BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting 18th April 2023, Next meeting 16th May 2023 Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

| PRESENT | APOLOGIES |
|------------------------|----------------|
| COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS | A Montgomery |
| Marion Stewart (Chair) | J Robertson |
| S Montgomery | A Valentini |
| J Ramsay | PC S Henderson |
| B Craig | Pc C Rennie |
| K Baylis | K Strachan |
| | R Rylott |
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| INVITED GUESTS | |
| Cllr Borrowman | |
| Cllr McGuire | |
| Cllr Kenna | |
| C McGoldrick | |
| A Graham | |
| | |
| | |

Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: B Craig Seconded: J Ramsay

Matters Arising: None

School Update:

Claire McGoldrick the new acting Head at Blackridge primary gave an overview of some of the work the school is engaged in this term including a thematic review being conducted by the central equity team specifically looking at equity across the Armadale Academy cluster.

Claire also highlighted that the school was undertaking a curriculum review and consultation was ongoing on the themes of health and wellbeing and family learning, engagement was being sought from community partners.

From August the nursery would be offering both 'term time' and 50-week placements following consultation from parents.

Police Update:

Community Police Officers were unable to be in attendance but had emailed a brief update. They highlighted that crime figures in Blackridge were relatively static and that they have been working with the school on local initiatives.

Finance:

There was some money left in the old RBS account which would be closed in the coming months once various creditors (Foundation Scotland and the Council) had been informed of the new bank details.

Awaiting Community Council administration grant from the Council.

Between both bank accounts the balance was £18,319.33 though most of this was committed for projects.

Planning: No new active planning applications for the area. The Council will soon start consulting on the new Local Development Plan.

Newsletter/Website:

Please email any items for the newsletter by 30th April. Gala Day info will be in the centre spread of the newsletter. Delivery of the newsletter may be helped by the Gala Day Committee. Councillors have been requested to help provide content for this and future editions of the newsletter should they wish.

Projects:

- Progress on Bollards are being followed up.
- 400 trees to be delivered and planted across the village.
- Benches awaiting installation.
- Noticeboards are to be installed.

Discussion was had about other potential environmental projects. There was a general feeling that the burn clean up should not be organised through the community council due to potential health and safety concerns and impact on Community Council insurance.

It was felt that a litter pick around Millbank would be a good idea as well as other areas across the village. It was agreed that K Bayliss would identify suitable areas for litter pick and would arrange a date.

Health Centre:

No updates

AOB:

- Community Councillors code of conduct issued to all Community Councillors and although not mandated it was requested that a signed copy was returned and filed.
- A Letter was received regarding the announcement that McGills buses were to reduced service in the village. Councillors advised that this was an issue to be considered the following week at the Civic Centre and that they were aware a protest had been organised for the meeting prior to 10am.
- K Bayliss was continuing to progress the 'Adopt a Station' scheme with Scotrail and will provide more information in due course. It was noted that for people to participate they must complete an online training course.
- The new Cairn social housing in the village are starting to be allocated.
- Sewage coming onto the path along the Main Street has been reported to the Council who are taking action.
- Concern was raised about the new path along the new housing estate not being complete, Councillors have been advised that this will be complete in due course.

Next Meeting 16th May