

BMCC Meeting – Elsrickle Village Hub 03 of February 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	Y		Ralf Barker	N
Anne Hutchinson	Y			
Sarah McGlasson	Y			
Stephen Jenkins	N			
Eric Holford	Y			

1. Attendance: Three 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. Stephen Jenkins wasn't able to attend.

4. Approval of minutes of meetings and reports.
 - a. Minutes of the 2nd of December meeting – approved.

5. Secretary Report.
 - a. R100 Broadband Evaluation

I've shared a post on Facebook regarding the Scottish Government's Reaching 100% (R100) programme survey. This survey aims to gather feedback from households and businesses who are scheduled or have been provided with faster broadband via R100. If your address is covered, please respond by 3 March 2025 at <https://tinyurl.com/R100Evaluation>. Please share to help spread the word.

- b. Enquiry

A member of the public requested a copy of the draft minutes from the December Community Council meeting. They acknowledged that the minutes may still be confidential but wished to review the sections where they contributed to ensure accuracy and confirm their understanding of the discussions. They also assured that they would respect confidentiality and only focus on the relevant parts.

The request was acknowledged, and it was explained that sharing draft minutes before formal approval is generally discouraged to prevent the spread of unverified information and potential off-the-record discussions. It was stated that feedback would be preferable after the minutes are officially approved.

The Community Council is asked to provide a recommendation on how to handle similar enquiries in the future, ensuring a consistent approach to draft minutes requests while maintaining transparency and procedural integrity.

- c. Outstanding items:

- The road condition on Carnwarth Road in Elsrickle requires attention (reported to [Road and lighting faults - South Lanarkshire Council](#)).
- The Elsrickle village sign has been damaged and reported for repair (reported to [Road and lighting faults - South Lanarkshire Council](#)).
- Planning – ensure that the BMCC gets visibility about planning applications (outstanding)

6. Treasurer report was presented and circulated.

a. Current Renewable Energy Fund

- Since April 2024 we have paid out a total of £2,823.00 across 6 applications, leaving a balance of £2177.00.
- This Balance differs from the December report due to the pending vote application of the Men's Shed on the night.
- Cheque number 0053 made out to Blackmount Nursery for £367.99 is to be returned and made out to Rigside Community Nursery.

b. Administration Account

- Current Balance £124.01p.
- Expenditure to date £375.99 (majority of the spending being Hall Hire).
- Outstanding payments on this account:
 - Honorarium for the Secretary and the Treasurer £100.00
 - Post Office stamp Payments £7.70
 - Leaving a balance of £16.23.
- On 28th January I submitted a grant application to SLC for £1000.00 for the sole purpose of Enabling continued financial support for the Bugle production.
- If we are successful with this Application the monies will be deposited into our Administration account. I will let the council know as soon as I have any news.

c. Blackmount Savings Fund : Current Balance £1458.30.

- Recent expenditure from this account was £500.00 to support the Elsrickle Hub opening the hall.
- I think I need to clarify this account since it was raised by a member of the public in the December meeting. The administration and management of this fund is controlled by the Community Council and enables them to act quickly to make decisions if required to support our community. This was demonstrated only a few weeks ago when we were able to fund the emergency opening of the hall to provide a warm space for vulnerable households after the recent storm, which caused several power outages. With climate change being felt more frequently etc, I suspect this will not be the last time we need this hall for emergency community use. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we continue to manage this reserve carefully ensuring, should the need arise, we can take decisions as needed, without these savings we as a community council would have been unable to fund the emergency opening of the hall after storm Eowyn.
- Some may say that we already have access to funding, but as we all know that is strictly controlled and regulated by SLC. This saving fund has been built up over many years, donations from previous councillors before us who have recognised the importance of having this fund. We still rely on the generosity of the secretary and treasurer who gift their honorariums to help top this up, plus any monies raised from adverts in the bugle help. Some may say this money belongs to the public, the treasurer and the secretary have gifted over the years to 'This Community Council Fund', with the understanding it can be used (if all agree) for similar emergencies like we have just gone through. This money was

never intended for the public to decide what it is spent on during my years on the community council, it is the custodians on the fund who decide. SLC do audit this account even though they do not contribute to it in any way. I strongly recommend the community council continue to protect this funding and ensure its use is as it was intended..

7. Planning

- a. The Council is still addressing the issue of visibility on planning applications. This includes ensuring local applications, such as a floodlight installation in Elsrickle, are circulated. Efforts are being made to ensure proper distribution of planning applications to the council.

8. Community and Engagement

- a. No update from Community and Engagement group; survey launch event date is pending because of lack of funding.
- b. Survey Group and Funding: Andy and the group discussed the survey group's funding and its relationship with the Community Council, including the need for a separate bank account and the potential for microgrant applications.
 - i. Funding Challenges: The secretary and the group discussed the challenges faced by the survey group in securing funding. They highlighted the need for a separate bank account to manage the funds independently from the Community Council.
 - ii. Microgrant Applications: The secretary suggested that the survey group could apply for microgrants to support their activities. He emphasized the importance of following proper procedures and obtaining necessary approvals for expenditures.
 - iii. Group Autonomy: The group discussed the potential for the survey group to operate autonomously from the Community Council. They considered the advantages of having a separate entity to access different funding opportunities and manage projects more effectively.
 - iv. Procedural Compliance: The secretary stressed the importance of procedural compliance, including seeking approval for expenditures and maintaining proper documentation. He acknowledged past issues with the survey group not following procedures and emphasized the need to rectify this moving forward.

9. Blackmount Social Group.

- a. Community Dinner
 - i. The BMCC expressed gratitude for the successful organization of the community dinner, highlighting the joy and appreciation of the attendees.
- b. Fundraising Events: The group explored the possibility of organizing fundraising events to support the hall. They discussed various ideas, including a tabletop fair and other community events, to raise money for the hall's maintenance and activities.

10. Current Business and discussions.

- a. Verge and Path Concerns for previous planning discussion: A member of the public gave an update about a ongoing planning concern regarding a verge in front of his property. The update was related to the removal of stones from the verge and the need for it to be restored to its original height as per planning conditions. There was also confusion about whether a footpath was required, as the condition mentioned only the restoration of the ground's height and not a footpath.
- b. Current Status: The issue regarding the verge is still being clarified. The planning conditions do not require a footpath at this point, only the restoration of the ground to the same height. The response from the planning authority has been documented in writing, and there are still follow-ups needed to finalize the situation. The council is waiting for reports on the matter and is continuing to monitor any developments.

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