

Blackness Area Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 20th April 2016, in the Community Hall

Attendees:

Council members: Merv Archibald (MA), Nick Paul (NP), Martin Watt (MW), Martin Knott (MK), Sharman Faulds (SF), Kathryn James (KJ), Dave Lawson (DL), plus 2 members of the public.

PC Graham McDougall and PC Greg Cruickshanks from Police Scotland attended to deliver the Police report (arriving by rather splendid bicycles), Paul Hamilton, Community Safety Officer from Falkirk Council also attended.

Apologies: Cllr A Mahoney

MA opened the meeting by welcoming all those present

Approval of Previous Minutes

Approval of minutes March meeting: proposed NP, seconded SF

Actions from Previous Minutes

- Tree planting to maintain landscape structure – on going. Noted that a lot of trees have recently been planted along the JMW between Blackness and Bo'ness.
- Neighbourhood Watch – 2 additional replacement signs have been delivered, 1 for village and other for Cauldcoats. These to be erected when resources allow. KJ will update the Neighbourhood Watch email list and send out updates as and when necessary.
- Progress on benches – NP on going

Community Police report

One reported crime in the area, a drink driving offence that was not committed by a resident. Issue raised of youths speeding on small motorbikes / dirt-bikes on roads around the area, unclear whether these bikes and riders are properly licensed.

Future Events/Fundraising

- Ceilidh – postponed till Autumn

Community Projects

- Public Toilets - risk assessment has been done and will be forwarded to Falkirk Council. Once approval to undertake the repairs is received, a work party will be organised.
- Blackness is Beautiful - ongoing
- Goal posts in park – noted that these have fallen over and appear to have corroded beyond repair. Issue of what to do about the stumps. MA and MK will take a look and assess.

Budget

DL updated the meeting with a budget report. DL to talk to Jill Granger about the sum now being held in the "Jill Granger Matching Fund" to discuss what is planned to do with the cash.

Noted that the BACC will have to find another insurer, and that the accounts are due to be audited again in May.

Councillors' Update

None

Planning Update

P/16/0140/FUL – attic conversion 14 St Ninians Way

Noted that the date for comments had now passed, however following a brief discussion it was agreed that the CC had no comment to make on the application.

Flight Path Trial Report and Discussion

- Sub committee. Given the importance of this issue for our area MA proposed an Aircraft Noise sub committee. This was agreed with its members comprising MA, DL, MW and Helena Paul (HP). The group will bring in expert advisers as required. Its main roles will be to liaise with Edinburgh Airport (EDI) to:
 - access information to understand if there has been a significant change in the overflights in our area pre and post the TUTUR air flight trial and
 - provide independent scrutiny of relevant EDI activities
- Information from EDI. In response to BACC's request last month, EDI provided some data on mid March weeks for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 – the idea being that this would clarify if air traffic above our area was the same as it was pre-TUTUR Trial, as claimed by EDI, or that it had increased, as contended by locals. Unfortunately, data on speed and altitude was omitted, which prevented meaningful assessment. EDI claimed it lacked the resource to provide any more. It was agreed MA would revert to EDI querying the nature of the resource issue and stressing the importance of EDI providing full information.
- Residents are reporting widespread changes to the noise levels, so clearly something has changed.
- A questionnaire on flight noise was discussed - agreed that it should be circulated for local residents to complete, but that initially all should pass any comments they had on it to MA or HP. The best method of getting the questionnaires returned was then reviewed - options being stamped addressed envelopes (SAE), local drop off points including Mannerstons, the School, selected residents home addresses and putting it out online.
- HP mentioned that the wider campaign group is producing an information leaflet that could be enclosed with the survey, it was agreed to send out a newsletter from the BACC to advise what the survey is about and to ask that everyone takes a few minutes to complete and return it.
- Agreed that the survey would be reviewed and a final version hand delivered to all residents in the area with an SAE, a newsletter and a leaflet. Notices would be put on the website and on the notice boards to alert and remind residents of the importance of completing and returning the questionnaire asap.

