

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes

Minutes of the Blackwell Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023 at Hilcote Community Centre.

PRESENT

Cllrs: D Bullock (Chair), I Newham (Vice Chair), C Moesby, R Poulter, A Wilkinson, B Stocks, S Knox, E de Chiro, S Renshaw, S Gill and A Burrows

ALSO PRESENT

K Poynter (Clerk)

Members of Public: 2

1134/2023 To Receive Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies put in by Cllr Gascoyne (illness)

Mover: Cllr Wilkinson

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

A minute of silence was observed for a previous Councillor - Ian Cox.

1135/2023 Variation of Order of Business (if required)

None

1136/2023 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllrs Moesby and Renshaw declared an interest in any payments that would relate to Bolsover District Council due to being District Councillors

And other interests to be declared if relevant items arise.

1137/2023 Public Speaking

A member of Westhouses Community Association thanked the council for putting WCA posters up on the council noticeboards and website. WCA was thanked for doing a brilliant job with decorating the community garden.

No report was available from County Cllr Barron.

Report from District Cllrs Moesby and Renshaw

As District Councillors, they still have a small pot of money available to give to community groups. Financially, the District Council is continuing to deliver essential services and the medium term financial plan is on track.

The council shuts down from Thursday 21st December 2023 and re-opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. During that time there will be emergency support only.

The Public Space Protection Order is now in place and £100 on the spot fines have already been issued at illegal car rallies in Bramley Vale.

Crime figures – It was noted that the numbers are still on the rise. There was a discussion about putting increased pressure on the Police for more of a presence.

Cllr Moesby will be attending the Police and Crime Panel in January and will be asking what is going wrong. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Police to ask what is happening in light of growing crime figures.

Bolsover District Council – Chris Fridlington gave a presentation on the results of a survey recently conducted to try to understand the needs and aspirations of the people who live and work in the district to try and ensure that their economic development policies better meet the needs of local communities. Bolsover District Council wants to start a conversation with the parish to find out how they can work together, and the parish council will be kept informed with any updates. There was a discussion about forgotten areas, the types of things that already happen in the parish thanks to community groups, and ideas of what could be done to celebrate what there already is. It was also suggested that the district council might be able to help with funding.

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7.20pm Cllr Gill arrived.

1138/2023 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Monday 6th November and Monday 27th November 2023

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the above meetings. Signed by the Chair.

Mover: Cllr Stocks Seconder: Cllr Knox Agreed by All

1139/2023 Report from the Clerk

- It has been confirmed that from this year, it is a requirement that Councillors have official parish council e-mail addresses, so further work will be undertaken to source an acceptable solution.
- The Christmas lights are now up and lit – including the ones on the trees in the winter planters.
- The annual panto for the local schools happened today and judging by the reaction of the children they really enjoyed it.

1140/2023 Accounts for Payment and Financial Report

RESOLVED: to accept the list of payments for November/start of December

Mover: Cllr Wilkinson Seconder: Cllr Stocks Agreed by All

There was a discussion about a water bill for over £2,000 for Charnwood Pavilion following an actual read. The meter is currently showing regular rates, so it must be related to something that has happened over the previous year. It was agreed that previous bills should be looked at to see whether there are any other anomalies.

RESOLVED: to accept the re-valuation of Charnwood Pavilion as being £247,445

Mover: Cllr Stocks Seconder: Cllr Poulter Agreed by All

It was noted that the internal audit process for 2023/24 has already started.

RESOLVED: to apply for the Gold package from Rialtas for end of year close-down – a three year contract at £825+VAT per year.

Mover: Cllr Newham Seconder: Cllr Wilkinson Agreed by All

1141/2023 Committees

The recommendations from the Finance & HR Committee relating to the Budget were agreed in the Budget Meeting on 27th November. Staffing recommendations are to be discussed later in this meeting.

1142/2023 Charities (LGA 1972 s139 (1))

- It was agreed that the fascia and soffit above the front door at Hilcote Community Centre needs looking at as soon as possible, before there is any further decay due to bad weather.
- The fences have now been erected on Charnwood Recreation Ground, as requested by residents and agreed by full council, to block the gaps in the hedges where groups of young people were getting through in the dark and engaging in antisocial behaviour, including riding round on quad bikes, in a way that intimidated residents. In the week since, someone has been along with a saw and created a new gap in the hedge. This had been reported to Police and is being treated as criminal damage.

1143/2023 Westhouses

It was suggested that the survey be continued in the spring when the nights are getting lighter again.

1144/2023 Parish Buildings (LG(MP)A 1976 s19 / LGA 1894 s8(1)(i))

- Newton Community Centre Floor

Two set of quotes were presented – one set for the top layer of the floor and one for the painting of the main hall and there was a discussion about the current refurbishments at Newton Community Centre as a whole and the best way to limit who would be responsible if anything untoward were to occur during any stage of the process in order to help protect the investment of public money being made into the building.

