



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from Meeting Tuesday 16th September 2025
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	Dawn Lindsay
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Cllr Susan Manion
Fiona Wilson (Secretary)	Clare McGoldrick (H/T Blackridge PS)
Sadie Montgomery	Caroline Melville
Alan Montgomery	
Keith Bayliss	
Rebecca Rylott	
June McKay	
John Ramsay	
Billy Craig	
Kate Strachan	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr Andrew McGuire	
Cllr Lynda Kenna	
Ally Graham	
Clarke Steele	
Enid Trevett	
Callum Rylott	
Nicola Barker-Harrison (H/T Armadale)	
Aaron McGreskin (S5 Armadale Student)	
Nathan Kurczewski (S5 Armadale Student)	

1. Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: Rebecca Rylott
Seconded: John Ramsay

2. Matters Arising:

There was nothing to report.

3. School Update:

Blackridge Primary School

Mrs McGoldrick sent her apologies for being unable to attend but submitted a brief update. All have settled well into the new session and welcomed several new pupils across P1-7 increasing the school roll.

In June 2025, the school and ELC won seven awards across a range of categories in West Lothian Creativity in Literacy and Numeracy competition. This is the most of any school in West Lothian. We are very proud of our pupils for this.



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We are working closely with West Lothian Council's Adult Learning Team this year to deliver SQA accredited courses for parents and carers. These courses will be delivered through Family Learning events.

Rompa is hoping to complete the Sensory Room in the school by the end of September/beginning of October, funded through James Wood Bequest.

Mrs McGoldrick will be in touch with elected members over the coming weeks to arrange an official opening.

We are planning a Christmas Fayre alongside the Parent Council on Friday, 12th December.

Armadale Academy

Mrs Barker-Harrison attended this meeting along with two S5 pupils who discussed their experiences and school values.

She indicated there was a positive start to the new Term and new pupils were welcomed to the school.

The school is reviewing their Vision & Values along with students, parents, and carers. Approximately five hundred students received awards recently for last year's academic session where the Exam results have been the strongest to date.

It was noted the school are proud of their achievements.

Pupils visited Armadale Care Home and Armadale Partnership Centre and their recent trip to Malawi for 2 weeks was very successful.

'Reach for the Future' information is being shared regularly with senior pupils where opportunities from the world of work, further and higher education.

With the annual careers fair taking place in November.

The possibility of Foundation Scotland grants to assist pupils in Blackridge was discussed.

4. Police Update:

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

There were fifty-seven calls from Blackridge in the month of May.

Those of note included: -

- Neighbour dispute. Officers attended and both parties spoken to.
- Reports of six youths throwing rocks at windows at a Blackridge address. Youths made off prior to police arrival.
- Neighbour noise dispute and threat made. Officers attended person refused to assist police in enquiries.
- Concern raised for male attending hospital suicidal thought. Officers attended and person refused to return to hospital. GP attended home address and person was deemed suitable to be left in his own care.



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- Three youths on quad bikes wearing balaclavas racing on road and flashing lights at oncoming traffic in the Westfield area. Youths made off prior to police arrival with no information available to trace these youths.
- Report of group of males causing disturbance at Air BNB accommodation and refusing to leave. Officers attended and males removed from premises.
- Threatening messages and voicemails from a family member in the Torphichen area. Statements noted. Person charged accordingly.
- Suspicious vehicle at rural property during the night. Suitable safety advice given. No offences detected

5. Finance:

Kate Strachan will provide the balance in the account.

6. Planning:

Various planning applications were discussed including the erection of 2 houses on land south of 53 Main Street, Blackridge. Statutory Expiry Date 20th September 2025.

7. Newsletter/Website:

The last day for intimations to the Newsletter is 21st November 2025. It is hoped delivery of Newsletter will be early December.

8. Community Council Projects:

Signs have been ordered for Beech Brae, Health Centre, Blawhorn Moss etc. Planters will be installed at Blackridge Railway Station soon. The willow fencing will be repaired in October. Members required to assist with this work. Possibility of ordering dog bin dispensers discussed.

9. Health Centre:

E-Consult forms will continue to be used.

10. AOB:

- Park Run (Juniors) to be set up on 24th September 2025 at Whitburn between 7 – 8pm. Flyer will be put on the Notice Board.
- Possibility of a promotion on 'Health & Sports' topics being held in Craig Inn Centre.
- Discussion on Police involvement re vandalism and anti-social behaviour in Blackridge area.
- Beech Brae will hold an activity during the school holidays.
- Discussion took place regarding additional paths at Blawhorn Moss.
- Member of the BCC to visit schools in the area to make pupils aware who the BCC is and what they strive to do. This may assist pupils in what they would like to see change in the village for their benefit.
- Edith from 'Community Enterprise' discussed Creating Community Developments and Improvements for Blackridge along with the various forms of communication to provide improvements needed.



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- Large numbers of Lorries and Buses are parking on both sides of the road at the heartlands slip road to the M8 near to the shops and Cafes causing concern for pedestrians and motorists.
- Dial A Bus poster to be printed and displayed on notice board.
- Possibility of setting up a 'Recycle a Bike' which gives free bike repairs to cyclists in the area to be looked at.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 7.00pm at the Craig Inn Centre.