**Blackford Community Council**

**Approved Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday 27th August 2019**

**Lower Hall, Moray Institute 7.30pm**

**Present**

Iain Paton (IP) Chair

Katharine Huggett (KH) Vice Chair

Irene McLaughlan (IM) Treasurer

Alison Dawson (AD) Community Councillor

Bob Watkinson (BW) Community Councillor

Councillor Crawford Reid (CR) Perth and Kinross Council

Neil Gaunt (NG) Chair, Strathallan Community Rail P’ship

Margaret McLaren Minutes

Two residents.

**1. Apologies:** Councillor Murray Lyle, Councillor Tom Gray, Richard Beith, Janet Law

**2. Minute of Previous Meeting -** Proposed AD Seconded BW

**3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting of 25th June**

**School Traffic Crossing** KH reported that both lights are now working and expressed concern that the crossing had not been upgraded in line with elsewhere in Perth & Kinross.

**Solheim Cup Traffic Restrictions** A report from IM had been previously circulated and tabled. Two leaflets had now been distributed to all residents and examples noted.

**4. Other business**

**Transforming Tayside** IM had attended an event re proposed changes to orthopaedic services. Planned operations only will be carried out at PRI and Stracathro. Everything else including emergency operations will be carried out at Ninewells. They are setting up an Acute Stroke Unit at Ninewells and hope to attract better calibre staff and provide the most modern and up to date service they can. Presently PRI deal with strokes Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Ninewells facility would be 24/7. Concern was expressed re impact on Ambulance Service and that some actually come from Stirling and would take patient to Forth Valley hospital. There will be a Consultation drop in on 9 September, 2.00 to 4.00 pm and feedback can be given online. BW agreed to put something on website about this. **BW**

**Stone of Destiny** It was agreed that Community Council should indicate that we would rather spend money on our local roads than on security for the Stone of Destiny. It was also felt that this would be a security risk. **JL**

**5. Secretary’s Report**

**Correspondence List Tabled**

***Previously circulated to Community Councillors on email:***

**PKC** Solheim Cup Temporary Restrictions on Driving

**PKC** Green Route consultation. See KH Report re Paths

**PKC:** CC Elections timetable

**PKC** Health and Social Care Strategic plan consultation

**Transport Scotland, copy of letter to Councillor Crawford Reid from Derek Williamson, Road Safety Manager: “**upgrading the A9between Dunblane and Perth was a recommendation contained in the Strategic Transport Projects Review, published in 2008, and this work is progressing. I would invite you to note that plans are underway to update the STPR. A key part of this will be work to re-appraise the need for improvements in this corridor in order to confirm that it remains a priority within the wider strategic transport network in Scotland.” and response from Councillor Reid to the above. See P&K Councillors Report.

**PKC** July Funding Alert

**P and K Health and Social Care Partnership -** Survey

**Luke Graham MP:** Notice of Surgeries for August

**PKC:** Parking Restrictions Auchterarder 12th Aug for 3 days

**PKC:** Notice of Community Council Elections

**PKC:** Community Investment Fund. Deadline closing date for applications for the first tranche **5pm on Wednesday 21st August.**Any applications received after this date will be considered as part of the second tranche of funding which will allocate the remaining funding - this closes at **5pm on Thursday 12th December**

**PKC Temporary Traffic Restrictions** Women's Tour of Scotland Various

**PKC Temporary Traffic Restrictions** Solheim Cup

**PKC: Strathearn Community Campus** Digital Maker Space

**PKC: Intense rainfall events and flooding:** useful information at <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/In-Your-Area/Service-Updates/Flash-flooding>.

**NHS Tayside** Shaping Orthopaedic Services Consultation: IM attended see Other Business, Transforming Tayside above.

**Roseanna Cunningham MSP: Update from Transport Scotland re Strategic Transport Project Review 2 (STPR2)**
“Transport Scotland are committed to a collaborative approach as STPR2 moves forward and key engagement will be via Regional Transport Working Groups (RTWG) and stakeholder workshops. These engagement events will have representation from Transport Scotland and Jacobs/Aecom (consultant team).
“RTWG for Tay Cities area has been formed with officers from the councils within the Tay Cities Region consisting of officers from Perth and Kinross, Dundee City, Angus and Fife Council, TACTRAN and SESTRANS. A meeting to establish the role and remits was held on 28th March 2019.

