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| Present |  |
| Janet Law | Chair |
| Katharine Huggett | Vice-Chair |
| Irene McLaughlan | Treasurer |
| Bett Illand | Community Councillor |
| Bob Watkinson | Community Councillor |
| Alison Dawson | Community Councillor |
| Iain Paton | Community Councillor |
| 3 Members of the Public |  |

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| **Item** | **Subject** | **Action by** |
| 1. | The Chair welcomed those in attendance.  Apologies:- Councillor Tom Gray. |  |
| 2. | Minutes of the AGM of May 2017 were read and approved. Proposed KH, seconded AD. |  |
| 3. | The Chair’s report was a resume of the year since last year’s AGM (see attached).  The Treasurer’s report was as follows:-  The accounts have been audited and the balances at the year end were:-  Treasurer’s Account - £1311.95.  Business Banking Instant Access Account:- £1.05.  The Treasurer presented a report with the accounts (attached) and proposed their adoption. This was proposed by AD and seconded by BW. |  |
| 4. | Election of Community Council Office Bearers.  The existing office bearers stood down from the Community Council and Ann Gaunt took over as chair for the purpose of election of office bearers for the forthcoming year. They are as follows:-  Chair Janet Law Proposed Bob Watkinson  Seconded Iain Paton  Vice-Chair Katharine Huggett Proposed Janet Law  Seconded Irene McLaughlan  Treasurer Irene McLaughlan Proposed Alison Dawson  Seconded Iain Paton  Secretary It was unanimously agreed to continue sharing the job between the Community Councillors, with Bob Watkinson dealing with digital communications, and Irene McLaughlan being Minute Secretary.  Planning & Paths Katharine Huggett Proposed Alison Dawson  Seconded Janet Law  Blackford Community Funds Panel Representative Irene McLaughlan  Proposed Katharine Huggett  Seconded Janet Law  Scottish Community Rail Partnership CC Representative Neil Gaunt  Proposed Katharine Huggett  Seconded Janet Law. |  |

**Blackford Community Council Chair’s Report May 2018**

Following another busy year, I am pleased to be able to report that the Community Council has 3 new Community Councillors as a result of the by-election held last summer. This followed the resignation of Andrew Sinclair, which brought us below the required number of Community Councillors.

Alison Dawson, already a co-opted Community Councillor, Iain Paton and Bob Watkinson all put themselves forward and were elected. Bob Watkinson took over responsibility for the website and is continuing to keep it updated with new information.

Our consultant, Crispin Hayes, completed The Blackford Cycle Paths Feasibility Study for the Community Council and the Report is now on our website. Crispin is still hoping to complete the negotiations in respect of a route across the Gwest site. The new Blackford Paths Group is taking on responsibility for how to take this project forward, and I am sure that all Community Councillors would like to join me in thanking them for taking this on.

As Chair, I would like to thank all the Community Councillors for their help and support. Particularly Irene, who has again volunteered again to take the minutes and produce posters, as well as meticulously fulfilling her role as Treasurer, and Katharine, who has agreed to take responsibility for communications with Highland Spring regarding the outstanding reports they have to submit to Perth and Kinross Council to fulfil the conditions of the planning consent for the Rail Yard. I hope that the regular meetings which have been taking place between Community Councillors and Highland Spring can continue.

I anticipate that the detailed plans for the Rail Yard, along with other potential planning and access issues, will keep the Community Council busy over the summer. We are still waiting for confirmation on whether Network Rail will go ahead and apply for planning permission for a pedestrian bridge to replace the level crossing at Panholes, and potentially also for an extension to the planned siding to create a loop.

However, EDF has informed us, as well as the landowners involved and PKC, that they will not be proceeding with the installation of a replacement bridge over the Allan on the Carsebreck Right of Way They are instead seeking to implement at alternative recreational enhancement to fulfil the requirement under the consent for the Burnfoot Windfarm Extension. This is due to difficulties in getting permission from Network Rail for access across the railway to undertake the work.

With regard to the ongoing difficulties for Blackford residents with increased numbers of lorries going to Highland Spring, Transport Scotland now say that the proposal to make the slip road to the east of the village two way should be considered as part of their Review of Strategic Transport Priorities, which is ongoing. Until this Review was undertaken, the upgrading of all the junctions on the A9 between Broxden and Keir had been expected to proceed soon. Making the case for our junction to be upgraded as a priority is likely to be a major issue for the village in the future.

**Blackford Community Council Treasurer’s Report May 2018**

Due to the way P&K Council allocate the admin grant money, we did not receive any funding as we hold more than £700.

Our income of £94.72 consists of £0.60 from the interest received on the Business Banking Instant Access account and £94.12 received from CW Hayes Associates, being a refund of expenditure the CC spent on behalf of the Cycle Paths Feasibility Study.

Our expenditure was £54.99 for website expenses, £14.00 for our subscription to the Scots Rights of Way Society, £8.19 to PKC for insurance for the noticeboard at the Moray Institute, £57.50 to paint the noticeboard, £125.43 for stationery and printing costs of minutes, newsletters and other paperwork required throughout the year, £2.31 for postage, £4.50 for travel expenses and £3.00 for taking part in the Open Day run by Blackford Study Group. The remaining £15,000.00 held for the Feasibility study was paid out this financial year, along with the £94.12 which was refunded.

With money held in 2 accounts, we started the financial year with £16582.32 and ended it with £1313.00. The final total consists of £1311.95 held in the Treasurer’s Account and £1.05 in the Business Banking Instant Access Account.

With regards to the Blackford Community Funds money, the fund continues to perform well. At 31/03/18 the fund had a balance of £375,275.19. The panel met at the beginning of the month to discuss the latest round of funding applications. Applications for funding were considered and all were successful. £14,121.20 is to be disbursed to the groups. It was decided, after discussion, to allocate double the amount to the Blackford Events Group to ensure the Fireworks display would definitely be able to take place, so £3,000.00 was awarded to that group. I have a copy of the notice detailing the allocation of funding to the groups with me tonight for anyone who wishes to see it. The application process for the next round of funding will close at the end of August 2018 and the panel will meet to allocate the funds in October.

Andrew Sinclair is currently the Chair. There is still a vacancy on the Panel. Anyone interested in filling the vacancy, please speak to Andrew, myself or go to Foundation Scotland’s website.

Thank you for allowing me to be the Community Council Representative on the Panel.

Thank you for listening. Any questions?