

Blackness Area Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 21st March 2018 - Blackness Boat Club

Attendees:		
Community Council members: Helen Brown (HB), Dorothy Garrow (DG), Nick Paul (NP) (Chair), Helena Paul (HP) (Minutes), Martin Watt (MW), Dave Lawson (DL), Sharman Faulds (SF)		
Members of the public: 6		
Apologies:		
Nan Wylie		
		Action
1. Approval of Previous Minutes:		
Proposed: HB Seconded: DG		
Subject to a minor amendment: page 3 item 9 Flight Path matters – it was agreed that a noise monitor should be installed by EAL to record noise over the Blackness area.		
2. Community Police Report		
Police did not attend in person. Police Report received by email, no activity to report. Police Scotland is initiating a new public consultation process. HB will post information on the Facebook page about this.		
		HB
3. Actions and matters arising from previous minutes		
Councillor Update: Concerns had been expressed at remarks made by Cllr Munro at the February meeting, and her similar approach at the meeting she had previously attended in September, and the failure to respond to two emails she had been sent following the Sept meeting. An email had been sent to her by the BACC setting out the concerns and expectations in future. Concerns centred around comments made by Cllr Munro in relation to planning matters and flight path issues. She has responded by email stating <i>inter alia</i> that she does not recognise the comments made by BACC. She has not responded to our request that we are copied into any representations she intends to make on behalf of BACC, so a further follow up email will be required to clarify this point. HP to action.		
Generally it was felt that positive input from our elected representatives is to be welcomed, and that we would encourage all our elected councillors to attend our meetings. It was mentioned that Cllr Ritchie has a diary clash on our usual meeting night, and that Cllr Aitchison may have transport issues that make it difficult for him to attend. HP will ask Cllr Aitchison if he could attend some of our meetings, and whether an offer of a lift may assist him to do so. As a previous member of Bo'ness Community Council, he might also provide a good link between Bo'ness and Blackness community councils on areas of common interest.		
It may be that a better use of time and energy would be a quarterly meeting with Councillors for them to provide a formal update. This would be considered at a future meeting.		
		HP
		HP
4. Future Events / Fundraising		
No update DL waiting a response from Martyn Day MP		
5. Community Projects		
Play Park Extension:		
HB updated the meeting, and tabled an updated visualisation of the project.		

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<p>Funding: FET Falkirk Environmental Trust – the meeting with FET scheduled on 16th March has been rescheduled.</p> <p>An application for funding has been made to the Peoples' Postcode Lottery.</p> <p>Correspondence with FC: Mike Joyce of FC has confirmed that FC will support the project, and will ask the Small Works Team to quote for installation of the equipment; and look at replacement of the football posts after financial year end in April.</p> <p>HES has approved for tree planting alongside the JMW path for a single avenue of trees. HB to check on exact location planned for the trees, and which species as native trees would be preferable.</p> <p>It was suggested that the BACC may be able to plant additional trees to complement these. Concern was expressed at the intention to upgrade the path through the park with a 2.5m wide tarmac path. This is likely to be for reasons of accessibility, but such a wide path seems oversized and possibly inappropriate for a rural setting. Concerns were expressed about the slope and how it would be in icy conditions. Would users simply use the grass at either side of the path, leading to similar issues as at present with the grass turning to mud?</p> <p>Agreed that HB would ask for the reasons behind the decision to install a wide tarmac path, are there any alternatives? and to ask that no solar type lights would be installed in the surface, again to respect the rural nature of the site.</p> <p>As discussed at the previous meeting, MA has reviewed whether the contractual conditions of installation need to be checked carefully to avoid any future issues with levels etc – however as the contract is likely to be directly between FC and Sutcliffe, it is a matter between FC and Sutcliffe and there is unlikely to be any liability for BACC.</p> <p>Members of the public present at the meeting welcomed the plans for the playpark extension and mentioned a “pinewood derby” structure that has been constructed at Armadale for the Scout Group and has been a great success. The slope in the park may lend itself to similar types of structures.</p>	<p>HB</p> <p>HB</p>
<p>6. Budget</p>	
<p>DL updated the meeting. DL has provided the latest budget statement attached. Actions he is undertaking include the payment of the share of the Carol Service collection to the Parents Association, and ensuring that the Boat Club is paid for room hire for our meetings (£24 every two months)</p>	<p>DL</p>
<p>7. Councillors' Update</p>	
<p>None – see note under Matters Arising</p>	
<p>8. Planning Update</p>	
<p>8.1 Weekly planning list: Still looking for a volunteer to review the weekly planning list and flag up any relevant applications.</p> <p>8.2 P/18/0128/FUL Blackness Inn Single Storey Retail Unit in pub garden. Surprise was expressed at this application, as there is already an existing shop on the site, and doubts were raised about the viability of a second retail unit. Access will be to the side of the pub onto St Ninian's Way, across a flower bed, that may not be part of the applicant's land. Comments made about whether the appearance and character would be appropriate. MA will review the application and suggest whether</p>	<p>MA</p>

