

Blackness Area Community Council
Minutes from Community Council Meeting 19th October 2016

1 ***Attendees:***

Council members: Merv Archibald (MA), Nick Paul (NP), Kathryn James (KJ), Dave Lawson (DL) With an additional three members of the public

2 ***Apologies:*** Martin Watt, Martin Knott, Cllr Adrian Mahoney, Cllr Ann Ritchie, Falkirk Council Community Safety Team,

3 ***Approval of Previous Minutes of 21st September 2016***

Approved NP, seconded KJ

4 ***Community Police Report***

4.1 PC Graeme McDougall and PC Greg Cruickshanks in attendance. 1 crime reported in the area, related to an ongoing neighbour dispute. The matter of a “prowler” having been seen around a property in the Holdings was discussed, advice is to encourage anyone with concerns to report these to the Police. Matter of speeding near the school raised, suggestion that mobile speed cameras could be located there. Suggestion of including the school children in any road safety awareness activity – there may be scope to involve them the use of the speed cameras. The Police will discuss matters with the head teacher.

5 ***Actions from Previous Minutes***

5.1 Neighbourhood Watch.

ACTION MA & MK to locate last two signs – ongoing.

6 ***Future Events/Fundraising***

6.1 **Ceilidh:** MA reported that the usual musician is not available during November, as he is available on 18th March 2017, the Ceilidh will be held then.

6.2 **Christmas Fair:** Jill Granger updated the meeting – the Fair will be held on Saturday 26th November 1.30pm to 4.30pm in the Community Hall. A couple of tables still available for crafters with items for sale. Volunteers to assist on the day would be appreciated, as would any donations of Home Baking. Cllr Ritchie has offered to donate a raffle prize.

ACTION: Agreed to add the information to the website and in the next newsletter.

7 Community Projects

7.1 **Public Toilets:** the council need additional detail.

ACTION: MA to speak to council – ongoing

7.2 **Blackness is Beautiful:** Ongoing

8 Budget

DL reported no transactions and no change in the bank balance since last month. Some discussion on the target amount for the Christmas Fair monies being held in the BACC account. Plan is to raise sufficient funds to allow a reasonable level of match funding to be applied for to buy new playground equipment. Might be nearly there, subject to there being time and energy available to make an appropriate match funding application.

9 Councillors' Update

None

10 Community Safety Team Update

Report received by KJ – there have been instances of fires on Council land in the Bo'ness area, no anti social behaviour hotspots identified in Blackness.

11 Planning Update

11.1 P/15/0644/FUL - 4 West Terrace, Application turned down, has gone to appeal. Site visit planned for 27th October, MA will attend on behalf of BACC.

11.2 19B Mannerston Holdings – Seeking retrospective planning permission for hard standing area adjacent to agricultural shed – no application yet received by Falkirk Council

12 Any other Business

12.1 Flight noise over Blackness

HP updated the meeting, still an ongoing issue with new and unwanted flight noise over the area, especially on days with an Easterly wind. The last two weeks have been particularly difficult with constant easterlies. While not everyone is bothered by the noise, those who are bothered are very upset by it and wish it to stop. Following on from the excellent response to the residents' survey, we need to decide on next steps. Suggestion we contact our MSPs and MP and local Councillors.

MA noted that it was disappointing that there had been no response from Edinburgh Airport to his most recent email re flight data and Noise Management Board. MA would chase it up, copying in others as necessary. He noted that copying in politicians and the CAA for a previous email seemed to elicit a more prompt reply from the Airport.

ACTIONS:

HP to provide some of the survey data for the website (**KJ** to upload) and newsletter;

MA to contact local community councils via Brian Pirie and offer the questionnaire for wider consultation

13 Any other Business

11.1 Stakeholders' Workshop at Falkirk Council for Bo'ness and Blackness.

ACTION: MA will attend the event on 1 November at the Lund Hall, Bo'ness on behalf of BACC.

11.2 Proposal from Historic Scotland to erect a gate along the Castle Road to restrict traffic when the Castle is closed, with the aim of reducing instances of anti social behaviour. General discussion, felt that this was rather sad, but probably necessary. Suggestion that a sign be placed in the Square or other suitable point to alert drivers that the castle road is closed to vehicular traffic out of hours.

ACTION: MA to discuss with local residents in the village who may be affected.

11.3 Proposal by INEOS to close the A904 road through the Grangemouth site. PAN (Pre Application Notification) is currently taking place. While there may be economic arguments put forward by INEOS, there will be significant Community impact with a longer route for traffic. People may make their comments known by 28th October to grangemouthcommunications@ineos.com

ACTION: add this item to the Newsletter, and ask residents for feedback

11.4 Coffee Van in village: An approach has been made to Falkirk Council to purchase some land between Nossirom Terrace and the Boat Club to operate a Coffee Van. Original plan was to locate the van in the Square, however this would result in a loss of parking space. Following discussion, it was felt that the same issue would arise with the alternative site, and that therefore BACC could not support the proposal on the grounds of loss of parking space.

11.5 Rubbish Collections: A comment had been received from a resident that the Council does not appear to be replacing the Blue bins following uplift, therefore making it obvious that a property may be unoccupied during the day. Also noted that the Green Bin collection has been reduced to a 4 weekly cycle. Concerns were expressed about this. Agreed to ask residents' opinion of new uplift schedule in next newsletter.

ACTION: MA to raise with Falkirk Council

ACTION: Ask residents' views on new uplift calendar in newsletter.

- 11.3 The Burn from the bridge to the Forth is blocked and may cause flooding – advised that this is a matter for local landowners to manage. Suggest issue is raised with the residents concerned.
- 11.4 Discussion on conversion of barns in smallholdings for residential use. Thought is that the planners regard such alterations and use as ancillary to the main property, and which cannot be disposed of separately.
- 11.5 Question raised about the recent road accident on the hill at Mannerston Holdings. No-one seriously hurt, but substantial damage to both vehicles, one of which ended up in a field. Question raised about treatment of the injured afterwards, as they could have sustained serious neck or spine injuries. Understanding is that those involved refused medical treatment.
- 11.6 BACC Notice Board in Village beside the Guildry has been damaged.

ACTION: MA to investigate repairs

- 11.7 Falkirk Council budget currently out for consultation. Likely to be implications for Blackness, particularly the school. Education budget set to be cut by a further 11%, on top of cuts already made (eg classroom assistants have been cut) FC is looking for feedback, and residents are encouraged to review the budget on the Council Website and comment accordingly.

ACTION: Add item in newsletter

- 11.8 Noted that a long standing resident of the area, Mary Campbell, passed away in July. A very fine lady, whose funeral was very well attended. Some residents were sorry not to have known about it at the time and offered their condolences.

12 *Date of next meeting; Wednesday 16th November 2016*

7pm - AGM

7.30pm – routine monthly meeting

MA thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 8.15pm