BMCC Meeting - Elsrickle Community Hub - 5 October 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	Y			
Tammy McAlistair	Y			
Felix de By	Y			

1. Attendance: All seven elected members and Cllr Alex Allison attended. No members of the public attended. The meeting began at 7:30 pm.

2. Welcome: Members were advised that the meeting was being recorded.

3. Apologies: No apologies were received.

4. Approval of previous minutes and reports
    a. The minutes of 7 September 2026 were approved subject to correcting the event to a sponsored walk, not a cycling event. The secretary report was also corrected to show eight elected places on BMCC, not seven.

5. Secretary Report
    a. Community Council election: Six valid nominations were received for eight elected places. No ballot was required. The elected members are Felix de By, Andreas Hudson, Anne Hutchison, Stephen Jenkins, John McCann and Alistair Muirhead. They take office on 22 October 2026. Two places remain unfilled.
    b. Inaugural Meeting and AGM: Cllr Alex Allison will act as Independent Interim Chair until office bearers are appointed. Nominees should confirm their attendance to him. Outgoing office bearers should prepare their annual reports to be read on their behalf.
        i. The agenda includes appointment of office bearers, vacancies and co-options, the constitution, standing orders, Code of Conduct, banking arrangements and future meetings. An ordinary community council meeting may follow.
    c. Correspondence was received from John McCann.

6. Treasurer Report
    a. Renewable Energy microgrants: £2,034 had been allocated, leaving £2,966 before the application considered at this meeting.
        i. Allocations were £150 to Biggar High School, £500 to Dolphinton Art Group, £384 to Dolphinton WI, £500 to Biggar and District Menshed, and £500 to Black Mount Primary School. The £500 award approved under Current Business leaves £2,466 available.
    b. Administration grant: The written report corrected the previously reported hall hire expenditure of £93 to £69. With the October meeting and November AGM paid, expenditure totalled £117 from the £500 grant, leaving £383. Bugle delivery costs and the secretary's software costs remained to be submitted.

c. Bugle printing: The written report recorded £405 spent from the £600 SLC community grant, comprising £200 for the summer edition and £205 for the autumn edition, leaving £195. It also recorded that £40 of summer printing was covered by the remaining funds from the 2025-2026 BMCC energy grant awarded to the editor.
    i. The remaining printing funds, together with advertising revenue, were expected to cover the winter issue. A further Renewable Energy microgrant application for spring and summer printing was discussed. No further printing grant was awarded at this meeting.
d. Members approved reimbursement of £129 to the secretary for a note-taking device. The secretary will provide the invoice.

7. Planning
    a. Dolphinton Church Hall: Members reported a full planning application to convert the former hall into a dwelling.
    b. Seat Hill Wind Farm
        i. Members discussed the proposed wind farm, including landscape impact, construction and decommissioning, renewable energy and energy security, and potential community benefits. Suggestions included household energy support and energy efficiency measures. No position supporting or opposing the proposal was agreed.
        ii. Members discussed the importance of local involvement in any community benefit arrangements and possible engagement with other affected community councils. The communities within a potential 10-mile area had not been verified.
        iii. BMCC will maintain a watching brief and carry the matter forward as a standing agenda item for the incoming council. A fuller discussion will take place when a planning application is available.
        iv. The Chair, Alistair Muirhead, will contact the developer to seek engagement before the planning application and copy members into the correspondence. The Secretary, Andreas Hudson, will reply to the resident who asked for BMCC's position.

8. Blackmount Social Group
    a. Fireworks display: Preparations were under way for 7 November 2026. Fireworks had arrived and the licence was reported as approved. Volunteers were needed to help erect the tent, marshal the event and direct traffic. A request for volunteers will be publicised on Facebook.
        i. Members discussed encouraging donations and providing a cashless option, including a QR code or card payment facility. The arrangements will be explored before they are advertised. No particular payment service was agreed.
    b. Christmas dinner: The dinner was planned for Friday 4 December 2026, at 6:30 pm for 7:00 pm. Catering was confirmed and entertainment was still being arranged.
    c. Sponsored walk: The event was reported as successful. The social group planned to repeat the walk in the opposite direction next year.

9. Councillor Update
    a. Cllr Alex Allison thanked members for their work and congratulated those returning to the council. He advised that discussions on local government reform were beginning and that consultations were expected.
    b. Roadside overgrowth: Cllr Allison had arranged for an officer to visit and inspect affected roads. He welcomed BMCC's letter as supporting evidence and will continue pursuing the concerns. No remedial work was confirmed.

10. Current Business
    a. Current Grant Submission: Blackmount Social Group fireworks display
        i. Stephen Jenkins and Anne Hutchinson declared interests through their involvement in the social group. The council raised no objection to their participation in the vote.
        ii. The £500 application was approved unanimously by all seven members, leaving £2,466 in the Renewable Energy microgrant allocation.

11. AOB
    a. A702 road safety: Members raised concerns following a further collision at the Garvald junction. The Secretary will contact Transport Scotland to renew the request to extend the speed limit beyond Dolphinton Creamery. Members also discussed obtaining collision information to support the request.
    b. Website arrangements: The Secretary will investigate transferring the BMCC website from his personal account to a council account, with the secretary role as the contact. Payment arrangements and the separate ongoing cost need to be established.
    c. Charitable status: Members discussed whether BMCC could register as a charity. It was subsequently reported during the meeting that community councils could not themselves register under their existing local authority arrangements. No application or change of structure was agreed.
    d. Meeting venue: Members noted that other regular activities at Dolphinton Hall could affect future Monday evening availability. Availability will need to be checked when arranging meetings.
    e. Outgoing council: Thanks were expressed to outgoing members for their service and good wishes extended to the incoming council.

12. Next meeting: The Inaugural Meeting and AGM will take place on Monday 2 November 2026 at 7:30 pm in Elsrickle Community Hub, with provision for an ordinary community council meeting afterwards.