



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting. Date: Tuesday 16th December 2025
Held at Craig Inn Community Centre

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	Dawn Lindsay
Marion Stewart (Chair)	Fiona Wilson
Sadie Montgomery	Cllr Lynda Kenna
Billy Craig	Mrs Nicola Barker-Hadriso (HT Armadale)
Alan Montgomery	Mrs Clare McGoldrick (HT Blackridge PS)
Keith Bayliss	Caroline Melville
Rebecca Rylott	Ally Graham
Kate Strachan	Callum Rylott
John Ramsay	Clark Steele
June McKay	
INVITED GUESTS	
Cllr Andrew McGuire	
Cllr Susan Manion	
PC. C Tait	
PC. K Murchison	

1. Minutes from last meeting

Proposed: R Rylott
Seconded: J McKay

2. Matters Arising: None

3. School Update: Head Teachers unable to attend but wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

4. Police Update: November call numbers were the same as last year at 34, but this year saw more serious incidents. Youth issues represented a third of calls from Blackridge.

- Motor bikes, both off road and on the roads or pavements continue to be a problem. For road safety reasons the Police cannot pursue offenders if they are not wearing a helmet. Riders know this, and often remove their helmet, effectively making them immune to pursuit.

- There remain problems with vandalism, currently rock-throwing. Cars, Vans, and other vehicles have been attacked, and the flat above the Pharmacy has been targeted.
- There have been a number of attempted break-ins; opportunistic trying of doors even during daytime. Police advice is to keep doors locked, even when at home, and to use security features such as doorbell cameras.
- Bonfire Night saw a repeat of last year's disruption. There was a fire in Drummond Place and Fire Brigade vehicles and firefighters were attacked. Police were called in and they had to get help from a specialist squad from Edinburgh to deal with the disorder.

A road safety issue was raised around HGV parking on the road between the roundabouts leading to the M8 at Heartlands. The road is dual-carriageway, but the inside lane on both sides is frequently blocked, as it seems to be treated as an informal car park for lorry drivers using the services. Some buses also park in the inside lane while they wait to start their route. It is dangerous, as drivers coming off the roundabout in the inside lane have to change lane unexpectedly. At night, or in poor visibility conditions, this could cause an accident. As there are no restrictions on this road, there is nothing that Police can do. The Council would need to put restrictions in place on the grounds of road safety.

5. Finance: The balance in the account is £5794.24

Payments have been made for the Website and for the Newsletter.

-£489.31	Go Daddy for website (software and hosting)
-£14.35	Go Daddy for website (domain name renewal)
-£1,126.50	Twentyfourseven design for Newsletter (artwork/design and print)

6. Planning: No Update

7. Newsletter/Website: Thanks to Susan Hart for the latest Newsletter, and to Alan and June for their contributions.

Through the website residents have asked for more Christmas lights, but this has been refused before and will not happen.

Also request for rubbish bins at Blawhorn Moss. Nature Scot, who own the site have advised that they cannot provide bins, as they have no means for collecting rubbish. They advise people using the area to take their litter home. As it is not Council property, they cannot provide bins or collect rubbish.

8. Projects: The poo bin dispenser boxes have arrived. We need to find a way to fit them to posts. K Bayliss will investigate options and recommend so that K Strachan can order and pay for this.

Poo bag pick-up tool that we can have at no cost would need adapting to make it suitable. We are going to keep looking at how we might source the quantity we need of the collapsible model that was identified as the best option.

9. Health Centre: Under pressure due to staff shortages.

10. AOB: The vacant plot of land on Westcraigs Road is looking worse than ever. Are there any ideas for alternative uses?

The Christmas lights in the village are in need of repair, some have bulbs unlit, some have sections missing. Are they checked before being fitted?

The traffic lights at Armadale cross continue to cause problems for drivers turning right towards Asda. Why is it not possible to alter the timing to allow a few seconds more at green after the lights turn red for traffic heading towards Blackridge?

On the 24th of January there will be a Health and Fitness event at the Craig Inn Centre.

There are a number of blocked drains. The Council only has one “sucker” vehicle, so it may take a while before this can be resolved. K Bayliss will report issues at the Station car park to Scotrail.

The planters at the Station are looking great. Hopefully we can get more of these next year.

Date of next meeting: 20th January 2026, 7.00pm, Craig Inn Centre.