**Blackford Community Council**

**Approved Minutes of Meeting**

**Tuesday 24th September 2019 7.30pm**

**Lower Hall, Moray Institute**

**Present**

Iain Paton (IP) Chair

Katharine Huggett (KH) Vice Chair

Janet Law (JL) Secretary

Irene McLaughlan (IM) Treasurer

Alison Dawson (AD) Community Councillor

Bob Watkinson (BW) Community Councillor

Bet Illand (BI) Community Council

CouncillorTom Gray (TG) Perth and Kinross Council

1 Blackford resident

**1 Apologies:** Councillor Crawford Reid, Richard Beith

**2. Minutes** Minutes of August meeting were approved

Approved Minutes of June were presented for Chair to sign

**3.Matters Arising from Minutes of last meeting**

**School Crossing Patrol:** JLreported that she had heard from Chair of Parent Council that the Puffin Crossing is to be put in place by Jan 2020. KH is worried that lighting is not sufficient at present. TG was asked to find out any further information. **TG**

**Stone of Destiny:**

JLreported she had responded to the consultation on behalf of the CC on the basis agreed at last meeting

**Green Paths Group** BWreported that a few names had been forwarded as the result of the email sent out. JL asked that the meeting note the work of Blackford is Brighter which helps to enhance areas of the village, as well as the many local residents who help informally to keep trodden paths clear.

**Grass at Waukmill/Mill of Ogilvie**

JL suggested that if residents wanted CC to facilitate a meeting to discuss how to proceed this could be done in the same way as was done for residents of Arnott Road.

**Trebsen** Irene reported that the Trebsen Council are sending a sign which the CC hopes can be displayed at the entrance at to Blackford. TG offered to find out how this could be achieved **TG**

IP thanked IM for her ongoing work as Chair of the Twinning Committee and for representing the Community Council so well during the visit to Trebsen.

IM thanked the CC for supporting her to go to Trebsen on behalf of the CC.

**4.Other Business**

**Trebsen visit** IM presented a report (APPENDIX 1). IM circulated a folder containing photographs from the visit and the signed Twinning Charter (for wording see APPENDIX 2). The folder is stored with other CC documents. IM will make arrangements for the folder to be shown to other groups.

**Community Council Elections** IP reported that two Community Councillors, Bet Illand and Alison Dawson had decided not to seek nomination. The other currently serving Community Councillors had submitted nominations. 3 other residents are thought to have also submitted nominations, with the possibility of a further one.

**5.Secretary’s Report**

**Correspondence previously Circulated to all Community Councillors on email:**

**PKC:** Proposed Additional Green Routes Blackford (Ward 7)

**NHS Tayside:** Transforming Tayside Public Event Sep 7th

**Luke Graham MP**: September surgeries

**CDAS Annual Conference 2019**: Community Development: Tackling Inequalities - Tuesday 10th September – Edinburgh

**PKC:** Mental Health Survey Consultation

**PKC:**: Response from Alex Deans, PKC to letter from IP to C. Haggart PKC re STPR2 consultation process

“At the two workshops that were held on 21st and 26th June, following organisations were involved: Fife Council, Dundee City Council, Angus Council, Perth and Kinross Council, Tactran, Xplore Dundee, Calmac Harbours (Perth), Strathallan Community Rail Partnership (CRP), Living Streets, Dundee Cycling Forum, Rail Freight Group, North East Fife Community Planning Partnership, VisitScotland, Cupar and North Fife Tourism Co-operative, Angus Tourism Co-operative, NHS Tayside, Scottish Ambulance Service (East Region), University of Dundee, Abertay University, University of St Andrews, Fife Forum, Isla Developments, Sustrans, Strathallan Community Rail Partnership (CRP), Highland Main Line CRP, Stirling and Tayside Timber Transport Group, NHS, Perth Active Travel Hub and Stagecoach.

“It does appear that a dedicated online survey will allow all Community Council’s to input into the STPR2 process, I am not sure of exactly when this will happen but it is likely any request may come through the Council who will no doubt forward the necessary contact details for each Community Council. I am aware the study, however, is at a very early stage and I can confirm the Council as well have still to be formally consulted on the work.”.

**Luke Graham MP**: Facebook Q and A

**NHS Tayside:** Transforming Tayside - Shaping Orthopaedic Services Consultation

**Liberty One Communications for Anchorus Ltd via Agents Graham and Sibbald**: development of bespoke holiday lodges close to the Gleneagles Hotel - Public Exhibition Thursday 26 Sep at the Aytoun Hall in Auchterarder between 3pm-7pm.

