

BMCC Meeting – Elsrickle Village Hub 03 of November 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			
Felix de By	Y			

1. Attendance: Two 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 6 October 2025 meeting – Approved.
 - b. Minutes of the 6 October 2025 meeting – Approved with minor corrections:
 - i. Clarified “7 km of mains requiring replacement.”
 - ii. Corrected name capitalisation of Felix de By.
5. Secretary Report.
 - a. Insurance for Community Councils : The Council is reviewing the current insurance arrangements for Community Councils ahead of renewal for the 2026/2027 financial year. The review aims to confirm whether the existing level of cover and included activities remain suitable or if amendments are needed. The current premium is around £72 per year, deducted from our SLC annual grant. Cover currently includes employer’s, public, and professional liability, management protection, and personal accident insurance, and applies to activities such as meetings, public consultations, winter resilience work, coffee mornings, and newsletters.
 - i. Three options are proposed for the future policy:
 1. Option 1 – Keep current cover and activities; additional events declared and charged separately.
 2. Option 2 – As above, plus gardening (no power tools), one small event (<500 attendees), and up to three litter-picking events per year.
 3. Option 3 – Comprehensive cover for all Community Council events without declaring separately (likely higher premium).

b. Best Community & Civic Engagement Group 2025 - South Lanarkshire:

- i. Blackmount Community Council has been recognised in the Scottish Enterprise Awards 2025 as “Best Community & Civic Engagement Group 2025 – South Lanarkshire.” The organisers (SME News) have invited Blackmount to confirm participation in the official awards announcement. To be included, BMCC must select one of the following options via the Package Portal.
 1. Option 1 – Complimentary inclusion: Free listing in the Scottish Enterprise Awards Hall of Fame and access to a press release.
 2. Option 2 – Paid packages: Various promotional packages (£895–£5,295) offering features such as articles, trophies, plaques, and digital certificates for wider publicity.

c. VASlan Membership:

- i. Blackmount Community Council has secured membership with VASlan, South Lanarkshire’s Third Sector Interface. VASlan acts as the support hub and representative body for community and voluntary organisations in South Lanarkshire.

This membership is free and strengthens our link with the wider voluntary and community sector. It gives us access to advice, networking, and capacity-building support to help us deliver community projects effectively.

Key Benefits:

- Eligibility to apply for funding managed and distributed by VASlan.
- Inclusion in the VASlan Locator App and website, promoting BMCC’s activities locally.
- Access to low-cost promotional materials, such as spotlight videos and photography.
- Representation and voting rights at the VASlan Annual General Meeting.
- Option to join the Third Sector Chief Officers’ Group for collaboration and advocacy.

Funding Impact:

- Membership increases BMCC’s eligibility for VASlan-administered grants and may improve visibility and credibility when applying for other external funding opportunities.

d. 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). – Fixed....sorted....

6. Treasurer report was presented and circulated.
 - a. Last month's Applications awarded Libberton School for £500.00 plus Bugle printing £500.00
 - b. Vote tonight for Blackmount Social Group discussed in last month's meeting and Elsrickle Hub application.
 - c. I have distributed by email a blank declaration of interest to be completed please by any community council voting member that has any interest etc in the applications to be voted on. Please complete declaration form and return to treasurer. Vote.
 - d. As the council is aware we have £500.00 returned monies in this account from the Men's Shed, if included above would give us £3500.00 in the energy fund. Clarification is still required from SLC however, it is thought that this will be deducted from any funding issued in next year's funding top up.
 - e. Blackmount Community Saving Fund balance is £1421.43.
7. Planning
 - a. There are no planning applications affecting the Blackmount Community.
8. Blackmount Social Group.
 - a. Fireworks Display scheduled for 5 Nov 2025. Volunteers arranged for setup and safety.
 - b. Senior Citizens' Dinner confirmed for 13 Dec at Elsrickle Hall.
 - c. Volunteers sought; invitations to go out to residents aged 65+. Volunteers sought for setup and catering support.
9. Cllr. Alex Anderson
 - a. No major updates.
10. Current Business
 - a. Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner Funding
 - i. Proposal: £500 grant to the Black Mount Social Group for the annual dinner.
 - ii. Vote result: Approved unanimously (5–0), with social group members abstaining.
 - b. Elsrickle Hub Funding
 - i. Proposal: £500 grant for electronic door locks and system subscription.
 - ii. Vote result: Approved unanimously (6–0).
 - c. Change of Use – Dolphinton Hall Microgrant
 - i. Proposal: Approve change of grant purpose from legal fees to lighting upgrades.
 - ii. Vote result: Approved unanimously (approx. 7 in favour).
 - d. Insurance: Agreed to pursue Option 3 (comprehensive cover) unless costs are excessive.
 - e. Biggar Golf Course asset transfer: BMCC expressed support for community group proposal.
 - f. A written clarification was received concerning the July 2025 meeting minutes.
 - i. The correspondence noted that the published minutes could be misleading regarding a discussion on event licensing for Dolphinton Hall.
 - ii. Specifically, the clarification stated that the original exchange related to insurance, not to the existence of a public entertainment licence, and that this distinction may have been lost in transcription.
 - iii. BMCC agreed to record the clarification in these minutes and rectify the July minutes.

11. Future Business

- a. Standing item for ongoing community matters to remain.
- b. Freedom of Information request to obtain speed data from Elsrickle speed sensor.

12. The next BMCC meeting held on the 1st of December 2025 at the Elsrickle Village Hall.