

Minutes of Blackwell Parish Council BUDGET Meeting held on Monday 24th November 2025 at Blackwell Community Centre

PRESENT

Cllrs: Gascoyne, Newham, Poulter, Renshaw, Peters, Reynolds, Lee, Stocks and Hart

ALSO PRESENT

K Poynter (Clerk)

Members of Public: 0

1624/2025 To Receive Apologies for Absence

None received

1625/2025 Variation of Order of Business (if required)

To be decided upon as appropriate during the meeting.

1626/2025 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Renshaw declared an interest as a Bolsover District Councillor as a number of services are provided to the parish council from the district council.

1627/2025 Public Speaking

No members of public were present.

1628/2025 BUDGET

There was discussion about:

- aiming to keep the budget increase within the bounds of inflation
- changes in the budget from the current year and options for cutting costs
- not knowing what any increase would translate to in terms of percentage to the precept as the base rate wouldn't be worked out by the district council until January
- the cost of everything continually increasing coupled with unexpected complications made to the budget in 2025/26, such as the three elections being called that cost just under £10,000. Traditionally vacancies have resulted in co-option, so now elections would need to be included in the budget to safeguard other items – especially if the 2027 elections are parish only, then the parish council would have the total bill for the election to pay rather than sharing it with a higher tier council with elections on the same day
- concern was expressed about what would happen if there were any other unexpected costs like the elections or a similar situation to the occurrence with the floor at Newton Community Centre
- that the council now has the minimum three months running costs required as reserves– and is now working towards six months as the recommended ideal

RESOLVED: to approve:

- that the current budget for 2025/26 is on track
- to increase the budget from £300,409 in 2025/26 to £315,000 (following making cuts from the proposed budget of £320,000 but still allowing for future elections) in 2026/27 – which equates to a 4.86% increase in monetary terms (noting that the percentage increase to a band D property is unknown at this point).

Mover: Cllr Peters

Seconder: Cllr Reynolds

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: to defer discussing priorities for seeking funding to the full council meeting on 1st December.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Reynolds

Agreed by All

1629/2025 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 1st December 2025, 7pm at Newton Community Centre

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____