Any other Business

- JMW celebration walk Carriden – Blackness, noon Saturday 23 April – Carriden church will be open from 11am for tea and coffee, walk setting off at Noon. Blackness Boat Club will be open for tea and coffee afterwards. Thereafter people will walk back to Carriden. If anyone who is going could take photos, pass them to KJ to post on the website.
- MA reported that Grangemouth CC has been reinstated following a period of there being no CC representation after the en masse resignation of the previous CC. The first meeting of the reformed CC will be on Thursday 21st April at 7pm in the Community Education Wing on Abbot's Road. MA plans to attend.
- NP reported that the road sign for Mannerston Holdings at the Merrylees junction has been displaced to allow stonework repairs to the wall at the House of the Binns. We need to ask the Council to replace it. KJ will action via the online request facility on the Falkirk Council website.
- Suggestion for our May meeting that we invite a member from Kincardine CC to talk to us about the impact of fracking on the area – agreed and NP to action. Agreed this could be publicised in a newsletter along with the Flight Noise questionnaire.
- Mentioned that the Blackness Inn has appeared for sale by public auction – Future Property Auctions. The pub failed to find a buyer at the auction in April, and is to be offered for sale again in May at a slightly reduced price.
- Falkirk Council Community Safety Team - Paul Hamilton(PH) updated the meeting on the purpose of his team at Falkirk Council – which is to monitor activity by youths, littering, dog fouling and control of dogs. He covers Bo'ness, Blackness and the Upper Braes areas, and is keen to understand what issues we may be having in Blackness that his team can assist with. Contact email is community.safety@falkirk.gov.uk Reports of anti

social activity in vicinity of Castle – youths driving across grass and setting fires in the grounds. This is being actively monitored. Issue of fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, fine is now £80. Prefer to try and educate public, and hand out bags, there is now a supply of dog bags available at the shop at Blackness Castle. The team provides a monthly report on activity which we can put on the Community website. Queries raised about some of the bins – the ongoing request to relocate one of the 3 bins behind the Castle to the area beside the bridge over the burn, and the requirement for a “bird proof” bin in the village at the west side of the Guildry. Both matters should be raised with the Cleansing dept, however if no progress, contact Paul’s team and he will try and help. (Add this topic to the Agenda, as intends to attend and report to most BACC meetings).

Date of next meeting

- Wednesday 18 May 2016, 7pm in the Community Hall.

MA thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at around 8.50pm.

Blackness Area Community Council

Budget: - For Meeting Wednesday 20 April 2016

Balance from March meeting **£4,545.26**

BACC Monies Held **BACC** **Christmas Fair**

BACC Monies Raised (For info. purposes)	Amount
Raised at Ceilidh Saturday 23 March 2013	£378.00
Raised at Ceilidh Saturday 22 March 2014	£432.00
Raised at Ceilidh Saturday 28 March 2015	£377.55
Total	£1,187.55

BACC Monies In	Amount
Total	£0.00

BACC Monies Out	Amount
Cheque to Billy Smith - cancellation of Ceilidh	£25.00
Total	£25.00

BACC Monies Pending	Amount
Total Pending	£0.00

Christmas Fair Held (Jill Granger Fund Matching)	Amount
Raised at Christmas Fair 2011	£645.38
Raised at Christmas Fair 2012	£672.36
Raised at Christmas Fair 23 Nov 2013	£780.05
Raised at Christmas Fair 22 Nov 2014	£766.48
Raised at Christmas Fair 21 Nov 2015 (Hall rental to deduct = £774.03 - 28.55)	£745.48
Total	£3,609.75

Christmas Fair In	Amount
Money raised from New Year Party (to go to Jill Granger Fund Matching)	£140.00
Total	£140.00

Christmas Fair Out	Amount
Jill Granger has agreed that cost of planters can come off monies held as this was deemed a good local cause (deducted January 2013)	£183.66
Total	£183.66

Total Balances (Split)	BACC	Christmas Fair
	£1,094.17	£3,566.09

Account Balance as Wed. 20 April 2016 **£4,660.26**

