



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting. Date: Tuesday 17th June 2025
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	Andrew Valentini
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Community Police Officers
Sadie Montgomery	Fiona Wilson
Alan Montgomery	Caroline Melville
Keith Bayliss	Cllr Susan Manion
Rebecca Rylott	Dawn Lindsay
John Ramsay	Nicola Barker-Harrison (Head Teacher AA)
Kate Strachan (Minutes)	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr Andrew McGuire	
Cllr Lynda Kenna	
Ally Graham	
Clare McGoldrick (Head Teacher BPS)	
Callum Rylott	
June McKay	

1. Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: John Ramsay
Seconded: Rebecca Rylott

2. Matters Arising:

There was nothing to report.

3. School Update:

Clare McGoldrick advised the following:

Karen Lawson has been appointed as permanent PT.

Really successful Gala Day (Scotland Focus) with school & ELC represented.

P5 project with Sammy @ Beechbrae (Blawhorn Moss)

Whole School PEF funded trip to Summerlee, no costs to families for a second year, feedback from parents and families was really positive.

Primary one has enjoyed visits to Craig Inn (Library & Monday Club) with more visits planned in the new term.

First level (P2-4) shared their recent learning at an assembly; the focus was Blackridge and the surrounding areas. Children went walks round Blackridge, interviewed a few local celebrities, and learned about the towns mining history and famous people from the past.

School breaks on 27th June for 6 weeks, ELC remains open throughout the summer.



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4. Police Update:

Police were not in attendance for operational reasons but sent the following update.

There were 57 calls from Blackridge in the month of May.

Those of note included: -

- Sudden death of a 37-year-old, ambulance and Police attended. Not suspicious, medical related death.
- Male assaulted by being hit with a rock, dog also assaulted. Suspect has breached bail. No significant injury.
- Children setting fires near primary school and youths on roof. Fire dealt with, youth made off but was identified later. Parents spoken to and referral made to Social Work for intervention. Police have no deterrent options, as Council don't want tenancy warnings issued.
- Domestic incident. Parties refused to provide statement. Male traced and charged, and referrals made to Social Work.

There was further discussion about youths on motorbikes and electric scooters as well as setting fires and spraying graffiti. There is very little deterrent, especially if parents are uncooperative.

5. Finance:

The balance in the account is £16,792.20.

We are hoping to buy Poo bag dispensers for public spaces and poop scoopers to give to every child in the school. The grant funds for this are already in the account.

6. Planning:

Drumduff Windfarm amendment to previous application for one higher turbine, now looking for two, which will need to be lit because of the height.

17 Main Street, consent refused for conversion of house to two flats because there is only one parking space.

7. Newsletter/Website:

The newsletter is now available and will be delivered soon. It will be uploaded to the website soon.

8. Projects:

Keys have been purchased for the notice board.

The Camera Club calendar is now available for £3.00.

Scotrail have agreed to provide £1,000 to purchase approved baskets for the railway station. We will apply to Foundation Scotland for funding to buy tools, compost, and flowers.

9. Health Centre:

No new information.



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10. AOB:

- There may be some funding available from Edinburgh Airport if noise adversely affects residents.
- Joint Forum of Community Councils have issued a statement on Community Centres relating to concerns on current issues and staffing.
- Marion and Kate have arranged to meet with Shotts Community Transport to explore possibilities for Blackridge.
- The Western village gateway has been damaged. Councillors will check.
- The boulders have been removed from the cycle track.
- Beechbrae have produced a Summer Programme of activities.
- Electrical Safety Fund. The PAT tester needs to be calibrated annually. Alan Montgomery to arrange.
- Some bins are missing and some looking in disrepair Cllr McGuire will check.
- The bus shelters need cleaned.

Date of first meeting of next session: 16th September 2025 at 7.00pm