

BMCC Meeting – Elsrickle Community Hub 7th July 2025

Elected Members Present Ex-Official Members Present

Alistair Muirhead/Chair	Y	Alex Allison	Y
Andreas Hudson/Sec	N	Ian Macallen	N
Pauline Irwin/Treasurer	Y	Ralf Barker	N
Anne Hutchinson	Y		
Stephen Jenkins	N		
Eric Holford	Y		
Tammy McAlister	N		

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.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM and will conclude promptly at 9:00 PM, in line with the end of our hall hire. We kindly request that members of the public vacate the hall promptly once the meeting has concluded.

Members of the public who wish to ask questions may do so under Any Other Business (AOB), if time permits. Anyone invited to speak by the Chairman or Secretary we would appreciate if you could state their name and the village you reside in to assist our councillors. Please ensure that all questions are concise, relevant, and courteous.

If specific questions cannot be addressed during the meeting due to time constraints, we encourage members of the public to submit their questions in writing to the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the next meeting. (Please note: a vote on this format will take place later this evening.)

Should any public questions or interruptions disturb the meeting, the Chairman will first request that the individual refrain from interrupting. If disruptions continue, the person will be asked to leave. Persistent disruption may result in the meeting being suspended.

It has come to our attention that a member of the public has been recording, and possibly videoing, meetings without permission. BMCC will be introducing a Meeting Recording Policy. Going forward:

- Permission to record must be granted by the Chairman in advance.
- BMCC records its meetings only with permission, and solely for the purpose of ensuring minute accuracy.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Permission was granted by all attendees.

3. Apologies and Update

Andreas Hudson, Stephen Jenkins, Tammy McAlister

a. Secretary : we have not received any report from the secretary except an email stating we have his full support for the decisions taken tonight and any further actions needed to ensure we can continue our work without distraction or disruption.

4. Approval of minutes of the 02nd of June 2025 meeting.

a) Removal of 4b for GDPR reasons (personal names mentioned without permission)

Agreed

b) Removal of 10b iii on subjective grounds (personal opinion)

Agreed

c) Removal and revote in 10 d ii following due procedure. (Minute publication process) (we can revert back to this after we have discussed in current business first item) (reverting back to SLC Scheme for establishment of community councils procedures, which states copies of all minutes of meetings shall be approved at the next prescribe meeting, but draft minutes shall be circulated within 14 days from the date of the meeting to community council members, other appropriate parties, council liaison officer. Approved minutes to be placed in prominent public display.

Agreed

5. Reports.

Secretary Report.

a. Voting according to SLC scheme for community council and BMCC constitution.

i. Voting on change of procedures for publishing draft notes before notes are approved by BMCC.

Agreed

b. Discussion and vote on change of standing order to introduce a requirement to raise public concerns or addressed questions to the secretary no later than ten days in advanced prior to the upcoming BMCC meeting in order to be included in the agenda.

Agreed

c. Discussion and vote on utilizing AOCB at the end of a meeting for public questions and discussion on agenda items.

Agreed

Treasurer Report.

Energy Grant Balance is currently £4500.00 – last payment of £500.00 was to Libberton Parent Council.

SLC have now sent our Administration payment of £493.67.

I will tonight be issuing cheques for hall hire and printing cost for the bugle the latter payment will come from the grant we have already received. Bugle remaining balance is now £196.40.

I have requested a copy of the Audit letter from SLC confirming our successful audit be placed on our face book page.

Previously issued Energy Grant - Receipts:

We have received receipts from Mrs McCann for the Blackmount Fun day and the Elsrickle Hub for the first aid equipment. Thank you to both for their cooperation it is very much appreciated.

New Energy Grant Requests:

We are in receipt of an Energy Grant request from the Blackmount Development Trust for £500.00 to purchase a speed detection device and speed watch signage for several settlements.

In accordance with SLC guidelines I have reminded the committee that if anyone is a member of the BMDT or an associate member etc they are required to complete the declaration certificate I have issued and declare their interest in the application. Show of hands for the grant to be issued / Objections.

Foot note :

Clarification or permission from the relevant authority may be required for the placement of any signs on the side of the road etc, if such permission has not already been obtained. The community council cannot be held responsible for any signs placed that require such authorization.

c. Planning.

