**Blackford Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday 29th October 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 Councillor

Councillor Crawford Reid(CR) Perth and Kinross Council

Neil Gaunt (NG) CC Representative on CRP\*[[1]](#footnote-1)

Ann Gaunt (AG) Community Councillor elected from 7/11/19

Caitriona Hutton(CH) Community Councillor elected from 7/11/19

1 Blackford resident

**1 Welcome and apologies**

IP welcomed all present including two of the three new Community Councillors who have been elected to the Community Council from the 7th November 2019.

IP noted with sadness the recent death of Richard Beith, and paid tribute to Richard for his strong support for the CC and his regular attendance at meetings, in particular his contribution in recent years to the Post Office Working Group, and to widening our knowledge of issues related to railways.

Apologies: T Gray (PKC Councillor). M. Lyle (PKC Councillor) Tony Reeman-Clark (Community Councillor elected from 7/11/19)

**2 Minutes**

**Minutes of Meeting of 24th September** approved with the following amendments:

(item 3 line 3) insert "at present" after "sufficient" and (item 7 Renewable Energy) to read: “It is understood that there are plans to review reservoirs for hydro power developments”.

**Approved Minutes of meeting of 28th August** were presented for signing

**Draft Minutes:** IP proposed that in the future the Draft Minutes should be made available to the public. KH proposed that they should be made available via the website.

**Approved Minutes of Twinning Committee 4th June 2019 for noting**

*The Twinning Committee had met on 24th September and had agreed to contact all the groups involved to request that residents of Blackford consider if they can provide accommodation for Trebsen guests over the weekend of the Blackford Highland Games 2020 and to ask Blackford residents if they have any interest in German conversation sessions. JL is standing down as acting secretary for Twinning Committee. It is hoped that a volunteer Minute Taker has been identified. Future meetings are likely to take place in evening.*

**3. Matters Arising**

School Crossing Patrol - CR had nothing further to report but offered to take up any issues on behalf of the CC. KH stated that lights on zebra crossings in other villages had been upgraded to LEDs and that the lights on our crossing needed repair, CR had reported this previously and would follow up with Community Police Officer.

Trebsen Sign – IM has received the Twinning roadside sign sent to Blackford by Trebsen, along with a photo of Trebsen printed on canvas. The road sign has been collected by PKC Roads Department but it may not be possible to install it at the entrance to the village. PKC Roads will send proposals for consideration. It is hoped that the Trebsen picture can be displayed in the hall.

Legacy Tree – Victoria Huggett has offered a sapling as replacement for the tree beside the seat on Stirling Street near Highland Spring which was accidentally strimmed. KH

Flooding – KH was copied in to response sent to TG from Keith Colville, Community Resilience Officer, PKC which says that until the flood review has been completed they will not draw up plans for flood mitigation. BW has arranged for sandbags to be stored at Tullibardine Distillery for residents use.

Easterton Glamping Site has been given outline consent.

**4. Other business**

**Chair** Reported on the recent elections to the Community Council. The following were elected: Ann Gaunt, Katharine Huggett, Caitriona Hutton, Janet Law, Irene McLaughlan, Iain Paton,Tony Reeman-Clark,Robert Watkinson

IP reported that he had contacted Christine Grant at PKC Community Councils Section for advice about the possibility of appointing a paid Minutes Secretary. This item willl be discussed at next meeting.

**5. Correspondence previously circulated to Community Councillors by email**

**RTS Forestry** Blackford Farms Woodland Creation Proposal – Kinpauch

JL reported that, as no issues had been raised with her, she had responded in these terms to RTS

**PKC** The 2nd Annual Scottish Rural Transport Convention

**Luke Graham MP** - Constituency Surgeries in October

**Strathearn and Strathallan Community Action Partnership:** Notes of Meeting of 19th Sept

**PKC** Fuel Poverty Awareness Sessions 2019/2020

**PKC** Poverty and Inequality Online Learning Resource<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/18463/Action-Partnerships>

**PKC** Join other councils getting involved with Window Wanderlands across the country!

**PKC** Final Weeks of Shaping Orthopaedic Services Consultation

**Perth & Kinross CCTV** Consultation

**PKC** Local Development Plan information available at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/ldp2examination>

**Councillor Crawford Reid PKC** – letter to Derek Williamson, Road Safety Manager, Trasnport Scotland

**PKC** Review of Polling Places

JL reported there is no change proposed for Blackford. Moray Institute will continue to be used.

**PKC** Community Transport Forum on Thursday, 5 September 2019 - Note of Actions

**PKC** Access To Patient Transport Event - Falkirk Ambulance Station

**Secretary’s business**

Resident asked to raise serious problems being created by people cycling on pavements in Moray Street. IM suggested that she put something in the newsletter about this.