**Circulated to IP and KH**

**Letter from Mike Thomson (RTS Forestry)** Proposed new woodlands on the edge of Blackford: “update on these schemes, the planting of the ground adjacent to the railway line is planned for this spring. The grant contract expired and we are putting in place a new one….. The planting at the cemetery and across the road from it is due to take place over the next few months. The plan is to start the mounding in here in the next couple of weeks with trees being planted before Christmas.” A new planting map from RTS showing the areas and species to be planted to the east of the village was circulated. KH noted that the CC hadn’t been consulted about felling and planting south of the A9. JL suggested that this might be because these plans pre-dated the new policy of the Scottish government which requires organisations to provide evidence of consultation to Scottish Forestry. JL will ask RTS for maps of the proposed planting south of the A9.

**Available from JL**

Crown Estate Scotland Draft 2020-23 Corporate Plan consultation FAO all Community Councils

VE Day 75

Rail User Express: August

NFP Bid Writing Workshops: Edinburgh 7th Nov £95

Funding Circle

PKC Methven Place Standard Public Meeting 30th Sept

**Legacy Tree beside seat near Highland Spring** JL noted that it looked as if the sapling had been strimmed. KH agreed to approach HS about replanting and to ensure that the new contractors were aware of their responsibility for looking out for this tree when cutting the grass. KH my be able to source appropriate saplings.

**6.Treasurer’s Report**

Savings Account- £1.08

Treasurer's Account- £1725.53 comprising £881.12 for the CC , £297.49 the remainder of the LAP Funding and £546.92 the remainder of the Trebsen Fund

New tables for the hall have been purchased and are now in the cupboard

Trebsen Fund: The costs of parking at the airport, and £10 towards the costs of materials for the plaque presented to Trebsen are still to be paid out.

The Blackford Community Fund Panel will meet in October.

**7. Planning**

**Highland Spring** KH to meet with contractors for the Rail Yard to look at the traffic management plan. KH is monitoring 2 live applications, and one which has been decided within land and existing buildings at HS.

**Network Rail** Still problems with lighting at footbridge and remedial work on land to north.BW and KH are monitoring.

**G West Access** PKC have met with land management. Incidents are still being reported to PKC who are escalating it to their senior legal team. Number of people complaining is increasing and some residents consider they have been intimidated. Security man has been photographing people, including children, without consent and has been following people in his car. KH will report the situation to Scotways.

**Burnfoot Windfarm Meeting** Preparing site for installing turbines next year. Road improvements are required and compound is now in place.

**Renewable energy** It is understood that there are plans to use reservoirs for hydro power developments.

**Flooding** A resident asked about problems, which had happened continuously for decades, affecting his property. PKC staff had attended the site and considered that there was enough clearance for water, although this was much less than it should be. When there is a large volume of water, it cannot drain away and floods the lane at the door of the house. The issue is who owns the bridge. TG offered to look at the situation. **TG**

KH had a response from Keith Colville of PKC re the flood risk assessment being carried out, which means that they are unwilling to take any other action meantime.

KH suggested that once the flood risk mitigation work is done, there might be potential for a community group which could apply for funding to help residents with permanent flood barriers. **KH**

BW offered to explore whether sandbags could be stored at Tullibardine. **BW/KH**

**8.PKC Councillors Report**

**Community Investment Fund** meeting to discuss applications to disburse £32,000.

LAP funding will be available for Community Councils again on the same basis as previously.

**9.Strathallan Community Rail Partnership –** No report

**10. Paths Group Report**

JL has written to AG asking if there is anything CC can do to help speed up response from PKC re re-allocation of funding from EDF. JL to write to Councillors.  **JL**

**11. Police Report**

**Solheim Cup Traffic:** IP had email correspondence with Alison Todd of Tayside Police re the arrangements for the school bus and the lack of traffic controls at the Aberuthven junction. IM had queried at the consultation meetings whether controls would be put in place at this junction and had been reassured that the arrangement would be the same as at the Ryder Cup.There had been problems with traffic using the back road and the Duchally road as alternative routes.Traffic had been speeding through the various sections of the A9. JL to write to Alison Todd and ask if she could attend the next meeting. **JL**

**12. AOCB** None

Next meeting 29th October 2019

APPENDIX 1

**Report on Trebsen Visit**

On Thursday 12/09/19, 7 delegates from Blackford left for Trebsen. Representing Blackford Community Council was Irene McLaughlan, from Blackford Highland Games, David McLaren, Stuart Laing and Helen Laing, from Tullibardine Distillery, Sabine Hallyburton and from Blackford Fiddle Group, Andrew and Isla Peacock. We flew form Edinburgh to Berlin, then after a lovely afternoon in the city we boarded the train to Leipzig. On arrival at Leipzig Station, we were met by colleagues of Christian Pfaff, Head of the Fire Service, who had arranged the transport.