Nothing to report, no issues raised.

4. Black Mount Social Group.

Ann Reported that the Social Group walk would be on the 31st August leaving from Elsrickle Hub.

Sports night at Newbigging in June went exceptionally well given the exceptional weather compared to the previous year

Christmas Dinner is booked for the 5th December and the same caterer would be in attendance as the provision of food was exceptional.

5. Cllr. Alex Allison – SLC update.

Nothing to report as the Council is currently in recess at the moment.

6. Dolphinton Hall

Update from Dolphinton Hall

Johnathan – The lease has been back and forth with SLC, they are back on track to be open with their hopes set for the Flower Show. The Membership is sitting around the 30 mark, there is a Just Giving page which has been started which has been a welcome surprise

Alistair asked how they were proceeding with the entertainment licence.

Johnathan responded that all licencing and insurances were in place

Pauline had asked about the time line for the flower show.

Johnathan responded that they were hopeful but dependant on the power and water being reconnected.

Ann has asked if the keys were forward.

Johnathan no nothing as yet, but they need to get things moving as lots of clubs have expressed interest for the hall and they need to know as they are needing to book for the winter months.

Eric had asked about moving some of the meetings of the BMCC to Dolphinton in essence to have split between the two locations.

Johnathan had intimated that disabled access would be a problem as the only way in would be through the back door.

7. AOCB

Openness and transparency John McCann ~ I wish this to be kept to another meeting as for one or two reasons, firstly what was voted on previously may have a bearing on what I have to say, secondly, open and transparency is a core to any public service and wanting to address open and transparency what I want to do is to postpone what I want to say till there

is a full attendance of the council so that they can hear what I have to say so that I will defer to a future meeting

Council Response ~ Mr McCann, You are aware this has been addressed on several occasions, the latest being in response to your email of 27th June and I wish to quote a small section from our secretary.....

‘The Council takes transparency and good governance seriously, and we continue to reflect on how we can improve’

Not answering individual questions, just responding to Mr McCanns question.

The secretary responded to all your emails and as you know there are many. We are committed to respectful engagement and accountability; however, we must also focus time on serving the broader interest of the community’ Your repeated interventions/emails are less about governance, and we feel more of a personal vendetta and imply misconducted or bad faith of the community council which are unfounded and unfair.

I am trying to promote a positive attitude tonight, and in doing so also wish to request from you some reflection and consideration regarding tone and content of correspondence is vital, especially on how the email may affect mental health and welfare.

BMCC meetings are open to the public, our minutes are published online and sent to the community council liaison officer, we are financially audited by SLC and we follow the community council scheme and constitution. We also have a sitting local councillor who can if needed advise us accordingly.

We will not be taking up any more time on this subject and consider this now closed.

John McCann ~ responded if you consider the matter closed, lets not continue.

Community Council ~ If it hasn’t been said before the CC wished to say all the success for the BMDT and if there is anything that we can help the trust with then we are here for them

John McCann BMDT ~ One of the things may be for the cc to reflect on is the survey, If you wish the trust to present the survey.

Council asked ~ With the trust do you produce minutes of meetings for us to read and agendas of meetings so that we are updated as to what you are doing in the community.

John McCann BMDT ~ If you look at the website there is information there

If you need to remember Black Mount Development Trust is two months old and procedures are only just being established as we speak as well as undertaking matters of road safety coming from the survey we have been awarded two grants of £2250 to deal with issues of

climate change and a further activity to be an undertaking and the MSP who has identified that she would like to have a meeting to discuss what the plans and activities are other things underway are we have responded to the planning process and the survey will be used by the planning as evidenced based and there is an invitation to respond to do with the woodland we will be reflecting to this and their activity.

On terms on our constitution we are committed to have a public meeting, we are committed to report on our meetings and in due course processing will be in place

Community Council asked do you publish your minutes the same as we do.

John McCann BMDT ~ responded Im not sure we do well we have only had the one meeting.

The council asked if there was one meeting to produce the survey.

John McCann ~ Responded no there has been one meeting of the development trust.

Felix de bay raised the question of the clothing bin and if anyone knew about it as it may well be a scam. It was determined that the bin was the same one that had previously been placed adjacent to the hub and any benefit goes to the School.

Meeting closed.

Next meeting 1st September