

BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
 Minutes from Tuesday 15th February 2022
 Held At Craig Inn Centre.

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	
Marion Stewart	A Valentini
K Strachan	B Craig
A Montgomery	Cllr S King
S Montgomery	
J Ramsay	
R Rylott (via Teams)	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr McGuire	
A Graham	
A Downie (via Teams)	
K Bayliss	
Cllr Borrowman	
S Saunders	
S Henderson (Police)	
C Rennie (Police)	
A Hood (via Teams)	

Minutes from last meeting

Proposed; J Ramsay

Seconded; S Montgomery

Matters Arising: None

School Update; Mrs Downie

The electric car charging points should be working now.

Some children are involved in nuisance and disorder in Blackridge with both the School and Police are aware.

Police Update; Sean Henderson and Callum Rennie

There were 46 calls to the Police in January, 14 were to report crimes, one of which was related to wildlife crime. 2 reports of vandalism, one at the church and one to a vehicle. There have been many reports of youth disturbance, general nuisance and disorder. Police, Social Work and schools are involved but not all parents are willing to work with agencies or accept that their children are part of the problem.

There is an ongoing issue with young people drinking in the church grounds, in woods off the cycle track and behind the boarded up building on Main Street, leaving lots of broken bottles that are a hazard to pedestrians, animals, and pets.

Police are clamping down on offroad motor vehicles. There is a particular problem at the moment in Whitburn and Armadale. Residents are urged to contact the police if they know where offroad vehicles are being kept, as they cannot always be around when the vehicles are being used illegally.

There is a car that appears to be abandoned in the Louburn area, Police are aware.

Residents are urged to call the Police if they are victims of any youth disorders or nuisance, not to tackle youths.

Finance:

C Steel has passed all the financial documentation to M Stewart.

Planning:

Application lodged for a windfarm near Fauldhouse.

There is a new National Planning Framework 4.

There are new Local Place Plans.

There is a new Open Space Strategy.

The development by Aurora (80 houses opposite Craiginn Terrace) there was a proposed online event, but local people were not made aware of how to join this. The proposal seems to have two storey houses on Westcraigs Road, between the two existing groups of bungalows and one and a half storey houses.

Newsletter/Website;

There is no activity at the moment. There will be a limited print run of the Newsletter in the Summer.

Projects;

The Library is open and is having an Open Day on 24th February. Opening times are Monday: 9.00am - 3.30pm. Tuesday: 5.00pm - 9.00pm. Thursday: 2.00pm - 6.30pm

The Mining Memorial Digital Display will launch on 11th March. School children will be invited, along with Councillors and Community Councillors.

One Foundation Scotland grant for bulb and tree planting is on hold.

The bollards on Main Street will be replaced with stronger foundations.

The village noticeboard is on order and expected to be delivered later in February.

The Jubilee Fund is now closed for applications. Mrs Downie has put out a questionnaire asking for ideas from parents on what to do with the school wall. Looking for alternative funding.

New benches will be sited in three places. Sponsored by Eastern Star, Jubilee, and Audrey McQueen.

Blawhorn Moss;

Amee Hood is the new manager with Nature Scotland. She outlined progress and future plans including;

- The boardwalk is almost complete and an open event is planned. NS hope to raise funds for a further extension in the future.
- NS will not fund signage to direct people from outwith the village, but could explore this with other agencies.
- Temporary repairs will be done to the car park and hopefully road repairs will come later.
- Bins for litter or dog waste are not feasible at the moment.
- Campervan stopover will not be considered due to fears about litter, fly tipping, and waste disposal.

Any suggestions from the community to improve the area will be welcomed.

Health Centre;

Dr Russell-Smith leaves the practice, on the 1st of April.

The Health Centre is operating as normal, with telephone consultations or face to face appointments being offered.

AOB:

Recipes still needed for the 25th year of the Macmillan Coffee Morning recipe book.

The network connection at the Craig Inn centre is problematic and makes it difficult for people to attend remotely. A Montgomery will investigate possible solutions.

M Stewart attended a Foundation Scotland Climate Change seminar via Teams. It was interesting to see how green policies are being promoted across Scotland.

Foundation Scotland are running First Aid courses and Heather is hoping to have places allocated within the next few weeks. M Stewart said that anyone who is likely to use the kitchen at the Craig Inn Centre should attend a Food Hygiene course.

The Council have agreed that Blackridge can have street signs with historical place names.

Applications for the Council Town Centre Fund close on 22nd April.

The local Scouts are working towards their Community Action Badge and will be litter-picking.

Beechbrae has secured funding for more "Branching Out" projects. Sammy will be working with the school, along with Ameen to engage in outdoor activities.

AOB Jubilee.

There will be a Tea Dance on 5th June in the Craig Inn Centre, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will be a ticket only event.

There will be commemorative coins given to all Primary and Nursery age children. Extra coins will be available for purchase. The Management Committee are meeting at 7.00pm on 21st February to discuss this, any interested Community Councillors are welcome to attend.

Is anything planned for young people? Anne at the top centre can advise.

S Montgomery has an old photo of the village bonfire that was lit for the Coronation, could this be the cover for the next Newsletter?

NEXT MEETING; 15th March 2022 at the Craig Inn Centre. 7.00pm