

BMCC Meeting – Elsrickle Village Hub 01 of September 2025.

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			
Stephen Jenkins	Y			
Eric Holford	Y			
Tammy McAlister	Y			

1. Attendance: Seven 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. The chair will address audience questions during the any other business section, unless they are related to a topic that has already been discussed.
3. Apologies and Update
 - a. No apologies.
4. Approval of minutes of meetings and reports.
 - a. Minutes of the 7 July 2025 meeting – one amendment was made: removal of personal names from the public section.
 - b. Amended minutes approved.
5. Secretary Report.
 - a. New BMCC member vote: We have received two nominations, which have both verified successfully by SLC. The nominees are Felix de By and John Hoskins. As it stands the Community Council members can only be voting either Felix or John to fill the vacancy. Voting will be by secret ballot, with each BMCC member present casting one vote. In the event of a tie, the chair’s council will make the final decision.
 - b. Audit Report – Black Mount Community Council 2024-25
 - i. South Lanarkshire Council has completed the audit of Black Mount Community Council’s accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025.
 - ii. Key points:
 1. The audit confirmed that income and expenditure were checked and present a true and fair view.
 2. Payments were matched against invoices, receipts, and bank statements to ensure accuracy.
 3. Receipts were also matched to bank statements and pay-in books to confirm they were properly accounted for.
 - iii. Overall, the Council found that the finances of Black Mount Community Council for the year ending 31 March 2025 were satisfactory and appropriately managed.

- c. Outstanding items:
 - i. The road condition on Carnwarth Road in Elsrickle requires attention (reported to Road and lighting faults - South Lanarkshire Council).
 - ii. The Elsrickle village sign has been damaged and reported for repair (reported to Road and lighting faults - South Lanarkshire Council).
 - iii. Warning signs for the 20 mph zone at Blackmount Primary School still not working.

6. Treasurer report was presented and circulated.
 - a. Renewable Energy Grant :
 - i. BMCC regrets the return in the last meeting of the Men's Shed £500.00 funding which was initially granted to them 2022 to replace/refurbish hall notice boards.
 - b. On 31st July £500.00 was paid out to Blackmount Development Trust: Balance standing at £4,500.00
 - c. Administration Account: Current Balance is £717.69 of which £196.40 is for printing of the bugle.
 - d. No new energy grant applications received.
 - e. No new receipts received from grant applications.

7. Planning
 - a. There are no planning applications affecting the Blackmount Community.

8. Blackmount Social Group.
 - a. Sponsored Walk: Raised £463.70, which will go toward local community projects.
 - b. Christmas Dinner: Plans underway; volunteers and funding to be sought.

9. Cllr. Alex Anderson
 - a. Councillor Allison encouraged BMCC and residents to participate in South Lanarkshire Council's rural budget consultation process, emphasising that community feedback plays an important role in setting local spending priorities. He also addressed a number of operational issues raised by members.
 - b. Street lighting in West End has been illuminated continuously for several months; SLC has been asked to inspect and resolve the fault. Overgrown hedges and roadside vegetation were again highlighted as a safety concern, particularly on blind bends. Councillor Allison explained that, in most cases, the council first contacts the landowner responsible. If no action is taken, SLC has authority to carry out the work and recover costs, although this is not always straightforward due to unclear ownership boundaries. He agreed to clarify where responsibility lies when foliage grows outside private fences onto public verges.
 - c. Councillor Allison also provided advice regarding fallen trees. Landowners are responsible for maintaining trees on their own property, and if a tree falls due to storm damage, each landowner is responsible for clearing debris from their side of the boundary. Neighbours may trim overhanging branches but must return or offer the cut wood to the original owner to avoid disputes over property.

10. Current Business

- a. Vote for New BMCC Member
 - i. Following earlier nominations (Section 3.1), members proceeded with a secret ballot.
 - ii. Each voting member cast one vote; the Chair held a casting vote in case of a tie.
 - iii. Result: 4 votes to 2 in favour of Felix Dubay.
 - iv. Outcome: Felix Dubay was formally voted as a new member of the Blackmount Community Council.
 - v. Secretary to notify SLC and add Felix to the council distribution list.
- b. Future Elections and AGM
 - i. The next AGM will be held in November 2025.
 - ii. Positions of Secretary and Treasurer will be open for re-election.
 - iii. The Chair continues until the 2026 full-term election, when all posts will be vacated and re-elected.
- c. Boundary Clarification
 - i. Discussion held regarding the northern boundary near Blyth Bank and Braehead.
 - ii. Secretary to verify the official boundary with SLC mapping.
- d. Christmas Lights
 - i. David Nelson (Candybank) to coordinate festive lighting again.
 - ii. BMCC to request SLC to illuminate streetlamps in Peach Grove Gardens to support the display.
- e. Water and Infrastructure
 - i. Approximately 7 km of mains requiring replacement; pump adjustments still pending.
 - ii. BMCC to monitor pressure issues and follow up with Scottish Water.
- f. Dolphinton Hall Update
 - i. Refurbishment ongoing; weekly community events planned from 1 March 2026.
 - ii. Accessibility improved with a temporary ramp; permanent rear access to follow.
 - iii. Hall committee thanked for progress.

11. The next BMCC meeting held on the 6th of October 2025 at the Dolphinton Village Hall.