



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting held Tuesday 20th February 2024
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	Andrew Valentini
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Rebecca Rylott
Keith Baylis	Mrs McGoldrick
Alan Montgomery	
Kate Strachan	
John Ramsay	
Billy Craig	
Sadie Montgomery	
INVITED GUESTS	
Sam Layton	
Nick Fennell	
Michelle Murray	
Ally Graham	
Sgt Sinnet	
Cllr McGuire	
Cllr Kenna	

1. Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: John Ramsay
Seconded: Sadie Montgomery

2. Matters Arising:

No matters arising.

3. School Update:

The Headteacher had submitted her apologies so there was no update.

4. Police Update:

Sgt Sinnet attended from Police Scotland and advised that he was keen to discuss recent incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the village. Police Scotland and the council were keen to address these ASB issues from a community perspective and Sgt Sinnet along with Michelle Murray the Community Regeneration Officer (also in attendance) were working to set up a group made up of council services, members of the community and charities working with youth groups to try and address the issue in a proactive manner. The first



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meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22nd February at 6.30pm and will focus on ensuring residents know how and where to report information to.

There was also a discussion on parking around the village particularly pavement parking. Sgt Sinnet explained that Officers did work on general parking and traffic issues as time allowed but that Police Scotland would not be enforcing pavement parking this would be the responsibility of the council.

5. Finance:

The balance sheet was presented for the year displaying all transactions.

It was proposed by: Alan Montgomery

It was seconded by: John Ramsay

6. Planning:

As the Planning Secretary was not present there was no update on planning.

There was a discussion about mess generated from the Craig Inn Terrace building site especially with regards to litter. Cllr McGuire advised he would raise this with the planning department and ask that the site was spoken to.

7. Newsletter/Website:

The next physical newsletter will be produced for the end of June and the galaday pull out will instead go on the website.

The website continues to be a success. Since it was created it has had more than six thousand visitors and more than 120 people have signed up for the news updates.

8. Projects:

Alan Montgomery gave an update on the recent electrical safety events that took place. Events were held at the Monday club, two sessions at the school and a PAT testing session at the community centre open day. These were well received especially the events at the school.

Rebecca had also emailed updates on various other projects she is working on:

- **Blackridge in Bloom-** Grants and contractors all in place to begin provision of new bedding plants and maintenance in the spring.
- **Village Notice Board/ Platinum Bench and 4 Train benches-** are all now ready to be installed. Waiting on a confirmation date from the contractor.
- **Bollards-** still waiting on the contractor installing the remaining bollards, planting works also still outstanding.



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- **New projects-** looking at further benches around the village and various projects around the school.

9. Health Centre:

No update.

10. AOB:

- Visitors from Greenpower International (Drumduff Windfarm) who currently have a live planning application for consideration. The application should be determined by the end of February and if this is successful Greenpower would like to come back to discuss the community benefit fund.

There have been some changes to the planning application, the height of turbine three has been reduced from 150m to 135m. Confirmation will be given if an oak tree near to the site will be retained.

Community benefit will be discussed with the community council in more detail if planning application is successful but £5,000 per megawatt will be offered in community benefit. It is anticipated at this stage that the connection to the grid will be in September or October 2026.

- Marion thanked everyone on behalf of the management committee for their help at the recent centre open day.
- The funding panel met recently online.
- Laura Henderson is coming to the April Community Council to discuss community transport.
- Further funding for storage of logs cut from school required. This will be progressed.
- Nature Scot are looking to put on an event to promote the Blowhorn moss.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th March at 7pm.