

BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 Next Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Held in Craig Inn Centre (and by Teams) 7pm-9pm

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

Marion Stewart	M Kirkbright
A Valentini	K Jack (Community Police Sargent)
S Montgomery	Cllr King
J Ramsay	D Sibbald
A Montgomery	
R Rylott	
C Steele	
Cllr McGuire	
A Downie (Head Teacher)	<b>Guest Attendees</b>
A Graham	C McGhee
K Strachan	G Paris (Armadale Head)
Cllr Borrowman	S McClelland
J Robertson	D Blair
B Craig	J Harrison
K Baylis	

**Minutes from last meeting**

Proposed; C Steele

Seconded; S Montgomery

**Matters Arising;**

October Election, L McGrorty will attend to enable the elections to go ahead

Storing CC Members details privately in the cloud, no objections

**Community Police;**

Apologies sent as on Vacation, email update read out

Email sent to Community Police in relation to mopeds, quads and bikes continuing to be a nuisance, this is the cycle path, main roads and at Blairhill View.

A sub group may be helpful to deal with this.

**Finance;**

£13,869.86 most of which is earmarked for projects Defib pads ordered for replacement.

### **Blackridge Primary School Update;**

Covid is still an issue with some Teachers and pupils still being affected.

Drop off point in front of school is scheduled for completion by the end of September.

The trees have been felled awaiting cutting and removal to Beechbrae,

Community Police still attending school to help youngsters stay away from causing problems.

Can the kids come up with ideas for the wood, i.e.; big draughts board?

Nursery landscaping still to be done with more trees to be planted.

The gate was unscrewed from the Muga area as it was locked, agreed to keep it open in future.

### **Armadale Academy Update;**

The last 18 months have been a trying time for staff and pupils.

Areas identified for significant and rapid improvement can hopefully be implemented asap.

Stay rate for pupils entering 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year have improved and finding more pupils are staying on for further education.

Response to Covid has been challenging with on-line and home learning, trying to ensure that most pupils have access to online, iPad, laptops to ensure continued learning during challenging times.

Changes made to exams have improved results, even during the lockdowns.

Possibly arrange for 4 young people to attend CC meetings to share the views of the young.

Outdoor learning has been trialled and is proving to be a success.

### **Planning;**

2 applications for the village, no impact.

Blackridge Boundary changes have gone for final approval, (taking in Sibbalds and Standhill Farm).

### **Newsletter/Website;**

A full paper run of Newsletter will be done before Christmas (Weather and Covid permitting)  
Deadline in the 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

Front cover will be chosen by CC Chair for this newsletter.

Any pressing or urgent items/issues can be added to the website at any time.

Full copies to be sent out hopefully twice a year, to take in the Gala Day and Christmas and to ensure any new households have the details of the newsletter and website.

CC have agreed that a grant be placed for a laptop, printer and Wi-Fi dongle to ensure that all CC details are available to all CC members and stored in one place.

Wording and names on any newsletter items may be changed/omitted to ensure full protection of everyone's GDP.

Business directory will be online and updated to help people find local tradesmen.

**Health Issues;**

Flu vaccinations are being handled by the NHS this year with letters being sent out by the NHS for appointments, these may not be held at your local surgery.

Blackridge Health Centre is seeing patients face to face, although not all surgeries are back to normal yet.

**Projects;**

Beehive planters are now in full bloom and are looking great.

Bollards are in place, initially vandalised but now fixed and remain intact.

Grit bin at Craig Inn Centre is to be relocated nearby as the beehive planter is now at the corner.

Further tree planting will hopefully go ahead in the autumn, and hopefully this year we will get some crocuses planted.

It was suggested that one of the benches be in line with the HRH Platinum Jubilee.

Small area of land (Behind no 1 Leishman Court) is overgrown, Cllr to check with land registry to allow us to contact owners to have them tidy up the area.

**AOB;**

Foundation Scotland Grants and how they are processed were discussed and it was reaffirmed that the CC have no input on any decision regarding grants awarded by Foundation Scotland, although both CC and FS Panel do consist of members who attend both, for example if CC submits a grant application, the FS panel members that are also CC member have to be impartial and cannot comment or vote on any CC applications, and any queries in relation to FS applications or awards should be directed to Foundation Scotland in the first instance, they have their own complaints process.

Due to time constraints and other business is carried over to the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING; 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 @ 7.00PM Craig Inn Centre**