“We are building upon existing relationships with local authorities and regional transport partnerships, to understand transport issues, objectives and priorities for strategic transport in your area.
“Two workshops were held in Tay Cities area on the 21st and 26th June to capture the views of key stakeholder organisations. These workshops gathered evidence on problems and opportunities for transport in the region in order to set objectives for the study and identify potential interventions to address these.
“Future engagement plans include an on-line survey, available to community councils and the wider public who can provide a valuable insight into the problems and opportunities experienced by travellers. Details of how to participate will be available on the Transport Scotland website in due course.”

Follow up letter, from IP to Charles Haggart of PKC seeking further information, tabled.

**Burnfoot East Wind Farm** - CLG Meeting Wednesday 11th September at the Moray Institute**.** KH will attend. **KH**

**Mark Ruskell MSP: Heart 200 Discussion** - Route does not come through Blackford but fairly close. JL is sending a holding reply and is awaiting reply from P&K & other communities who are affected. IP attended a meeting of Community Council Chairs where this subject was discussed. KH commented that increase in use of junctions and on roads already breaking up and not being properly maintained was a serious issue. It was felt CC should ask if Accident Risk has been given priority and gave an example of Cyclists 2 abreast at Gleneagles and insufficient room to pass legally. IP commented there was a potential increase in business to communities though KH felt a lack of parking would prevent this and asked are people really interested? There is also a complete lack of services e.g. toilets. Lay-byes, etc along our section of the route.

**PKC** Perth & Kinross Proposed Local Development Plan - Supplementary Guidance

**PKC** Community Transport Forum - Thursday, 5 September 2019 (REMINDER)

**PKC** Perth and Kinross Council BVAR newsletter

**PKC** Community Council Elections

***Circulated to Blackford Organisations***

**PKC**: Free loan of Mini golf equipment (Solheim Cup)

***Forwarded to KH***

**PKC** Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) has been submitted for a development of bespoke holiday lodges close to the Gleneagles Hotel near Auchterarder. See Planning Report Item 7

**PKC** Proposed Local Development Plan: information re unresolved issues. See Planning Report Item 7

**Scottish Land Commission** Community Engagement Baseline Survey for Communities. See Item 13

***Available from JL:***

**Luke Graham MP:** Poster

**PKC.** Response to letter from Blackford Parent Council re School Crossing Patrol

**PKC** Notice of Annual Canvas of Electors

**PKC** Info re Free TTRO Omnibus Orders for Community Events 2019

**PKC:** 2019 SURF Awards open for applications - Less than a month until deadline

**PKC:** August Funding Alert: Sent to IM

**Local Action Partnership:** **Doors open days**: Wider Perth and Kinross: Saturday 7th – Sunday 8th September, Perth City: Saturday 14th – Sunday 15th September : <http://www.pkht.org.uk/get-involved/doors-open-days/>

**PKC Scottish Government** Community Rights to Buy Event - Perth - 3 September 2019: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-right-to-buy-a-scottish-government-community-land-team-event-tickets-55211405801> : As reported to last meeting, JL has booked a place to attend but may now be unable to do so. Nobody indicated that they could attend.

**6. Treasurer’s Report IM** reported the following balances – Savings Account £1.08, Treasurer’s Account £2451.25 (represented by £881.12 Community Council; £1023.41 LAP Funding; £546.92 Trebsen)

Trebsen air tickets cost £170 and costs re travel & parking are still to be determined. Paint & keys for cupboard still to be paid and cost of tables currently in progress.

IM has received a request from the newly formed Blackford Cycling Group asking if Community Council can hold funds on their behalf if they are successful in obtaining funding from Blackford Community Fund. The maximum would be £250. BW proposed grant request and KH seconded.

IM also stated that the Savings Account had been kept open due to difficulties experienced in opening a Bank Account and also enabled us to hold funds. The balance of monies raised re Trebsen will be transferred there.

**7.** **Planning Report** see correspondence re KH

KH reported that IP & KH had met with Highland Spring. They are hoping to start remainder of Rail Yard in November. Everything so far done by Network Rail. Highland Spring are finally completing work they promised re damage caused by installation of the rail bridge. Lighting in progress, top soil, grass seed, etc. KH was disappointed to see graffiti on bridge.

