



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting held Tuesday 17th September 2024
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	Cllr Susan Manion
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Community Police Officers
Fiona Wilson (Secretary)	Andrew Valentini
Keith Baylis	Alan Montgomery
Sadie Montgomery	Kate Strachan
Dawn Lindsay	Michelle Murray (WLC Regeneration Team)
Billy Craig	Clare McGoldrick (HT Blackridge primary)
Caroline Melville	
John Ramsay	
Rebecca Rylott	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr Andrew McGuire	
Cllr Lynda Kenna	
Ally Graham	
Marlene Dickson	

1. Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: Rebecca Rylott
Seconded: Sadie Montgomery

2. Matters Arising:
None

3. School Update:

Mrs McGoldrick sent an e-mail sharing an update in her absence advising that everyone had settled in well after the summer break and in addition also mentioned that two new members of teaching staff had been appointed for the new session. The school had their largest intake in P1 and there are seven classes along with the ELC. The School and the ELC will participate in a validated self-evaluation. Parent Council have a range of exciting fundraising events planned for the year which they have shared within their financial calendar for parents. Based on parent feedback, family learning will focus on sessions for parents/carers on children's Mental Health, Early Literacy and Numeracy skills. They are also delighted to offer PPP and Incredible Years courses in the ELC. Finally sharing the school have successfully retained their Gold Sports Scotland Award for a further 2 years.



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4. Police Update:

No updates sent in advance and Police were not in attendance at this meeting.

5. Finance:

No update was provided at this meeting.

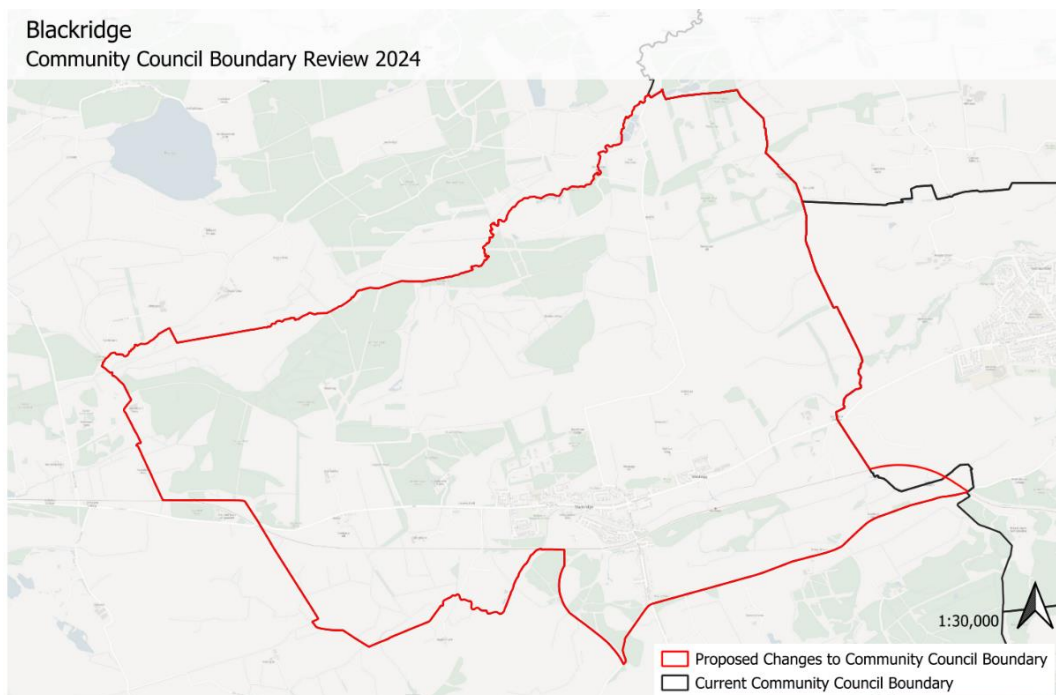
6. Planning:

Planning applications lists reviewed from 11 June 2024: The only applications for the Blackridge area related to listed building consents for the Craig Inn to provide replacement timber sash windows / double glazing / repairs.

West Lothian Council have progressed further with their program for a new Local Development Plan (LDP) items relevant to Blackridge included:

- P-103: Provision of footpath / cycle link from Sustrans to the railway station. £300K earmarked for landowner engagement and design work - to be implemented 2024-2026.
- P-15: Increased nursery capacity. £400K earmarked for period 2025-2026.
- On-going house-building developer contributions made to cover the cost of the station.

Review of Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian - Consultation on 1st Draft Scheme and Suggested Boundary Alterations: In April 2024, the council declared its intention to revoke the existing Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in West Lothian and to produce a new one in advance of the 4-yearly community council elections due to take place in September/October 2025 (email forwarded to all CC members). There will now be a further 8-week consultation exercise to give all community councils, members of community councils, elected members, and members of the public time to consider and comment upon the terms of the first draft scheme and various boundary options. No boundary changes were proposed for Blackridge, but one was proposed for Armadale see below:





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Anyone who wishes to make comments on any element of the draft scheme or proposed boundaries should email community.councils@westlothian.gov.uk by that deadline.

The model constitution and standing orders, code of conduct and the other documents will be updated to include the following: Community Empowerment Act 2015 (Participation, Common Good, Allotments), GDPR, Requirement to appoint an annual rep on the WLC Area Committee and the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel. Members aged 16-17 able to stand and vote, Associate members now allowed. Virtual meetings, Insurance, and ability to retire members for non-attendance exceeding 6 months or more.

Members were invited to West Lothian Water Confluence event covering water pollution and flooding - 28 September, 10-4pm at Lowport, Linlithgow (separate email circulated to members).

7. Newsletter/Website:

Alan Montgomery and Dawn Lindsay to work on media platforms.

8. Projects:

New Benches installed along Westrigg Way telling the story of the railway station in Blackridge. Village notice board to follow.

A further Platinum Queen's jubilee bench was also installed on the Main Street in the west of the village.

Contractor being contacted regarding installation of replacement bollards. Further tree planting / bulb planting work with the school anticipated over the winter / spring planting seasons.

Late Cllr Borrowman: Possibility of having a bench or walk named after Stuart was raised, permission to be sought from the family at a later date.

9. Health Centre:

Notice Board to be placed in front of the Health Centre regarding Flu/Covid appointments which will be held in Armadale Partnership Centre.

10. AOB:

Discussions took place regarding empty houses within Blackridge.

Petition circulated among members regarding closure of Craig Inn Centre.

Marlene Dickson was welcomed to the meeting and gave a talk on the Transfer Asset from WLC to the Management Committee.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15th October.