

Blackness Area Community Council Meeting  
Held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
At Blackness Community Hall

**1. Present**

Mike Smith (Convenor)  
Dennis Davies (Vice Convenor)  
Shelagh Arkley (Treasurer)  
Sharman Faulds  
Johann Kitzinger  
Robin Braes  
Cllr Adrian Mahoney  
PC Gayle Hope  
12 Members of the Public

**2. Apologies**

Loma Simpson

**3. Opening Remarks**

Mike Smith welcomed everyone.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were proposed by Mike Smith and seconded by Dennis Davies

The minutes of the business meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were proposed by Sharman Faulds and seconded by Dennis Davies

The minutes of the planning meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 were proposed by Johan Kitzinger and seconded by Robin Braes.

**5. Matters Arising**

Police – The break in at 23 Mannerston – awaiting fingerprint results.

- Incident with the van at 1 Mannerston – The van driver was spoken to through an interpreter and were looking for premises to rent.
- New incidents – vandalism of bales at Mannerston and cannons stolen from Blackness Inn
- New forms are being used by police for incidents raised at Community Council Meetings.

Secretary Vacancy – The election for a new Community Council will be held in September 2009. We can continue with less than the elected number of members until the election. Mike Smith issued a document on his thoughts about spreading the workload. Members to phone him with their ideas. Mike said we must retain a secretary.

Cllr Mahoney – Flooding Defences – work has started in Bo`ness and he will get more information for next meeting.

- Pathway from Bo`ness to Blackness – He is keen to see this progress but funding is a consideration. Falkirk Council has been asked to freeze council tax. This has resulted in pressure on their budget.
- He congratulated the people involved in getting funding for the upgrade of the playpark in Blackness.

- Public Toilets – He had checked the Gents and thought it was OK. Nan Wylie reported on the state of the Ladies and feels it needs upgraded. She will check with Cathy Bugg.
- He reported the launch of Fund Leader where £2 million is available for rural areas. Up to 50% of costs can be applied for. Also Blackness area is eligible for the Coalfield Fund.

#### **6. Planning**

No 45 Mannerston – Mike Smith reported that a recommendation has been made and will go to committee in December.

No 17 Cauldcoats – no feedback from Falkirk council.

No 11 Mannerston – No feedback from Falkirk Council

A discussion followed re the 45 Mannerston application. Dennis Davies felt that it had been treated differently from other applications by Falkirk Council. **Action** – M.S. to find out more about planning applications.

#### **7. Guidelines for Planning House Extensions**

Dennis Davies reported that Thom Pollock is on board. He is awaiting a response from Falkirk Council for meeting between Thom Pollock D Davies M Smith and Falkirk Council.

#### **8. Laptop**

Sharman Faulds has purchased one for use by the Minute Secretary. Johan Kitzinger is to set it up.

**Action** Shelagh Arkley is to check with Falkirk Council about reclaiming the VAT.

#### **9. Road Safety** – No report

#### **10. Burnshot Water Leak**

Robin Braes reported that work had started on 11/11. They are putting a new valva. Road Dept has put pressure on Scottish Water for extra gritting required over winter due to water leak.

#### **11. Steading at 17 Cauldcoats** – No progress.

#### **12. Back Shore Picnic Bench** – No action.

#### **13. Pleasure Flights** – No progress.

#### **14. School Security Light** – Mike Smith has checked it out and feels it is not an issue. **CLOSED**

#### **15. Local Plan Pre-Inquiry Modification** – Acknowledgement received by F. Council. **CLOSED**

#### **16. Communication with Falkirk Council Planning** – It was suggested that all communications should be e-mailed to Johan Kitzinger rather than posted.

#### **17. Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols** – Nan Wylie has organised it for 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at Blackness Mission Church. Provost Pat Reid and Cllr. A Mahoney and children from Blackness P.S. to attend.

#### **ROUTINE REPORTS**

#### **18. Treasurer**- S Arkley reported that the bank balance on 30/9/08 was £661.05. Accounts have been audited and will be submitted to Falkirk Council. **Action** Application for next budget to include a request for Minute Sec. Honorarium.

#### **19. Secretary** – Nothing of any significance has been received since last meeting.

#### **20. Planning**

No 11 Mannerston – Awaiting report.

No 1 Mannerston – Application for Restaurant and Farm Shop. This involves a new building on the same level as existing house. Mr and Mrs Faulds will move into house. Plans were on view. A discussion followed regarding water supply, drainage and access.

No 8 Mannerston – Extension will double size of the house. J Kitzinger felt the community council should not support the application. Concern was raised about the foundations being able to support the structure.

#### **21 A.O.C.B.** – Steve Granger and Simon Cotton were co-opted onto the committee.

Nan Wylie has purchased a website for the council. A Mahoney to be asked for help to set it up.

Mike Smith closed the meeting at 9.35pm.