**Planning Application – Highland Spring** have applied to a dig a hole to hold water to form bund around property most at risk from flooding including nearby cottage.

**Drainage issues for Scottish Water and PKC:** (Report previously circulated) <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/In-Your-Area/Service-Updates/Flash-flooding>.

KH reported that she had reported as many incidents as she could find to flood team as soon as they happened. Flooding at the Cross had been reported but garden waste in field beside Old Bardrill Road is blocking drains put in by Council. Bottom of Stirling Street – escalated to repairs team as valve needs to be renewed. There has been flooding into Games Field for first time. This appears to have been caused by narrowing of water course before the flooding happened. It was noted that 1.5 inches of rain fell that day.  A collapse of banking of Danny Burn has been reported. Blocked gulleys and drains in several locations have also been reported. There was nothing to report around Abercairnie Place as pooling, etc was fairly standard.

**Paths and Access:** KH reported that they were both working with PKC re access at GWest. They are encouraging villagers to use everywhere apart from the core path; and as long as they stay off Fairway, there is nothing GWest can do.

**Planning Application from Distillery** – moving storage tanks to a compound as there will be 6 to replace existing 3.

**Green Route – Seathaugh** – KH was concerned about safety aspect– particularly speed and narrowing of road. She did not think reducing the speed limit would help due to a twisting road and impatient drivers. It was felt that planning consent for glamping site should have included widening of road.

**Moray Street** - Pictures of all road faults in Moray Street will be submitted to PKC tomorrow, including drains, pavements and bridge.

**Stirling Street -** Possible sooting from Distillery is affecting nearby residents in Stirling Street. This is being dealt with by PKC.

AD asked what blue marks on pavements near Rail Yard were – KH replied that the

purpose is unclear and will continue to monitor. **KH**

BW highlighted poor surface repairs that had happened on Bardrill Road. KH is due to go along road and report all challenges and encouraged everyone to file complaints. The most pressing repairs are required just past cottages on straight part. **KH**

**8. P&K Councillors’ Reports.**

**Zebra Crossing –** CR reported that he was disappointed that nothing had happened as he reported to P&KC after last meeting and agreed to chase. KH reported that there have been more incidents on the crossing. There have been concerns about the effect of light on local residents.

CR also reported that he was aware that a Puffin Crossing is to be installed soon. KH felt residents would be concerned about noise. CR assured the meeting that the noise would be turned off after 7.00 pm and give longer for pedestrians to cross.

IM reported that there had been an advertisment early in the summer for a lollipop person for school but it doesn’t appear that anyone applied for the position.

**Network Rail & Easterton Farm -** CR is also in touch with Eddie Jordan as Network Rail are ignoring formal complaints and is chasing all that needs to be fixed by 30 August. CR has also asked him to look at whether road needs to be widened at Easterton Farm

**Solheim Cup –** 2 leaflets have been distributed to all households in village which will have severe traffic restrictions for a whole week due to road closure at Gleneagles.

**Traffic Speed and Noise –** KH had borrowed an infrared speed detector from CR which she returned. Lorries are sticking to 20 mph. In general, residents are speeding and she felt that the corner at Moray Place was particularly dangerous. She also observed cyclists doing over 20 mph on pavements! There have been concerns re night-time noise which would appears to be caused by Blackford Farms tractors which are also speeding.

**Letter from CR to Derek Williamson, Road Safety Manager,Transport Scotland**

A9 – Muir & Milne Shinafoot Interchange would appear to no longer be happening as it does not appear to be feasible. Negotiation with Transport Scotland required. There was a meeting on 27 August with Transport Scotland. CR asked for an update for the whole of A9 from Dunblane to Perth.

KH reported that trees are still causing challenges when turning right at village junction as they still have not been trimmed. CR agreed to chase.

CR also reported that average speed on A9 between Dunblane and Perth has gone up from 70 to 77 mph. Concerns were expressed that villagers can’t get on to A9 just before Loaninghead, travelling south, without having to stop due to sheer volume of traffic. CR will keep investigating and asked that we report all incidents to him.

IP thanked CR for writing an interesting letter.

**9. Strathallan Community Rail Partnership Report**

NG reported that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place next week. They now have a website and BW took details to link with Community Council website. The Partnership have produced walks leaflets for Bridge of Allan and Dunblane, copies of which were distributed to Community Councillors. There next project would be to produce leaflets for Blackford and Auchterarder. See website.

