

BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Centre Minutes from meeting 20th June 2023, Next meeting 12th September 2023
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	A Valentini
Marion Stewart (Chair)	J Ramsay
S Montgomery	J Robertson
B Craig	Cllr A McGuire
A Montgomery	Cllr S Borrowman
K Strachan	Cllr L Kenna
R Rylott	Sean Henderson (Police)
INVITED GUESTS	
A Graham	
C McGoldrick	
Dr Neil McRitchie (Health Centre)	

Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: R Rylott
Seconded: B Craig

Matters Arising: None

School Update:

Claire McGoldrick has been confirmed as Head Teacher. She has many plans for the future of the school.

Lots of families are taking up the hybrid model of nursery provision.

Police Update:

Reported incidents for the previous month were 56 in total. Eight crimes, one fire-raising, and one vandalism, all of which are being investigated.

Police were busy with various Gala Days and processions through May and June.

Police have visited the school and spoken to pupils in relation to an upturn in stone-throwing, hoping to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour before the summer holidays.

Finance:

The balance in the account on 12th June was £5731.91

Planning:

A formal response has been sent regarding the proposed windfarm at Harthill.

Rebecca will check for any live applications.

Newsletter/Website:

Alan is catching up with website issues having finished his course. Updates to the statistics for traffic to the website will be available at the September meeting.

Projects:

There is no change to the position regarding the benches on Westrigg Way.

The benches for the Eastern Star and Platinum Jubilee are in storage at Sibbalds.

The replacement bollards at Doctor's Brae are ready to be installed.

There were two sessions of burn clearance carried out. West Lothian Litterpickers were involved and gave advice.

There will be tree planting taking place in November.

Health Centre:

Dr Neil McRitchie outlined statistics and plans for the health Centre. In the past, the average number of consults per year was three per person, now it is 10-12. The population of West Lothian has increased by 9% and GP vacancies are increasing. There are long waits for hospital assessment and treatment which means there is a knock on effect for GPs who have to deal with patients experiencing symptoms whilst on waiting lists. The surgery plans to introduce "E-Consult", which will allow patients to make contact online, but there are many issues to overcome, not least that not all patients have access to the internet.

AOB:

Overgrown hedges are obstructing the view of traffic on Westcraigs Road. K Strachan will contact Cllr McGuire.

Concern around the number of power cuts experienced in Blackridge, often only lasting a short time, but have nuisance impact, as devices need to be reset afterwards. K Strachan will contact SP Energy Networks.

Armadale pool is scheduled for closure.

Sam Aitken and Nick Fennell, representing Greenpower who are aiming to extend Drumduff windfarm, outlined their plans. There will be three more turbines with capacity of 5 megawatts. Greenpower are looking to remodel their community benefit scheme to better align with local needs. The Beech trees that were under threat will now be preserved. There is one Oak tree that may be lost.

There is another application to the East of the Drumduff from a different developer, windestate.com

Date of Next Meeting: 19th September 2023, 7.00pm, Craig Inn Centre