



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting held Tuesday 19th March 2024
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

| PRESENT | APOLOGIES |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS | Andrew Valentini |
| Marion Stewart (Chair) | Rebecca Rylott |
| Keith Baylis | Michelle Murray |
| Alan Montgomery | |
| Kate Strachan | |
| John Ramsay | |
| Sadie Montgomery | |
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| INVITED GUESTS | |
| Mrs McGoldrick | |
| Ally Graham | |
| PC Kier Freeman | |
| Cllr McGuire | |
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1. Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: Sadie Montgomery
Seconded: Kate Strachan

2. Matters Arising:

No matters arising.

3. School Update:

Planning is underway at the school for the next school session especially around how best to use Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). The school is also actively involved in the partnership work being done to try and stop anti-social behaviour in the village.

The P1s are working on dog fouling issues, and it was felt by the Community Council it would be great to work together on this so it was agreed an application would be put into Foundation Scotland to buy resources such as dog poo bags and holders to place round the village and to give out.

The winter newsletter was very well received by parents and carers at the school and the school would be happy to help generate more content for the summer edition.



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4. Police Update:

PC Freeman introduced himself to the community council and explained that he was one of the Community Police Officers who covered the Armadale and Blackridge area. He apologised that he had been unable to attend meetings recently due to his shift pattern but hoped to attend most meetings in the future.

He talked through the youth anti-social behaviour in the village. He advised that he had recently spent time reviewing all anti-social behaviour cases in the village and was able to identify twenty new crimes to people that had previously gone unattributed. Through these crimes it is estimated that more than £10,000 worth of damage as been done to property in the village in the last year. PC Freeman reminded everyone of the importance of reporting any and all incidents so that the Police and other authorities such as Social Work can take appropriate action to address this.

5. Finance:

There had been no transactions in the last month.

6. Planning:

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

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. All submissions for the newsletter need to be in by Friday 31st May. The school will help with content and volunteers will be required to distribute through doors across the village.

Two new items of news have been placed on the website in recent weeks.

8. Projects:

As Rebecca was not present there was no update on projects.

9. Health Centre:

Dr Ed Russell-Smith who ran the surgery for many years is to retire at the end of March.

10. AOB:

- Data protection payment for the year has been made.
- Police will try to use the speed gun in Harthill Road in the next few weeks.



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- The road to Harthill is particularly bad with potholes when you cross the border into North Lanarkshire and there is concern regarding lorries using it. It was agreed that Cllr McGuire would write to councillors in North Lanarkshire and if companies using the lorries could be identified then he would also write to them and ask colleagues in North Lanarkshire to do the same.
- Keith has made progress on the adopt a station discussion and he hopes that the formal adoption will be complete within the next month.
- The Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian is exploring a Scottish wide body to represent all community councils and their interests. It was agreed that Keith would attend discussions on behalf of the Community Council and report back on discussions and progress.
- Litter is being blown about streets on occasion because of wind blowing lids open. To combat this Keith is working on a prototype clip and will give Community Council members them to try out soon.
- Lara Henderson from the Community Transport Association will come to the April meeting to discuss community transport options.
- John Ramsay advised the Community Council will be approaching 50 years old in the next couple of years. Consideration will be given at a future meeting as to a celebration.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th April at 7pm.