

Blackness Area Community Council
Meeting Minutes: Wednesday 16th October 2019 Boat Club

It was agreed by those present that the meeting should be consider a 'Special Meeting' rather than an AGM as full Councillor elections can only take place every 3 years at an AGM.

1. Attendees:
 Community Council members: Martin Watt, Karen Walker, Dorothy Garrow, Helen Brown, Dave Lawson, Cllr David Aitchison
 Members of the public: 20
 Attending – 2 x Police Sergeants

2. Apologies
 Nick and Helena Paul

3. Resignations

We have received notification from 3 Community Councillors – Helen Brown, Nick Paul and Helena Paul. All where thanked for their service. MW laid out to those present some of the issues and opportunities currently being worked on by the BACC and encouraged those present to consider becoming co-opted members in order to maintain a quorum at meetings. Issues include:

- The Play Park – Helen updated that group that work in underway and when we receive the invoice there may be some funds left over for other environmental improvements to the back shore area.
- Surveying, Designing and Costing Parking options for the Village – to be discussed later
- Airport and Flight Path Issues – attending as a Community Council carried more clout than just individuals
- Planning issues – a way for us to affect change within our community
- Improvement Projects – new pathways, housing, environmental management, parking etc
- Broadband and Infrastructure projects

We could also potentially merge with the Community Hall Committee to make one stronger group?

We could meet in the pub?

The constitution was consulted and it was agreed that while it clearly stated in Clause 6 (And Appendix 1 4.2 i) that Casual vacancies between elections could be filled by co-opted members – this should not exceed one third of the group. Today we have 3 resigning from 6 councillors and already 1 co-opted member would mean we exceeded this, but as this could mean the group folded, it was agreed to ask Falkirk Council for special permission to exceed the one third co-opted members' clause.

ACTION HB to call Brian Pirie following up on her email to ask for such permission

Annie Meikle and Terry Rowland offered to become co-opted members

HB suggested than a volunteer was needed to become secretary and take over the production of the minutes, BACC email account and weekly checking of the planning bulletin. KW offered ACTION HB and KW to meet to go over the administrative role.

With the future of BACC assured, the regular monthly meeting began and the usual agenda was followed

BACC Regular October Meeting Minutes

| 1. Approval of Previous Minutes: | Action |
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| Previous meeting minutes approved | |
| 2. Community Police Report | |
| One crime was reported, and hit and run by a car hitting another car near the school. No RTA's recorded in September. A member present ask the PC if a mirror could be placed to enable better visibility when turning out onto the Blackness Road. They confirmed it was OK to do it yourself. Parking issues were discussed. Call the police if the vehicle is causing an obstruction. Illegal or bad parking is an enforcement issue and should contact the Council. Take a | |

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| photo and email the community wardens. The group also discussed the meaning of single white lines on the road and whether double yellow lines were needed in certain places – Parking Issues were returned to later in the meetings DA was to pass on the email address for Community Parking Wardens | DA |
| 3. Actions and matters arising from previous minutes | |
| A HUGE thank you to MA for producing and circulating the latest newsletter which has generated an excellent turn out for this meeting. DA will carry forward his actions regarding the highway and report to MW DL was to circulate a map will all the properties listed to assist with deliveries, AM said the Scottish Ambulance Service has a good map which may be of use | DA DL |
| 4. Councillors' Update - | |
| There is a survey on Falkirk Community Trusts services on line at the moment and all were urged to take part. It affects the Library, Recreation Centre, Town Hall, Kinneil House etc. 50% cuts are expected over the next 5 years so have your say. If local facilities are important consider talking to your local MP | ALL |
| 5. Planning | |
| No 18 Mannerston application (P/19/0375/FUL) to demolish and rebuild has been recommended for refusal by FC planning department however the case has been 'called in' by local Councillors DA and Ann Ritchie and will be reviewed on 23 rd October by the Planning Committee (unusual for a single house application). A site meeting is likely. Issues around the development were discussed including its reasons for being called in – renewal of the area, precedent setting, degradation of housing stock, scale – is 5x bigger sustainable?. MA has made a Deputation Request to allow him to speak at the meeting on 23 rd October. The group also discussed the extension at West Terrace | MA – to feedback |
| 6. Budget Update | |
| As of the 16 th October the account stands at £10,360.08. Administration payment has been made. Most of the funds are for the Play Park – HB to ask for the invoice from Mike Joyce for the equipment installed so we can know what the balance will be after this large expenditure | HB |
| 7. Parking | |
| There followed an extensive discussion of the parking issues in the village. The church land and previous designs were looked at and the reasons it was not popular 4/5 years ago were discussed. MW presented a suggestion of using the space on the way into the village where the planted verge is. This could accommodate around 28 spaces – is this viable? Who owns the spaces? Could a small group work up a basic design to see if it's possible and provide a ball park costing? The castle's increasing impact on the village was discussed with the increased traffic, tour buses and parking issues it presents. It was widely agreed that Historic Environment Scotland should contribute to the parking plans and discussions as their property is causing many of the issues. HB met with Malcolm Brown a year ago and will re-establish contact and invite him to attend meetings or at least meet with a small representative group. Weekend and sunny days are becoming very troublesome for residents. The Pub while extremely welcome is also adding to the problem. What about emergency vehicles? Could residents only spaces be considered? What about disabled spaces? Could the parking along the beach be formalised? Could the Boat club provide seasonal overflow parking? | HB |

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| <p>It was broadly agreed that a strategy was needed to look at all the issues and consider all the option, but who would take this forward or fund its production if given to a contractor. HES would need to be part of these discussions. It was agreed that a Parking Sub Group was needed and that it should be at the top of the agenda The point was made that increasing the parking, means even more cars will come, which means more parking could be needed, and so on.</p> | <p>KW to add to the agenda</p> |
| <p>7. Flight Path Update</p> | |
| <p>The Airport is wishing to increase runway capacity and it is likely to be a 3 year process. KW and MA attended a workshop and are awaiting any follow up. MA and HP also attend monthly Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board meetings on behalf of BACC as well as being members of the BACC Airport sub group. There is also a pre-planning application notice of change of road layouts near the Gogar roundabout.</p> | |
| <p>8. Broadband Issue</p> | |
| <p>Following the appeal in the newsletter 2 members of the community had email BACC with their concerns. HB will pass these onto TR.</p> | <p>HB</p> |
| <p>9. AOCB</p> | |
| <p>HB reported that the hanging baskets are now BACC's and someone will need to take them down and store them. Hopefully our funds can be used to replant them in the spring. They are heavy!! Also the planter at the end of St Ninians Way will need tending as she has moved – it has largely wild flowers in it. Thank you to Merv for the Newsletter. Nan expressed her satisfaction with the new bus services. The carol concert is planned for 10th December and school pupils will take part.</p> | |
| <p>Meeting closed at 9.30pm</p> | |
| <p>Date of Next Meeting : 20th November at 7pm in the Lobster Pot</p> | |