



BLACKRIDGE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from Meeting: Tuesday 17th October 2023.
Held at: Craig Inn Community Centre

Attendees Present:	Apologies:
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	A Valentini
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Cllr Borrowman
S Montgomery	K Bayliss
B Craig	
J Ramsay	
K Strachan	
A Montgomery	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr McGuire	
A Graham - Beechbrae	
Mrs McGoldrick – Primary School	

1. Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: B Craig
Seconded: S Montgomery

2. Matters Arising:

None

3. School Update:

The school has 145 children enrolled.
Nursery places are being taken up. There are new staff in post, and they are getting the children out and about as well as being in the Nursey.
Blackridge is in a good position for Nursery places as it is recognised that transport links are poor, so families would be unable to access places in other areas.
Mrs McGoldrick has been working with pupils on revising the school values, and has established three; these are kindness, community, and pride.

There has also been work done on vandalism and how it affects the community.
Unfortunately, it is unlikely that the Police input to the school will be able to continue.
This has proved valuable in establishing positive relationships.

4. Police Update:

CSOs Sean and Callum advised that they have been assigned to a different area and new officers will be taking over. The new CSO attended Armadale CC meeting.
Cllr McGuire will forward contact details.



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5. Finance:

The balance in the account is: £8873.50.

There was a payment in from Foundation Scotland for £6000.00 on the 8th of September, and a further payment out to Alan Agnew Engineering for £1450.00 for the New Noticeboard.

6. Planning:

Nothing to report.

7. Newsletter/Website:

Cllr McGuire will write an article on the cost of living for the next issue of the Newsletter. There will also be contributions from the Primary School, the Health Centre, and various others.

The school pupils will design the front cover.

8. Projects:

No update at this time.

9. Health Centre:

E-consult continues to be transitioned in the practice; further information will be requested from the health centre and will be included in newsletter and website.

10. AOB:

- It was agreed that the December meeting will be brought forward to the 5th of December.
- Email message from George Baxter at Greenpower outlining their current position. It was agreed that if they want to come to a meeting, we should wait until next year.
- There is work ongoing to remove and sell white stone from an area that is designated as the highest point in the village.
- There was a meeting with M Stewart, K Strachan, and Malcolm Jack of Foundation Scotland regarding the grants application process and the difficulties that Blackridge groups are having. Several things were cleared up. On investigation, the reason that there is no facility to send physical applications is because FS no longer has an office, and all staff are working from home. Malcom is going to look at our concerns and try to resolve the issues. They would like to arrange an open day for groups sometime next year. Date tbc.
- As McGill's will soon be withdrawing the bus service, Lothian Country will step in to take over some routes. WL Council have invited tenders, with a closing date of 26th October. A report is due in early November, and it is hoped that the situation will be resolved. As a last resort it may be necessary to use a taxi bus service.



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AOB: (cont'd)

- Rising insurance renewal premiums are affecting many, but there seems to be an issue around flood cover for homes in Blackridge, with one resident seeing the premium rising from £230 to £860. Shopping around was successful, but it is concerning that Blackridge might be viewed as a flood risk for an unspecified reason.
- Concern was expressed about the length of time that Council houses sit empty before being re-let. Cllr McGuire explained the many stages that go into closing a tenancy, carrying out repairs and upgrades, and offering the tenancy to a new tenant. At each stage there are delays possible so although it seems that houses are empty for too long, the Council always tries to allocate as soon as they can.
- Alan Montgomery now has a CC laptop that will hold all CC data. He will set up a SharePoint site, so CC Admin has shared access.
- There have been reported sightings of a "big cat" in the Blackridge area.
- There is funding of up to £5000.00 available through an Electrical Safety Fund. Could there be an event held for testing, repairs or replacement of electrical items?
- Dog poo is still an issue. Could we consider an application for a grant to install and keep filled some poo bag dispensers around the village?

Next Meeting Details:

Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7.00pm in the Craig Inn Community Centre.