

BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from Tuesday 19th May 2021 Next Meeting 15th June 2021

Held Via Microsoft Teams (Online)

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

Marion Stewart	C Steele
A Valentini	R Rylott
S Montgomery	Cllr King
J Ramsay	D Sibbald
A Montgomery	
Cllr Borrowman	
K Strachan	
Cllr McGuire	
A Downie (Head Teacher)	
K Jack (Community Police Sergeant)	

Minutes from last meeting

Proposed; J Ramsay

Seconded; M Stewart

Matters Arising: Minutes will be available on the website and included in the meeting invite

Community Police:

There has been numerous incidents of vandalism in the village, e.g. bus windows targeted, derelict buildings set on fire, Blackridge Public Park, etc. Police continue to investigate and liaise with the School head teacher.

Due to a number of wilful fire raising incidents in the village recently it was proposed to organise a local Fire Officer to attend the primary school.

Ongoing problems with cars parked on Harthill Road, some permanently parked and others causing obstruction when trying to emerge from some roads. Ongoing.

Possibly more trained police personnel will use hand held radar guns to assess speeding in the village.

There has been 67 calls from the village made to the Police in the last month.

Finance:

£27,736.66 most of which is allocated to projects

School Update;

Covid has emerged in Blackridge Nursery, 2 positive and all other negative.

Work on the drop off area will start around May 24th and may run until mid-September.

Access issues around the MUGA, having to cross the playground to get to it, ongoing.

Planning:

Tree felling at the back of the School, still in discussion with Council and trying to organise a mobile Tree Surgeon to cut the wood to allow drying, wood can be used for indoor furniture only and could be used for small memorabilia item like frames coasters, to keep a memento of the wood.

Funding available from Foundation Scotland to support this work.

Email to be sent out to consider creating a Sub Committee regarding this project.

Newsletter:

400 copies were printed in last run, almost all away, may look at two full village drops for the newsletter, possibly summer just before the Gala Day and winter for the Christmas issue, CC Agreed.

Costing to be obtained for 1100 issues twice a year and 400 for spring and autumn issues.

Health Issues:

Health Centre may reopen its doors to allow face to face visits and there will be a max of 6 in the waiting room.

New appointment system is being worked on now, updates to come.

Projects:

Town and Country funding for some of the projects are 75% complete.

Benches to be decided for the Train Stations 10th anniversary and still awaiting an update from the Adopt a station team, delayed due to Covid and other reasons, planters for the station were part of this project

Email sent out to CC members regarding planning and projects.

Temp Cycle Lanes update;

These should all have been advisory, but some areas with bollards were to be deemed permanent.

When installed they had blocked access to the bus stop and houses at Fleming Place, this has been resolved and removed. Permanent areas have been downgraded to advisory. Cllr's are still pushing for the removal of the bollards.

There are many safety concerns regarding this and the Cllr's have taken the information on board with further updates to come.

AOB:

- Map of Blackridge Boundary changes was shared, Blackridge may now also encompass Sibbalds and Standhill Bridge, ongoing.
- CC Applications for next 4 years have been sent out, Alan and Andrew will look into the online completion side of it, otherwise Marion will collect them all and hand them in. Deadline is (August to Marion) September the 2nd
- Rebecca is the new Chair of Landscape Institute of Scotland and is more than happy to continue to support CC and village projects. **Congratulations from all.**
- Sustrans update, the state of the cycle path with glass, litter and waste has been noted, possibly contact West Lothian Litter Pickers for equipment and signage would help
- Would it be possible to replace benches along the cycle path (may need to speak to Landowners.)
- John Ramsay is looking into the history of BCC, John was the first chair of BCC when it was established 45years ago, when Blackridge came under West Lothian District Council, John will continue to collect information and can be added to the newsletter at a later date.
- Are there any plans for full reopening of the WLC Waste site? (National decision).
- Beechbrae woodland centre may be open within a couple of months.
- Alan managed to gain a collection of older newsletters, this may be an idea to keep all the old copies within the Local library.
- Cllr McGuire to make contact with Mr Paris (Armadale Academy Head) to invite to future meetings.

NEXT MEETING; 15th June 2021 @ 7.00PM