

## BMCC Meeting – Elsrickle Village Hub 02 of December 2024.

Elected Members	Present		Ex-Official Members	Present
Alistair Muirhead/Chair	Y		Alex Allison	Y
Andreas Hudson/Sec	Y		Ian Macallen	N
Pauline Irwin/Treasurer	N		Ralf Barker	N
Anne Hutchinson	Y			
Sarah McGlasson	Y			
Stephen Jenkins	Y			
Eric Holford	Y			

1. Attendance: Four members of the public attended.
2. As part of the welcome and apologies the audience was asked for permission to record the session. Permission was granted by all attendees.
3. Apologies and Update
  - a. Pauline Irwin wasn't able to attend.
4. Approval of minutes of meetings and reports.
  - a. Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> of November meeting – approved.
5. Secretary Report.
  - a. Path Condition on Carnwath Road, Elsrickle
    - i. Members of the public have reported concerns about the poor condition of the path walk along Carnwath Road in Elsrickle. This matter has been escalated to the Council for review and action.
  - b. Micro-Grant Funded Activities
    - i. The list of micro-grant-funded activities will soon be published on the Council's website, providing transparency and highlighting the community initiatives supported through this funding.
  - c. Public Enquiries on Meeting Notes
    - ii. A member of the public recently enquired about accessing meeting notes. These are already available on our website. However, it raises the question of whether we should continue to update our Facebook page with this information to improve accessibility and engagement. Feedback from the Council is welcomed on this matter.
      1. Publish on Facebook!
      2. Full minutes of last weekend!
      3. Website link to CC page on FB
      4. Publish grant application on Facebook
  - d. Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Bays in Car Parks
    - iii. A key proposal has been submitted to address the misuse of electric vehicle (EV) charging bays in regulated car parks across South Lanarkshire. Currently, EVs are parking in these bays without actively charging, causing inconvenience to those requiring access. The proposed amendment would restrict the use of these bays to vehicles actively charging. Consultations

with the Chief Constable, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, and Local Members have raised no objections. The Council is urged to proceed with advertising a Traffic Regulation Order to implement this change and ensure fair use of EV charging infrastructure.

e. Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024

- i. The Returning Officer has responded to the consultation on South Lanarkshire Council's statutory review of polling districts and polling places.
- ii. Key points include:
  1. The current polling scheme, which was successfully used in the July 2024 General Election, is largely fit for purpose with no significant accessibility issues identified.
  2. Proposed adjustments include merging some polling districts and minor changes to polling places, detailed in the review appendix.
  3. Accessibility audits for nine polling places are underway, with no major concerns anticipated.
  4. Continued use of schools as polling places is recommended, with mitigation measures in place to minimize disruption to education services.
  5. Provisions are made to address any potential issues arising from the transfer of leisure venues to community groups.
- iii. The council will continue to monitor housing developments and population changes to ensure the polling scheme remains effective and accessible. An interim review will be conducted as required before future electoral events.

6. Treasurer report was presented and circulated.

- a. Current spending for the Energy Grant since 1/4/24 this year (including latest 4 applications) is £3131.99 which leaves a balance of £1868.01 available until the end of March 2025.
- b. Our Administration Account spending Since 1/04/24 is £279.99 with a remaining balance of £220.01 available until the end of March 2025.
- c. Application from Biggar Museum: we are unable to proceed with this application as it does not comply with the regulations, however, I can report that SLC think the idea looks good and would broadly fit within other funding and we should advise them to contact SLC Development Manager (funding and Rural).

7. Planning

- a. A planning permission for a stable was mentioned in the meeting but the BMCC is not aware of any planning application. The planning permission was apparently published in the Lanark Gazette.
- b. The BMCC does not have a problem with the application unless there is a use of floodlights after 10pm.

8. Community and Engagement

- a. No update from Community and Engagement group; survey launch event date is pending.
- b. A speeding consultation was discuss with reference to the Borders Council's decision to make 20 mph permanent in villages.
  - i. The Scottish Borders Council has made the 20 mph speed limits in villages permanent. After a two-year trial that began in October 2020, involving over 90 settlements, the council observed significant safety benefits, including reductions in vehicle speeds and

positive changes in driver behaviour. As a result, the 20 mph speed limits were made permanent across the region starting from 16 January 2023

- ii. In certain settlements where a blanket 20 mph limit was deemed unrealistic, the council introduced 'hybrid' speed limits, combining 20, 30, and 40 mph zones with appropriate buffer areas. This approach was implemented in 32 settlements to better suit local conditions.
- iii. The trial's evaluation, conducted by experts from Edinburgh Napier University, revealed that average vehicle speeds decreased by approximately 3 mph, with some areas experiencing reductions of up to 6 mph. These findings indicated a lower potential for accidents and injuries, contributing to safer communities.

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s66585/20mphBordersExecutiveReportfinal.pdf>

#### 9. Blackmount Social Group.

- a. Fireworks Display on 5th of November, 2024 has been a full success.
  - i. The fireworks turnout was better than expected, and feedback was mostly positive.
  - ii. Promises about alternative parking and proper safeguarding by volunteers have been kept, addressing earlier concerns of blocked emergency access at previous events.
- b. Senior Citizens' Dinner: Scheduled for December 13, 2024. Preparations are underway, with a booked venue and arrangements for dinner.

#### 10. Current Business and discussions.

- a. A member of the public enquired about the BMCC's administrative account and whether public members can apply for funding from it.
  - i. They argued that the funds in the account belong to the public.
  - ii. The BMCC acknowledges that all funds it manages are public funds; however, it is the BMCC's responsibility to administer the account and maintain an administrative reserve.
  - iii. All spending information is publicly available in the Treasurer's report.
  - iv. The Council has clarified that the administrative account is managed by the BMCC, and funding for projects can be considered if agreed upon by the BMCC.
  - v. The BMCC reserves the administrative account to sustain its functionality and operations.
- b. Grant Applications
  - i. Black Mount at Rigside and Rural Communities Nursery – Christmas Event – £367.99 – approved.
  - ii. Black Mount Kids – Christmas Party - £456 – approved.
  - iii. Libberton School transport to Glasgow museum - £500 – approved.
  - iv. Men's Shed building lighting £500.00 – decision postponed – BMCC requests evidence of the previous £500 funding usage.
- c. Zebra Crossing Elsrickle
  - i. The feasibility of establishing a zebra crossing in front of Elsrickles School was discussed, and Councillor Allison has agreed to investigate this matter further.
- d. Change of Signalling in Elsrickle.
  - i. The BMCC has requested Councillor Allison to investigate the possibility of adjusting the 20 mph signalling to start earlier at 08:15 am and extend until 09:15 am, as well as improving coverage in the afternoon from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

e. Planning.

- i. The property across the Mains in Elsrickle was again under discussion.
- ii. The BMCC has agreed that this is a planning enforcement issue and should be handled by the planning authority.

11. The next BMCC meeting held on the 3rd of February 2025 at the Elsrickle Hub (formerly Elsrickle Village Hall).