

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Blackwell Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023, 7pm at Westhouses Primary School.

PRESENT

Cllrs: D Bullock (Chair), I Newham (Vice Chair), S Knox, C Moesby, T Gascoyne and D Marshall-Curtis

ALSO PRESENT

K Poynter (Clerk)

Members of Public: 6

962/2023 To Elect a Chairman for the Ensuing Year

Cllr Bullock was nominated to take the position of Chairman for the ensuing year

Nominator: Cllr Gascoyne Seconder: Cllr Newham

Votes for: 5 Votes against: 0 Abstentions: 1

963/2023 The Chairman to take and sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Bullock accepted the position of Chairman and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

964/2023 To elect a Deputy Chairman for the Ensuing Year

Cllr Newham was nominated to take the position of Vice-Chair for the ensuing year

Nominator: Cllr Moesby Seconder: Cllr Gascoyne Agreed by All

965/2023 The Deputy Chairman to take and sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Newham accepted the position of Vice Chairman and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

966/2023 Confirmation that the Acceptance of Office forms

It was confirmed that all Councillors present had signed an Acceptance of Office form.

It was agreed that other electees not present at this meeting would be able to sign the relevant form in the Clerk's presence as soon as possible.

967/2023 To receive apologies for absence

B Stocks and S Renshaw

968/2023 Variation of Order of Business

To be decided as and when needed during the meeting.

969/2023 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Moesby declared an interest in item 22 Finance regarding payments made to Bolsover District Council.

970/2023 Public Speaking

A member of the public brought in up the ongoing issue with buses and how difficult it is for young people to get to college in Chesterfield. Travel is prohibitively expensive when it costs £28 for a one-way taxi. There was a discussion about getting in touch with local bus companies (Stagecoach, Hulleys, Trent Barton), Community Transport, Derbyshire County Council Transport to ask what could be done.

Another resident questioned when the work at Westhouses is due to be completed, which lead to a discussion about the solar farm plans and the fear of Westhouses being hemmed in by solar farms if the Alfreton one goes ahead, along with the proposed one between Westhouses and Blackwell, and a potential additional one on the other side, and what would happen if there was an electrical fire. The petition is to be dropped into the council office, and it was asked that there needs to be consideration paid to GDPR before it is left with the Council.

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Report from County Councillor Barron

Cllr Barron had sent his apologies and wanted to pass on congratulations to all the newly elected members as well as everyone who has been re-elected.

Disappointment was expressed again by the Council about how difficult it is to get a response from Cllr Barron on issues affecting the parish.

Report from District Councillor Moesby

Cllr Moesby stated that it being so soon after the election, there was nothing to report so far, but he had contacted Cllr Barron about a number of issues.

Crime Figures

It was noted that the figures for Blackwell and Newton are higher.

971/2023 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the above meeting and signed by Chair.

Mover: Cllr Moesby

Seconded: Cllr Knox

Agreed by All

972/2025 To consider the appointment of new committees, appropriate Terms of reference, frequency and dates of meetings and the appointment of members in accordance with Standing Order 4.

It was agreed to set up the following committees with interest from named Councillors, but to wait to confirm information needed until the next meeting, following potential co-option of additional members.

- Finance and HR Committee – Cllrs Marshall-Curtis and Moesby
- Parish Buildings Committee – Cllrs Newham and Gascoyne
- Parks, Floral and Events Committee – Cllrs Bullock, Newham and Gascoyne
- Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre Charity – Cllr Knox
- Newton War Memorial Playing Fields Charity – Cllrs Bullock and Newham
- Westhouses Memorial Playing Field Charity – Cllrs Moesby and Gascoyne

973/2023 To appoint representatives to outside bodies

- Bolsover District Council Liaison Committee – Cllr Moesby with Cllr Marshall-Curtis as deputy
- Newton and Blackwell Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association – Cllr Gascoyne
- Friends of Doe Hill Country Park Committee – Cllr Newham

974/2023 To review and adopt the following documents and policies

RESOLVED: to adopt the following documents and policies:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Code of Conduct
- Complaints Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Training and Development Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Lone Working Policy

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconded: Cllr Moesby

Agreed by All

975/2023 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair had no announcements to make.

976/2023 Report from the Clerk

- Cinderella has been booked for the annual pantomime for the parish primary schools
- The Coronation Teddy Bears were handed out at the primary schools, nursery and Toddlers.

RESOLVED: to confirm St Werburgh's Church a grant of £200 to cover Coronation Event costs, and that money would be moved over from the DDay fund.

Mover: Cllr Moesby

Seconded: Cllr Marshall-Curtis

Agreed by All

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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977/2023

Westhouses

It was decided to wait to plan a day and time to continue the Westhouses survey until there are more Councillors available.

Green Switch had been contacted to ask if there are any updates and they are still waiting for information from the GRID before they can look at proceeding.

978/2023

Parish Buildings

- Blackwell Community Centre – the Clerk reported difficulties in getting quotes for the gents toilet floor, but is expecting two this week.
- Newton Community Centre Floor

RESOLVED: the Cllrs Newham and Marshall-Curtis would work with the Clerk and the Procurement team at Bolsover District Council and would be delegated the power to agree the final tender document for BDC to post online.

Mover: Cllr Knox Second: Cllr Bullock Agreed by All

- The dates for the water tank cleaning should be available this week. The Clerk to chase.
- It is becoming an issue that some people who hire the community centres with a bar still bring their own alcohol.

