

BMCC Meeting – Dolphinton Hall - 02 February 2026.

Elected Members	Present		Ex-Official Members	Present
Alistair Muirhead/Chair	Y		Alex Allison	Y
Andreas Hudson/Sec	Y		Ian Macallen	N
Stephen Jenkins	Y		Ralf Barker	N
Anne Hutchinson	Y			
Eric Holford	N			
Tammy McAlister	Y			
Felix de By	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. 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. Eric Holford wasn't able to attend.
4. Approval of minutes of meetings and reports.
 - a. Minutes of the 3 November 2025 meeting – Approved.
5. Secretary Report.
 - a. Insurance for Community Councils : Following the November meeting, SLC confirmed that a comprehensive insurance policy will be put in place for the 2026/2027 financial year. The policy will cover all Community Council activities and events without the need for individual event declarations, providing consistent cover across the full range of activities.
 - b. Update on part-time 20mph signs at Black Mount Primary School: Following an enquiry raised in November 2025, South Lanarkshire Council has confirmed that the part-time 20mph signs at Black Mount Primary School are currently inoperative. This is due to the contractor responsible for maintaining the signs and their supporting systems having ceased trading. The Council is currently investigating alternative solutions.

In the interim, the school area continues to be highlighted to drivers through existing road safety measures, including “Children crossing” warning signs with a school sub-plate, yellow road surfacing with a children crossing marking, and SLOW and SCHOOL road markings throughout the affected area.

The Council has also advised that it is considering the introduction of full-time mandatory 20mph speed limits on appropriate roads, in line with the National Strategy for speed limits. The proposed approach has been supported by the Road Safety Forum and will be presented to a future meeting of the Community and Enterprise Committee for approval. Any implementation would be phased, subject to available resources and external funding. Proposals affecting Elsrickle would be considered in due course.

- c. A member from Pettinain Community Council: has reached out to highlight ongoing difficulties in engaging with South Lanarkshire Council on road safety improvements. The member has noted that other Community Councils may be experiencing similar challenges and has suggested a collective approach rather than individual engagement.

The proposal includes Community Councils expressing interest in participating, followed by a potential meeting (in person or online) to share experiences, challenges, and effective approaches. It was also suggested that representatives from South Lanarkshire Council and the Road Safety Forum could be invited to a future meeting. The BMCC is required to respond.

- d. After-school care provision at Black Mount Primary School: There has been discussion amongst Black Mount parents regarding the lack of local after-school care provision and the possibility of using facilities at Black Mount Primary School to support an after-school club. This included exploring whether South Lanarkshire Council could assist with access to the school and potential funding, with the club operated by appropriately licensed individuals.

It was noted that a parent within the nursery community had previously expressed interest in running a formal after-school club but was advised that full commercial hire rates would apply for use of the school facilities, which may present a barrier. It was suggested that Black Mount Community Council could consider supporting and advocating for this proposal, particularly in relation to rural equity and access to childcare provision.

I would suggest that this be added as an agenda item for discussion at the next Black Mount Community Council meeting.

- e. Outstanding items:
 - i. The road condition on Carnwarth Road in Elsrickle requires attention (reported to Road and lighting faults - South Lanarkshire Council).

6. Treasurer report was presented and circulated.

- a. Energy grant: The Energy grants paid out so far total £3000.00 – this includes those paid out in November to the Elsrickle Hub and Black Mount Social Group. As the Energy grant started with a balance of £5000, the remaining balance left to spend before end March 2026 is £2000.00. We have just received 5 applications, which total £2480.
- b. The Savings Account balance stands at £1421.43 . The Secretary and outgoing/incoming Treasurers are happy to transfer their honorariums to the BMCC savings account, I will issue a cheque for these from the BMCC Admin account to the BMCC Savings Account.
- c. Admin Account: £252.60 remains from the £500 annual SLC Admin grant (with tonight's hall hire costs already deducted). However, I'm still to issue payment of £27.98 to the out-going treasurer Pauline Irwin for stationary costs, and we will require costs of hall hire (£46.50), bugle delivery (at least 1x £12), and the payment of the secretary/treasurer honorariums (£100). With these costs deducted, we will have £88.90 remaining by the end of year. Please

think if there are any meetings you would like to attend for which this money can be used for travel, or additional admin costs that might arise (eg software, stationary). Or use for the bugle

7. Planning

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

8. Blackmount Social Group.

- a. The Social Group held its annual Senior Citizens Dinner, with 52 attendees. While slightly lower than last year due to illness, the event was considered a success.
- b. The meal was very well received, and entertainment was provided by a young musician who was last year's Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year. Feedback on both the catering and entertainment was very positive.
- c. A grant was awarded towards the cost of the event. The receipt submitted for catering exceeded the £500 grant amount. The group remains in a solvent position.
- d. Initial discussions have also taken place regarding arrangements for the annual Sports Day, provisionally aligned with the May bank holiday period, consistent with previous years.

9. Cllr. Alex Anderson

- a. Councillor Allison confirmed that the council budget process has begun. Early discussions include potential savings, possible council tax increases, and new budget lines, but no significant changes are expected at this stage.
- b. Local issues raised included road conditions, potholes, overhanging branches, and verge damage. Some pothole repairs have recently been completed, with further concerns noted about deteriorating road surfaces and debris along walking routes.

10. Current Business

- a. Current Grant Submissions: Five grant applications have been received.
 - i. Elsrickle SWI (Scottish Women's Institute) – flower show - £500.00
 - ii. Tracy Pritchard – Crafting event - £480.00
 - iii. Dolphinton Hall Community Association - A/V Equipment - £500.00
 - iv. Black Mount School Parent Council - Black Mount Community Fun Day - £500.00
 - v. Black Mount Primary School - Reading project – Diversification - £500.00
- b. Review Timeline and Process: The group agreed that applications must be submitted at least two weeks before the decision meeting, and that all applications will be reviewed and decided upon at the next meeting.

11. The next BMCC meeting held on the 2nd of March 2025 at the Elsrickle Village Hall.