We were driven to Trebsen where after a brief visit to Schloss Trebsen, we met up with those who had attended Blackford Highland Games earlier in the year, Stefan Muller, the Mayor, Christian Pfaff, Petra Kraus and Julia Lehne, as well as the families who were hosting us and members of the Town Council. A delicious buffet supper was provided, with a chance to get to know people before we headed off with the host families.

On Friday 13/09/19, we first visited the High School where the Head Teacher showed us round several of the classes before going for “Elevenses” – tea and delicious cakes! A reporter from the local paper also accompanied us. Then it was off to the Town Hall where Stefan showed us around and introduced us to members of staff, as well as presenting Blackford with a canvas aerial photo of Trebsen (to be posted). A walk to the primary school followed, giving us an opportunity to see Trebsen. We visited the 4th year class who welcomed us, introduced themselves and told us about their hobbies (all in English) before a short musical interlude. We then went outside for a photo opportunity with the children and their teachers. Lunch followed, with more cakes!

We were then driven to the Julius Schulte Paper Factory, seeing more of Trebsen and the surrounding area on the way. We were told about the history of the factory before donning safety gear to allow us to see round the factory. Using recycled paper, the factory makes packaging paper.

That evening we were VIP guests at the Highland Games opening evening, where Stuart presented a flag from himself and David to the organisers of Trebsen Highland Games. Stalls around the Schloss were open and music was provided by a number of artistes taking part over the weekend.

On the Saturday, with the sun shining, we all headed to the Town Hall before making our way to the Games. All of us took part in the main parade through the grounds to the main stage. The opening ceremony complete, we spent the rest of the day in the grounds, with Davy and Stuart taking part in the Toast to the Haggis. Food and drink were provided. A guided tour of the Schloss was arranged for the afternoon. Later in the afternoon Davy and Sabine were taken on a tour of a dairy farm by Stefan, before returning to the Games.

On Sunday, another lovely day of weather, we again met at the Town Hall before heading to the local church. The service included singing, piping and harp playing by some artistes from the Games. Following the service, we were given a tour and told the history of the church. Some brave souls ascended into the tower for excellent views of the town! Then Stefan, Davy, Stuart and myself were driven to the outskirts of Trebsen to have our photos taken beside a sign with the logos of Blackford Community Council and the town of Trebsen on it, confirming the Twinning of the two communities.

At 1pm the important moment arrived – the signing of the paperwork confirming the Twinning of Blackford and Trebsen. Before the signing took place, Andrew, with guitar, and Isla, with her fiddle, were joined on stage by Julia, playing the harp, and Steffan Slowik, playing the double bass, to play some Scottish tunes. Following some short speeches, Irene and Stefan signed the paperwork and exchanged some gifts – a plaque from Blackford Community Council, with their logo, to Trebsen and a Twinning sign from Trebsen to Blackford (to be posted as it was too big for a suitcase!).

We had the afternoon to spend at the Games then in the evening we went to a Greek restaurant, where we had a lovely Greek meal with all the host families there. Andrew and Isla again played with Julia and Steffan.

Monday 16th September arrived all too quickly. After an early breakfast we all met for one last time at the Town Hall. Goodbyes were said before we left for Leipzig train station to head for home.

We had a great weekend and everyone was very friendly.

We look forward to welcoming our Trebsen friends next year to Blackford Highland Games.

**Irene McLaughlan**

**Twinning Committee Chair**

**Blackford Community Council**

**September 2019**

APPENDIX 2 The signed Charter is to be stored with the Community Council Minutes

**Twinning Charter**

On behalf of the inhabitants of Blackford, Perthshire, in Scotland

and the inhabitants of Trebsen, Saxony, in Germany,

we confirm today our twinning partnership.

The object of our twinning partnership is to maintain and strengthen the relationship between Blackford and Trebsen,

and to foster exchange between the residents,

associations, schools and church parishes of Blackford and Trebsen.

May future generations cherish and preserve this partnership,

and start new friendships.

Trebsen, 15th September 2019

Irene McLaughlan Stefan Müller

Blackford, Perthshire Mayor of Trebsen

