

**Blackness Area Community Council**  
**Meeting Minutes: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019, The Lobster Pot**

<b>Attendees:</b> Community Council members: Martin Watt (minutes), Dorothy Garrow, Terry Rowland (Chair), Anne Meikle Members of the public: 7 including Cllr David Aitchison Attending – 2 x Police Sergeants	
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
Karen Walker	
<b>2. Approval of Previous Minutes:</b>	<b>Action</b>
Previous meeting minutes approved (MA & TR)	
<b>3. Community Police Report</b>	
There was a breach of the peace at the garden centre.  AM commented that a black 4x4 vehicle has repeatedly disturbed them in the early hours of the morning and suspects they may be casing the village.	<b>All to stay vigilant</b>
<b>4. Actions and matters arising from previous minutes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr DA has spoken to Falkirk.Gov.UK who advised that we should take a photograph of any vehicles causing an obstruction &amp; to send to them</li> <li>• MA is still chasing for the minutes of the 18 Mannerston site visit for which planning permission has now been approved.</li> </ul>	<b>All MA</b>
<b>5. Village parking</b>	
AM has spoken to the HES manager of the castle, Graham Sinclair, who will be having meetings next year to prepare for 2020. There were 77,000 visitors this year and HES are aware of the parking problem and are happy to meet with BACC. AM to follow up with GS to arrange for his attendance at a BACC meeting. A BACC letter is to be sent to ensure our views are considered at any HES internal meetings.	<b>BACC</b>
<b>6. Broadband Communications</b>	
No updates and agreed to remove item from the next meeting's agenda	
<b>7. Planning</b>	
One member of the public, DL, voiced his concerns regarding the approval of planning permission for 18 Mannerston. MA reiterated that all concerns had been submitted to the FC planning department to no avail. DL objected in particular to the "run down" condition of the house as a reason for review by the FC planning committee and asked Cllr DA to substantiate his comments regarding this issue. There followed some discussion about the situation and that BACC seems powerless in such situations. Bottom line is that local residents are outraged that all objections and the planning department's recommendation for refusal were all ignored by the planning committee and that it is too late to do anything about the controversial approval that has been granted. It was agreed that BACC will send a letter to the planning committee, head of planning and Angus McDonald MSP (and any other relevant parties). MA to forward a copy of his letter of objection to BACC as submitted originally to FC planning.	<b>BACC MA</b>
<b>8. Flight path matters</b>	
MA and KW were at the 05 Nov workshop "recall" arranged by Edinburgh Airport to look at 15 key points gathered and concentrated from previous meetings of invited interested parties. MA and HP attended an EANAB meeting on 06 Nov to look at the airport capacity - the noise board members agreed that the airport does not need more capacity and that this is a recurring false argument put forward by the airport. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will	

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make a decision in Jan 2020. 3 local residents had a noise monitor in their gardens for 1 month, during this time there were only 2 noise disturbances and since the monitors have been removed, there has been endless disturbance occurrences. This could appear as if the timing of the monitors had been rigged or suspicious and whilst perhaps a coincidence, some felt it would be better/more accurate if the noise monitors were issued randomly by an independent body. The exercise was viewed as disappointing to some who participated.	
<b>9. Councillors Update</b>	
FC budget discussions have started but the 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec budget allocation date has now been delayed until January 2020 (after the parliamentary elections). £56 million cuts are needed by FC. Council Tax was raised by 5% last year which resulted in under £2 million extra.	
<b>10. Budget</b>	
DL not present.	
<b>11. Community Projects</b>	
<u>Community Hall:</u> Carol Service at 7pm on 10 <sup>th</sup> December. Volunteers needed at 4.30 to arrange chairs in the hall. <b>***post meeting note –Carol Service cancelled***</b> Xmas Fair on 14 <sup>th</sup> December <u>Play park:</u> HB completing tasks including an update to Tesco who provided some money.	
<b>12. AOCB</b>	
DG trying to get the bad bend signage at Mannerston House repainted (on B9109) MW will help draft Letter Re 18 Mannerston Holding approval and large houses and in West Lothian connected issue. TR and AM would prefer the boat club for future meetings. A list of useful contacts is to be added to future meeting minutes for easy reference and any others who would like their email address added to the BACC circulation list can either leave their details on a register located in the Lobster Pot or email <a href="mailto:blacknessc@googlemail.com">blacknessc@googlemail.com</a> .	<b>DG</b>  <b>MW</b>     <b>All (&amp; KW)</b>
Meeting closed at 9.00pm.	
<b>Date of next meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in the Lobster Pot</b>	

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

<b>BACC elected members</b>	Martin Watt (Convener)	blacknessc@googlemail.com
	David Lawson (Treasurer)	
	Dorothy Garrow	
<b>BACC co-opted members</b>	Karen Walker (Secretary)	
	Anne Meikle	
	Terry Rowland	
<b>Bo'ness &amp; Blackness Councillors</b>	David Aitchison	07484926985 <a href="mailto:david.aitchison@falkirk.gov.uk">david.aitchison@falkirk.gov.uk</a>
	Lynn Munro	01324 506146 (office) <a href="mailto:lynn.munro@falkirk.gov.uk">lynn.munro@falkirk.gov.uk</a>
	Ann Ritchie	01324 506164 (office) <a href="mailto:ann.ritchie@falkirk.gov.uk">ann.ritchie@falkirk.gov.uk</a>