CR asked if we were any closer to getting a decent train service at Gleneagles as this was promised by Transport Scotland two years ago. NG reported that the new electric trains are a year behind in delivery and therefore not enough trains are available. Network Rail are in charge of the timetables and had decided that an extra train was needed for Inverness line. It was also noted that the cost of travel from Gleneagles, when compared with travel from Dunblane, made it much cheaper to travel from Dunblane.

**10. Paths Group Report**

BW reported that there had been no meeting since last Community Council meeting and that there was nothing to report.

**11. Police Report**

Nothing to report.

**12. Maintenance of Paths around Blackford**

Correspondence had been received from a local resident re maintenance of paths around Blackford. This resident was in attendance and explained that paths (e.g. Red Brae Paths) were overgrown with vegetation (nettles, long grass, etc) during summer and she would like to be part of a group which would maintain these paths. KH reported that P&KC were not responsible. There was also some discussion re the official A9 crossing which was overgrown and muddy causing problems with water courses. The crossing at The Cross is an unofficial crossing. P&KC have not been proactive here.

It was suggested that a Green Paths Group be formed and BW proposed to write a letter on behalf of the Community Council to form such a group. It was also reported that the Ramblers are trying to organise people to clear paths and that the Auchterarder Paths Group have been clearing paths. BW agreed to liaise with local resident and write letter as proposed. **BW**

**13. Scottish Land Commission: Community Engagement Survey**

KH recommended that everyone complete this Survey individually as volume was required. The more responses they receive would help to raise our concerns. KH concerned re restrictions of landowner. **ALL**

**14. Twinning Agreement with Trebsen**

A Draft Agreement had been circulated prior to meeting. IP proposed it be accepted and IM seconded. This was agreed.

The visit to Trebsen commences on 12 September with representatives from various village organisations. The Twinning Agreement will be signed on 15 September by IM on behalf of Blackford. Mayor Stefan Muller will sign on behalf of Trebsen.

IM will take a plaque which has cost less than £20. It was felt that this cost should be provided for from money raised for Trebsen travel expenses. KH proposed that the aim of the fund should be changed to include expenses as well as travel. BW seconded. All agreed.

**15. Community Council Elections**

Information was tabled and some forms were submitted. A few had still to be completed. It was reported that AD and BI were unable to continue as Community Councillors.

**16. A.O.C.B**

**Post Office –** IP reported that there is a note in the Village Shop stating that the van will be visiting the village as follows from Monday 9 September: Tuesday 9.00 to 10.00 am and Thursday 12 noon to 1.00 pm due to the Postmaster having to be in hospital. The duration will depend on his recovery time. It would appear that he is looking into whether it is worthwhile going back to two hourly visits 3 times weekly as apparently 90% of his business takes place in first hour. It was felt that Carers, those with mobility issues, etc tended to go to van when it was less busy. It was reported that JL is writing to R Cunningham with questions re the Post Office and the issues this situation has raised. It is hoped we would have an appropriate response before the next meeting.

**Train Timetable –** NG reported that an hourly service will be coming to Gleneagles in the new December Timetable in response to CR query.

**Newsletter –** IP asked for suggestions on what should be included and it was felt there should be updates re Rail Yard, Trebsen, Footpaths, Mobile Post Office and details re access to new Hall tables in cupboard. It was also felt that there should be mention of the new Puffin Crossing if it has still to be installed. Please email IP if there is anything else which is relevant. (It was noted that a camera is now pointed at crossing). **IP**

**Letterhead –** IP presented a suggested letterhead for the Community Council, and this was agreed.

**Track to Cemetery –** A resident commented that the track to cemetery was in a very poor state. KH has reported this to P&KC and will chase.

**Hedges/Vegetation –** The resident also reported that hedges and overgrown vegetation was causing problems on pavements in the village – even lampposts were affected. IP suggested a paragraph about this be inserted in Newsletter. **IP**

**Grass at Waukmill –** It was also reported reported that communal grass at Waukmill is not being cut. Contractors are not turning up as they have not been paid for past work by Blackford Farms/GWest. It would appear that there was nothing that could be done as the area had not been adopted by the Council.

**Date of next meeting –** Tuesday 24th September

**The meeting closed at 9.30 pm**