BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting. Date: Tuesday 20th October 2026
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Nicola Barker-Harrison (Head Teacher, Armadale Academy
Kate Strachan	Clark Steele
Michelle Thackeray	Fiona Wilson
John Ramsay	Alan Montgomery
Keith Baylis	Sadie Montgomery
June McKay	All Graham
Billy Craig	Natan Kurczewski (S6, Armadale Academy)
Rebecca Rylott	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr Susan Manion	
Cllr Lynda Kenna	
Cllr Andrew McGuire	

1. **Minutes from last meeting**
   Proposed: Billy Craig
   Seconded: Kate Strachan

2. **Matters Arising:**
   Overhanging hedges next to church have been reported to WLC.
   New litter bin next to Louburn flats is yet to be moved to outside Pharmacy/Shop.

3. **School Update:**
   Blackridge Primary School:
   Furniture from the felled trees (behind the school): A minor issue with bench tops, which is awaiting input from WLC Facilities Management.

   Previous obstacles regarding the Nature Project with the World Wildlife Fund are resolved.

4. **Community Police Update:** No update

5. **Finance:**
   Balance: £21,694.99.
   Purchases: Laptops for office bearers, leaflet for Sunday bus, poo bags and dispensers, Mill nursery account settled, bank charges paid.

6. **Planning:**
   NatureScot: boardwalk maintenance
   WLC invitation to comment on three areas: Noise, air quality, and conservation area air quality.

   McCarthy Stone Foundation: Grants of up to £750 available for gatherings for those aged sixty-five and over to come together and socialise/enjoy some festive cheer.

   Blawhorn Moss: formation of new boardwalk

   Planning Application submitted to NLC for three wind turbines at Blairmuckhill Farm.

   Sub-division of a house at Burnview, 17 Main street, Blackridge

7. **Newsletter/Website:**
   Deadline for submissions is 20th November. Printing may be delayed but will appear on Website as planned.

   Items for inclusion discussion around inclusion of legality of e-bikes and an appeal to check on vulnerable neighbours.

8. **Community Council Projects:**

   Dog Poo Dispensers: A further two bins have been purchased for use in the area. The missing Dog Poo Dispenser has been located.

   Safeguarding Policy: Has been submitted and approved by Foundation Scotland.

   Finger posts: Still in storage, awaiting installation.

   Blackridge in Bloom:
   Bulbs have now been delivered and are held in storage. Summer bedding is due to be replaced. Scotrail asked for a risk assessment for hanging baskets at the train station, however, they were advised that no hanging baskets are located on the platform.

   Future projects: Investigation needed as to how National Lottery funding of community led projects are initiated. Keith to contact Michelle Murray, regeneration officer to discuss various problems with youth disorder in the village.

   Local Place Plan: Will be available soon. Chair in discussion with Coalfields Regeneration Trust regarding front cover picture.

9. **Health Centre:** No update

10. **AOB:**
    Incidents of vandalism by youths on e-bikes has resulted in a prosecution.
    Return of stone throwing issues in Allison Gardens: in the hands of the police

    Scheduled road closure in Allison Gardens did not proceed without any notice to residents. Now rescheduled to 1st December 2026.

    Local Councillors have been invited to meet with Kirsteen Sullivan to discuss anti-social behaviour in the area.

Cycle path running parallel to Northrigg View is flooding and becoming dangerous due to icy conditions. Awaiting council action.

Shipping container opposite the church is a potential safety issue due to rusting metal exposing sharp edges and access to the interior. This is under private ownership.

Discussion around replenishment of grit bins

Armadale community football club have asked to adopt the football pitch and pavilion within Westrigg Park.

Some issues with ground maintenance in the gardens to the rear of Craig Inn. This is under WLC responsibility.

Date of next meeting: Planned for 17th November