**6.Treasurers Report**

Savings account £1.08 Treasurer's account £1713.05

Breakdown: £881.12 Community Council Money, £332.00 LAP Funding remainder for Tables, £499.93 Trebsen Funds

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Blackford Community Funds Panel met on 25/10/19 to discuss the applications. Information will be available once the groups have been informed.

As of 18/10/19 the value of the Fund was £447,254.44.

Foundation Scotland have changed to a monthly system of processing gains/losses on investments. As a result, Foundation Scotland asked the Panel if they would be willing to bring the meeting dates forward by a month. This was agreed and will also mean closing dates for fund applications will be earlier.

CIF Applications previously notified as available by 12th December, deadline now extended to 15th January.

**7. Planning Report**

**Meeting with Highland Spring**

Luddon Construction has been appointed as main contractors for the rail yard project. Their method will involve up to 3000 fewer vehicle movements than had been proposed previously. The delay to confirming the appointment was due the need to consider in detail changes to how the work will be undertaken. Screening fence will now not be put in until earth moving has been completed. Start date is now to be the end of November, to be completed by June 2020. No work will start on installation of crane until after this. HS will distribute information leaflets to nearby properties and those affected by site traffic. Everything which had been requested by CC has been agreed. All site traffic to turn left when leaving site.

The information shared with the Community Council about the construction traffic is as follows:

1. Driving through the village should be during the hours of 7.00-22.00with the exception of the following times 8.30-9.15 and 13.00-15.45 due to school opening and closing

2.Vehicles can be on site during this time provided the arrive before 8.30 and 15.00.

3. Speed limit of 20mph through Blackford reducing to 10mph at school.

4. Drivers heading toand from the site must only drive though the main street of Blackford (Moray St B8081)

5. No vehicles must park on the main street. All vehicles to park on site.

 A dedicated email and phone number for complaints will be made known, to be managed by Highland Spring.

Updates will be provided every four weeks.

There will be signs at top of village advising 20mph limit for construction traffic with reminders further down the street. Lorries must go straight to site without stopping at shop and are to be encouraged to walk from site to shop.

Leaving site, vehicles must turn left.

AD asked about the progress of wildlife survey which is ongoing.

KH to investigate what is to happen with the old station building.

Traffic management plan for any material to be brought from Panholes is still not available.

KH is trying to get answers about what is happening with the burnt out shed at Panholes.

**8. PKC Councillors Report**

**A9** CR still pursuing fight with Transport Scotland.

KH has found two documents online dated 2018 which identify Blackford as the most dangerous junction on the Broxden to Keir stretch of the A9. KH will send link to CR

A member of the public reported a recent incident when HGV with 40 foot trailer attempted to turn right at the junction. Police were alerted and vehicle owner was contacted. Community Councillors discussed whether it would be possible to prohibit right turns at the junction by vehicles over a certain length. CR had previously raised this with Transport Scotland and would now raise it with the police.

**Panholes Footbridge** PKC Planning say that lighting for the footbridge was not specified in the planning conditions, although it was included in the application.. Community Councillors had observed that lighting is being vandalised. CR recommended reporting to police and agreed to take this up with Community Police Officer on behalf ot the CC.

**9. Community Rail Partnership Report**

NG reported that the leaflets, providing information about walking routes from Gleneagles station are still being distributed.

The old Blackford signal is now in Crieff with other items related to old railways in the area which it is hoped can be put on display there.

The Mens Shed project is using premises at Gleneagles station

Community Rail Partnehships are voluntary organisations. Following on from the success of CRPs in England, the Scottish Government included funding for Scottish CRPs in the tender specifications for operators. Arbelio as the operator of Scottish trains is required to provide this funding

NG will take out a subscription to Rail User Express and forward it to the Community Council, taking this over from Richard Beith.

**10 Paths Group Report**

AG has contacted Dave Stubbs of PKC to inform him that there is a paths project to which the funding from EDF could be applied, and will follow up by contacting the planner involved with modifying the condition.

**11. Police Report**

Community Police Officer unable to attend but has noted all comments on Solheim Cup traffic which were sent to her at the time and passed them on to the planning team.

**12 AOCB**

IP paid tribute to retiring Community Councillors: Bet Illand for forty four years of service to Blackford Community Council and to Alison Dawson for four years

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm

The next meeting will be an **Extraordinary General Meeting** to elect office bearers from the newly elected Community Councillors. This meeting will be held on**:**

**Tuesday 26th November at 7.30pm in the Moray Institute, Lower Hall**

It is intended that there will be an ordinary business meeting following the conclusion of the EGM.

1. Strathallan Community Rail Partnership [↑](#footnote-ref-1)