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<p>BACC should offer comment on it.</p> <p>8.3 MA had contacted FC to enquire about details for making comments on the revised Development Plan. The new plan would be due out in June. In the light of the discussions at the previous meeting, do we feel it is appropriate to consult with residents at this stage about their aspirations for the future of the area? A lengthy discussion followed, and various views were expressed, similar to the views expressed at the previous meeting. While it was agreed that this is an important issue, the latest 5 year plan is unlikely to differ much from the previous plan, and on a 5 yearly cycle, any change would be a long time in coming. It was agreed to wait and review the plan when it comes out in June, and publicise this to residents at that point for their comment. In the light of the response, we could then decide to table the issue at a wider public meeting.</p>	
<p>8 Flight path matters</p>	
<p>Noise Advisory Board continues to meet monthly. Blackness is represented. The Board was very surprised not to have been consulted by Edinburgh Airport prior to the launch of the recent consultation on the Noise Action Plan. The Board has written to the Chair and CEO of Edinburgh Airport to convey their concerns about the lack of consultation on a matter that falls squarely within its remit. A meeting has been requested to resolve this and other matters of communication in the hope of achieving a better relationship between EAL and the surrounding communities affected by its operations.</p> <p>One of the issues that the Noise Board expects to be looking at is locations for noise monitors and it was again agreed that Blackness should have a monitor.</p> <p>HP advised that a public meeting in Dalgety Bay has been arranged for Monday 26th March at 7pm. The meeting is to update and inform residents on the current Airspace Change Process. It is expected that EAL will shortly submit a new application to the CAA.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the CAA is prepared to accept the new application under the old set of rules for airspace change (CAP725) when it has already deemed these to be unfit for purpose. New rules have been issued in January (CAP1616), and it would seem appropriate for the CAA to enforce these for what is expected to be a new application, rather than an amended application. KW to liaise with HP on the regulatory aspects.</p> <p>If approved, the changes will be permanent, and will result in greater numbers of flights and noise over our area.</p> <p>The recent spell of easterly winds meant more disturbance from planes, and residents were again advised to contact the airport to complain about noise. Email address is noise@edinburghairport.com. It is also worthwhile for residents to continue to contact all their elected reps about the issue to advise of their concerns and ask them what they are doing about it on behalf of their constituents.</p> <p>One recurring issue is that planes appear to be contravening the internationally agreed "speed limit" of 250kts below 10,000ft, which may cause the plane to be even noisier. This is an issue of air traffic control not ensuring that pilots remain within the speed limits.</p>	
<p>9 AOCB</p>	
<p>9.1 TR raised about a recent issue with smoke from a neighbour's bonfire causing a nuisance on a windy day. The neighbour had been contacted and the fire was eventually extinguished.</p>	

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9.2 Broadband – TR advised that with the Digital Scotland rollout, any resident experiencing poor speeds or lack of broadband service was entitled to a subsidy from the Scottish Government to allow them to achieve at least 2mb/s. She often gets less than this.

She had been in touch with two local residents who had been able to offer helpful information. While the area now has a fibre enabled box, this may not help residents whose homes are a far distance from it due to the aluminium wire used for the network. 4G or satellite broadband may be alternative possibilities.

It was suggested that we put Broadband on the agenda as a specific item for the next meeting, and invite others in the area who may be able to inform the discussion.

Concerns were expressed about 5G, which is also being rolled out in some areas of the UK. Issues relate to health concerns to people in areas due to the type of microwave technology used.

Other points made – where residents have continual problems with their service from BT, they should request a “Case Worker”, who will co-ordinate a response from technicians.

Action: add Broadband to agenda for April meeting

9.2 Reports received of many dead sea birds being washed up on the beach – probably as a result of the recent very bad storms in the easterly gales. Advice is to contact RSPB.

9.3 Road safety – particularly at the junction on the A904 with Rouken Glen. Issues include cars overtaking on the hill just to the west of the junction, and potential danger of collisions with cars pulling out from the side road entrance to Rouken Glen, Mannerstons and the houses at 1-7 Mannerston Holdings / Cauldcoats. Issues also with drivers leaving Mannerstons and not realising that they need to give way to traffic from the road up to the houses. Possible solutions might include painting white lines on the car park entrance, or erecting a sign asking drivers to Give Way. Sharman and Alan Faulds agreed to put up an appropriate sign to alert drivers in the interests of road safety.

9.4 Falkirk Council appears to have misplaced some copies of minutes of previous BACC meetings. These were always timeously sent to the appropriate department. These were also saved on the BACC website, which although now closed, there should be a copy of the data. Various members advised they may have copies of the minutes as well, HB to follow up as appropriate so that FC can be sent them again.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 18th March at 7pm in the Boat Club.

The Chair thanked people for attending and closed the meeting at 2120.

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Budget: - For Meeting Wednesday 21 March 2018

Balance from February meeting	£8,585.54
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	BACC	Play Park
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BACC Monies Raised (For information 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
Raised at Ceilidh Saturday 18 March 2017 (sundry expenses/hall hire deducte	£201.49
Total	£1,389.04

BACC Monies In	Amount
Total	£0.00

BACC Monies Out	Amount
Hire of Hall for meetings (2 months)	£24.00
Total	£24.00

BACC Monies Pending	Amount
Data Protection Registration	£35.00
Total	£35.00

Play Park Fund 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
Raised from New Year Party 2015	£140.00
Raised at Christmas Fair Nov 2016 (first amount banked)	£78.00
Raised at Christmas Fair Nov 2016 (second/last amount banked)	£489.37
04 July 2017 - Donation from Bo'ness Bridge Club	£150.00
22 Aug 2017 - Falkirk Council Funding Award	£3,000.00
Total	£7,467.12

Play Park Fund In	Amount
None	
Total	

Play Park Fund 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 (SpfIt)	BACC	Play Park
	£1,278.08	£7,283.46

Account Balance as Wednesday 21 March 2018	£8,561.54
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