



BLACKRIDGE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	Mrs Barker-Harrison (H/T Armadale Academy)
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Mrs McGoldrick (H/T Blackridge PS)
Fiona Wilson (Secretary)	Clark Steele
Sadie Montgomery	Caroline Melville
Keith Bayliss	PC Murchison
Rebecca Rylott	Alan Montgomery
Kate Strachan	Cllr Susan Manion
June MacKay	
John Ramsay	
Dawn Lindsay	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr Andrew McGuire	
Cllr Linda Kenna	
Ally Graham	
Callum Rylott (S5 Armadale Academy)	

1. Welcome

Marion welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Kate Strachan for taking the minutes at the December meeting. Due to this meeting being the AGM Councillor Andrew McGuire noted that current office bearers stood down, and new office bearers would be elected. Councillor McGuire thanked these members for their work over the last year and invited nomination for office bearers in the coming year.

The undernoted members were proposed and elected as follows:

Chair – Marion Stewart

Proposed - Sadie Montgomery

Seconded – Kate Strachan

Vice Chair – Sadie Montgomery

Proposed – Marion Stewart

Seconded – John Ramsay

Secretary – Fiona Wilson

Proposed – Kate Strachan

Seconded – Dawn Lindsay
Treasurer – Kate Strachan
Proposed – Marion Stewart
Seconded – Sadie Montgomery

Planning – Rebecca Rylott
Proposed – Marion Stewart
Seconded – Sadie Montgomery

IT Lead – Alan Montgomery
Proposed – Marion Stewart
Seconded – Dawn Lindsay

2. Matters Arising None.

3. School Update

Blackridge Primary School

Mrs McGoldrick was unable to attend and gave her apologies. She submitted a report as follows.

- Recruitment for a replacement Headteacher is underway due to Mrs McGoldrick going on maternity leave shortly.

In terms of school updates:

- Work with Learning Through Landscapes is an exciting project to develop our school grounds.
- We have had several successful family sessions in our new Sensory Room, offering families of learners with additional support needs the opportunity to have protected time to use the space.
- We are working with West Lothian Adult Learning Team again this term and they are offering families the opportunity to engage in SQA qualifications. This is enabling parents/carers to be supported through these qualifications without having to travel as all sessions are held within Blackridge P.S.

Armada Academy

Mrs Barker-Harrison was unable to attend and gave her apologies. She submitted a report as follows.

- SQA Exams - Senior classes completed their prelims before Christmas and are now working towards completing courses and assignments in preparation for the SQA exams which start in April. S5/6 masterclasses have started during core time (PE/Person and Social Education) this week to allow for targeted interventions following prelim results. Many subjects already offer study support sessions, and we will be launching a programme of longer 'REACH for Support' sessions after school and in the Easter holidays. A similar model of S4 masterclasses is being planned to start after the February break. In addition, a parent/carer information session on how to support their child through the next few months is currently being planned. This will cover supporting with exam stress, study habits etc as well as signposting a range of additional supports available. Date to be confirmed.

- S2 Parent's Evening was on Thursday, 15th January. This was held online again this year following a vote in 2025 which all staff and parents/carers were invited to participate in.
- Teacher Professional Learning - on Friday, 30th January all teachers will participate in the West Lothian Subject Network sessions. This is a valuable opportunity allowing teachers to come together to work on aspects of teaching and the curriculum relevant to their specific subjects.
- On Wednesday, 4th February we will hold our third 'Learning Together, Achieving Together' session for teachers. This focuses on sharing good practice and techniques and is linked to 'The Armadale Way' which is our agreed format for planning and delivery lessons.
- Monday, 16th is INSET Day 4 which all staff will receive updates and contribute to activities linked to our school improvement plan with a particular focus on our Vision and Values refresh, our new Positive Relationships Policy, Learning and Teaching and the Curriculum Review.
- Course Choices - S2-S5 students have started the process of choosing subjects for next year. They will be supported in PSE and through meetings with parents/carers when required.

4. Police Update

PC Murchison gave his apologies for being unable to attend and hoped to be available at the next meeting.

5. Finance

The balance in the account is **£5,582.75**. Any outstanding invoices to be submitted ASAP.

6. Planning

One application received in relation to a house extension in Blackridge area. See website for further details.

7. Newsletter/Website

Discussion took place regarding increasing the number of Newsletters being printed.

8. Community Council Projects

An event is being held to promote physical & mental wellbeing for all residents in the Area.

9. Health Centre

Nothing to report.

10.A O B

Further complaints have been received regarding an increase in the number of fly tipping incidents in the Blackridge area, especially on the bicycle track. Incidents regarding graffiti, vandalism and general Anti-Social Behaviour incidents have also been noted. It was noted that the potholes under the Railway Bridge have again been repaired.

The Management Committee are arranging a Celebration Event for the Craig Inn Centre on Saturday, 21st March 2026 from 2pm until 5.30pm where members of the Centre and user groups will be invited to attend. Further details will be shared in due course.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th February 2026 at 7.00pm in the Craig Inn Community Centre, Blackridge.