

BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from Tuesday 18th January Next Meeting 15th February 2022

Held on Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	
M Stewart	A Valentini
K Strachan	C Steele
A Montgomery	R Rylott
S Montgomery	Councillor S Borrowman
J Ramsay	
B Craig	
K Baylis	
INVITED GUESTS	
Councillor A. McGuire	
A Graham (Beechbrae)	
A Downie (Head Teacher) S Henderson (Community Police)	

Minutes from last meeting

Proposed; J Ramsay

Seconded; S Montgomery

Matters Arising: None

School Update; Mrs Downie

The school is back, with 98% attendance. Only two children and two staff are absent due to Covid.

Work is almost complete on the extension.

The car park and drop-off/pick up is operating well, the only problem being when the hill is icy and cars may struggle.

There will be two electric car charging points.

Are there any plans for landscaping at the front of the car park? It was agreed that planters would be nice here.

Police Update; Sean Henderson

The Police horses visited Blackridge, which was well received.

It is hoped that school visits by the Police will take place within the next month.

There has been vandalism in Alison Gardens, this is down to a group of youths, some of whom have been responsible for disorder and damage to property. Police visited the school in December and spoke to pupils about this. This seems to have calmed things down a bit.

There was a serious assault on 8th January. This was an isolated incident and one person has been charged.

The vandalised posts on Main Street, opposite the takeaway, will be replaced

Finance:

The balance in the account on 3rd December was £12,427.15. This includes the grant for the Newsletter, as well as other projects.

The CC needs a new Treasurer. K Strachan has volunteered to take this on. This appointment was agreed by the CC.

B Craig has volunteered to be a third signatory on the account. Also agreed by the CC.

Planning:

The development in Craig inn Terrace (between the current development and the Burn) is in the initial stages of planning. Neighbour Notifications should be going out to affected properties.

K Strachan agreed to let Cllr McGuire know if she receives one.

Newsletter/Website;

The Festive Bulletin has been removed.

The previous year's minutes have been archived.

Blawhorn Moss has been upgraded and is looking great.

Could we use the website to promote groups in the Craig Inn Centre and encourage use of the Library.

Projects;

The Bollards on Main Street will be repaired.

Michelle Kirkbright advised about grants to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Could we have a Tea Dance in the Craig Inn Centre? A commemorative coin for the village children? Any suggestions welcome.

Blawhorn Moss, managed by Nature Scotland, has a new manager. B Craig has agreed to contact her about a number of issues.

- Signage needed to direct people from outwith the village.
- The access road is in poor condition.
- There are no bins for litter or dog waste.
- Would the car park be suitable for a campervan stopover? This could attract visitors and increase use of the area.

Health Centre;

When Dr Russell-Smith leaves the practice, the plan is for Armadale practice to take over on the 1st of April.

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

AOB:

Future minutes will list attendees as “Community Councillors”, “Invited Guests”, and “Visitors”. Invited Guests will include Elected Members, Police, School Heads, Beechbrae, and any particular contributors on specific issues.

Ally advised that the trees from the school grounds are being stored until they are dried. M Stewart thanked Ally for her help with this project and Ally in turn mentioned the help from Andrew McNee and Dougie Orr.

S Montgomery advised that this will be the 25th year of the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Consideration is being given to commemorating this by recipe book? If anyone has any recipes they would like included, please send to the CC email address.

****NEXT MEETING;**

**15th February 2022 is likely to be “in person” at the Craig Inn Centre. 7.00pm
Guidelines and Restrictions permitting.**