would like to arrange an official welcome for guests from Trebsen at the same time and has contacted other potential providers of accommodation.

Sabine Hallyburton (SH) offered a tour of Tullibardine Distillery for visitors from Trebsen to the Blackford Games

Maggie McLeman (MM) offered tour of Highland Spring

MMcM suggested visits to Blackford Primary School and CSOA

Moira Hanslip (MH) will follow up on potential contacts with SWI sister organisations

Morwen Mands (MoM) suggested contacting Gleneagles Hotel. JL agreed to contact Auchterarder Community Council first as the Hotel is in their area.

JL reported that the Fiddle Group have expressed an interest in Twinning links with Trebsen, as have a number of residents.

JL has contacted The Bowling Club and will follow up on this. JL and IM plan to contact other Blackford businesses, organisations and residents.

MH asked if the Community Council could circulate information to all residents. IM reported that there would be an item in the planned Newsletter to be produced in the next few weeks

MH suggested that JL ask the Office of the Mayor of Trebsen about what groups and festivals in Trebsen may offer opportunities for Twinning links.

MH suggested Blackford is Brighter might be interested

JL suggested that everyone should try to speak to people and organisations they know to see if there any other ideas to take Twinning forward.

**6.AOCB**

None

**7.Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting would need to wait for a response from Trebsen.

JL reported 2 requests for evening meetings. However as so many of those attending were there as part of their work, it was agreed that at present meetings would be held at 4pm on Thursdays with at least 10 days notice.

JL agreed to contact Secretary of Games Committee to explain the timing of meetings, and to try to ensure direct feed back to the Games Committee because of the importance of the Games in the first steps in the Twinning relationship with Trebsen

Possible venues offered for future meetings include Tullibardine Distillery, Highland Spring and Blackford Primary School

APPENDIX

On behalf of Blackford Community Council, I am writing to thank you, and the community of Trebsen, for your interest in Twinning with a community in Scotland. At our meeting at the end of August, the Community Council decided we would like to respond to this opportunity. We are contacting organisations and businesses in the village and have already had a number of positive responses to the idea of forming a group to lead on Twinning with Trebsen.

We hope that Blackford Primary School’s Parent Council will be involved, as we would like to encourage opportunities for children and young people from both Blackford and Trebsen.

Blackford is a village with a history of traditional industries based on the plentiful supply of water from the many small burns which rise in the hills near us. Currently Blackford is home to Tullibardine Distillery and Highland Spring, two major internationally trading businesses. We also have numerous community organisations. The Blackford Fiddle Group who are keen to support the idea of Twinning. At the end of this letter are a number of links to websites which give information about the village.

Blackford has a traditional Highland Games, and we were intrigued to hear that Trebsen also has this Scottish tradition. We would be very interested to hear more of how this came about.

Best wishes for Trebsen Highland Games 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Law

**Chair**

**Blackford Community Council**

<http://www.blackfordcommunitycouncil.org.uk/>

<http://www.blackfordcommunitycouncil.org.uk/community-groups/>

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17487/Blackford-Primary-School>

<http://www.blackfordhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

<http://www.tullibardine.com/>

<http://www.highlandspringgroup.com/product-family/highland-spring/>

<http://www.blackfordcommunitycouncil.org.uk/blackford-fiddlers/>

<http://www.blackfordhighlandgames.co.uk/>

(The above text was translated into German )