RESOLVED:

- that the bond required for the hire of the community centres be tied to the whole of the Terms and Conditions of hire, not just leaving the centre in a clean and tidy state.
- To discuss the provision of a bar at the community centres in closed session as it relates to a private individual

Mover: Cllr Newham Second: Cllr Bullock Agreed by All

979/2023

Highways / Provision of Buses

There was a discussion about the traffic and waggons traversing New Lane in Hilcote it is at all times, and during the bad weather, they were getting stuck and having to reverse down the hill, pipping their horns to get people up to move their cars. One solution could be if the opposite side of the road could be tarmacked to provide additional parking.

It was suggested to write to the companies involved, and copy in the Police, Derbyshire County Council and Cllr Barron.

980/2023

Allotments

Since the residents of Woburn Close were moved out of the bungalows, there has been a spate of damage and petty theft from the allotments. The Police are informed when anything untoward has taken place. There was a discussion about allotment holders needing insurance and that the Allotment Association used to request that they held insurance years ago. As Cllr Gascoyne is the liaison, he said that he would talk to the relevant people about what had been discussed. Cllr Moesby said he would find out when demolition is due to start as Bolsover District Council as when the new bungalows are built, there are plans to install a new fence.

981/2023

HS2

It was noted that there are no updates on the proposed rent increases by HS2.

982/2023

Hanging Baskets

RESOLVED: to advertise Hanging Basket Sponsorship at £30 a basket. Any sponsors would be mentioned in the next parish newsletter.

Mover: Cllr Bullock Second: Cllr Gascoyne Agreed by All

983/2023

Accounts for Payment and Financial Reports

RESOLVED: to discuss the way forward for the accounts with regards re-statement in closed session because there is reference to individuals.

Mover: Cllr Bullock Second: Cllr Newham Agreed by All

RESOLVED: To accept the payments for March and April 2023.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne Second: Cllr Marshall-Curtis Agreed by All

RESOLVED: to keep bank account signatories as they are as the same people are still Councillors.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne Second: Cllr Knox Agreed by All

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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- It was noted that the council no longer qualifies for the General Power of Competence as the Clerk has been unable to complete the CiLCA qualification in time.
- A proposal for an updated version of the asset register was presented. There are gaps that still need to be ascertained (transfer of ownership of memorials) and Councillors were asked to get in touch with the Clerk if they could think of anything else that needs to be added.
- It was reported that DALC were yet to appoint an internal auditor for the second half of the audit.

984/2023

Recreation and Outdoor Areas

- Newton and Blackwell Football Club have put a request in that no-one uses their pitch from May to August to allow it time to heal and grow. It was agreed by Council that NBFC do a fantastic job or pitch maintenance, however, as it is a public playing field, it wouldn't be possible to stop children or other authorised groups using the pitch.

RESOLVED: following the resignation of the current warden for Bamford Street Park, to advertise for a new warden as there has traditionally been trouble when the gates have been left open.

Mover: Cllr Marshall-Curtis

Seconder: Cllr Bullock

Agreed by All

- The Bolsover District Council Active Communities Programme is coming to an end. There was a discussion about contacting the local football and cricket teams to ask if they would be interested in putting on open days for children during the holidays.
- The Parish Ranger is on annual leave from 30th May-2nd June. Volunteers were asked for to empty the park bins.
- Cllr Gascoyne has received a request to put a plaque on the Miners Wheel in Blackwell in honour of the seven men killed in the 1895 colliery disaster. All agreed that it would be acceptable if it was in keeping with the wheel.
- There was a discussion about placing memorial benches for previous Councillors Cook and Tomlinson, and Mr Radford and whether the money would be taken from the DDay Fund.

985/2023

To Consider Planning Reports Received

RESOLVED:

- **23/00201/FUL** – no objections
- **23/00092/FUL** - concern was expressed as don't want to see the loss of another public amenity

Mover: Cllr Moesby

Seconder: Cllr Newham

Agreed by All

986/2023

Correspondence Received

It was noted that the DALC Circular was sent out to Councillors

987/2023

To Consider Candidates for Co-option

No-one had put themselves forward before the deadline. The deadline for letters of interest for the next meeting will be Monday 29th May 2023

988/2023

Date and Time of next meeting – proposal for the next municipal year:

RESOLVED: to accept the following dates for full Council meetings over the next year:

- Monday 5th June 2023 – Hilcote Community Centre
- Monday 3rd July 2023 – Hilcote Community Centre
- Monday 4th September 2023 – Blackwell Community Centre
- Monday 2nd October 2023 – Westhouses Primary School
- Monday 6th November 2023 – Newton (to be arranged)
- Monday 4th December 2023 – Hilcote Community Centre
- Monday 8th January 2024 – Blackwell Community Centre
- Monday 5th February 2024 – Westhouses Primary School
- Monday 4th March 2024 – Newton Community Centre
- Monday 8th April 2024 – Hilcote Community Centre
- Monday 6th May 2024 – Blackwell Community Centre

Mover: Cllr Newham

Seconder: Cllr Gascoyne

Agreed by All

At this point the press and public were asked to leave so that items of a confidential nature could be discussed.

989/2023

Accounts

RESOLVED: to increase the hours of the temporary Admin Assistant to help restate the accounts and look at getting the charity accounts in order.

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Moesby

Agreed by All

990/2023

Community Centres

RESOLVED: to set up a meeting with the Designated Premises Supervisor to put together a service level agreement that outlines the specifics in relation to the bars at Blackwell Community Centre and Hilcote Community Centre. to be arranged when Cllr Stocks is also available.

Mover: Cllr Bullock

Seconder: Cllr Gascoyne

Agreed by All

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____