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RESOLVED: to accept the quotes from John Martin Hoyes for laying down the top layer of the floor and painting the main hall, as their credentials had been checked thoroughly before the installation of the floor and that if anything should go wrong, there will be only one point of liability.

Mover: Cllr Moesby

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

The current schedule of works is:

Last week – saw the completion of the foundation blockwork and laying the polythene

Tuesday 5th December – commence block and beam installation

Monday 11th December – commence screeding

The aim is to have this completed by 16th January.

It was noted that the laundrette had refused to clean the curtains, so the suggestion was to re-visit the issue in spring.

There was a discussion about making sure that the chairs are fully cleaned and, in the spring, getting a piano tuner out to take a look at the piano and assess what it would need.

- Other building updates:

The electrician has been out to take a look at electrical issues at Newton Community Centre and it has taken a second visit to narrow it down to cable damage relating to the room that houses the boiler. To avoid having to track the fault down, the electrician is going to source a circuit breaker on eBay (due to the age of the wiring), and in the meantime has put in a work-around, so at least the boiler can be turned on.

The boiler at Blackwell Community Centre is cutting out when the boiler itself reaches a certain temperature. It is switching back on again when it cools down. The temperature in the main hall seems to settle at 15 degrees, so additional heaters have been provided, along with a risk assessment, to hirers. The plumber is coming out to service the boilers in all of the facilities on 11th December and will take a look then.

Cllr Newham reported on plans to install plaques at Blackwell Community Centre and on the colliery wheel in Blackwell on 17th April 2024 in memory of William Henry 'Fatty' Foulke (1874-1916, who played for Blackwell Colliery FC, Sheffield United, Bradford City and Chelsea, was Capped for England, Played for Derbyshire County Cricket Club and was two times FA Cup winner and a League Champion), Willie Layton (1875-1944, who played for Blackwell Colliery FC, Chesterfield Town and Sheffield Wednesday, was Twice a League Champion and an FA Cup winner and represented the English Football League XI), and the 71 colliers known to have been killed at Blackwell Colliery (1872 -1969)

There was a discussion about VE Day Celebrations being hosted at St Werburgh's Church. It was agreed by all that this would be appropriate.

There was a discussion about individuals hiring the centres to put on public events and the potential for a lack of understanding what is required. This led to further discussion about public liability insurance and who is responsible.

RESOLVED: to add the following amendment to the Terms and Conditions and sent to Cllr Moesby for checking:

'If the venues is being booked to put on an event that is open to the public, relevant legislation must be adhered to. For an examples on what needs to be considered, visit the Government website for guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-do-guide-for-organisers-of-voluntary-events/the-can-do-guide-to-organising-and-running-voluntary-and-community-events>'

And for further investigation into what other venues ask for in terms of insurance cover for events and private parties.

Mover: Cllr Wilkinson

Seconder: Cllr Bullock

Agreed by All

It was noted that the centres are only open for one private event between Christmas and New Year and for the booked public New Years Eve Party. Keyholders and cleaning up by the parties has been agreed. All other staff are on annual leave that week.

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There was a discussion about a complaint received about the smell of dog urine in the lounge at Blackwell Community Centre. The Clerk had been in contact with the dog groups (two of which don't use the lounge) and all confirmed their practices for dealing with accidents.

RESOLVED: That the groups who has requested a move from Blackwell to Hilcote when it becomes available and the trial of a current dog group on a Saturday at Hilcote should be allowed to take place.

Mover: Cllr Stocks Seconder: Cllr Wilkinson Agreed by All

1145/2023 **Highways/Provision of Buses**

There was a discussion about the road closure on New Lane in Hilcote showing that lorries can find alternative routes if they need to, and highlighting how much of an impact they have on that road when they are continually rolling through, and the responses received from the MP. It was felt that little would likely be done about the road classification, but that residents should still pursue action and keep a log of days, times and numbers of lorries going through.

1146/2023 **Recreation and Outdoor Areas (LG(MP)A 1976 s19(3))**

- It was reported that there was no current additional news on Bamford Street play area.
- The Council thanked the Parish Ranger and Caretaker for the good job they did of putting the gate up on Scanderlands Recreation Ground.
- It was noted that the additional CCTV for Charnwood and Scanderlands Recreation Ground is due to be installed a week on Thursday.
- It was noted that the Environmental Enforcement Officer was going to schedule more patrols around Blackwell parish in December and that additional information about how to report incidents of dog poo being left to Bolsover District Council had been put on the website.
- Cllr Newham updated the Council on events at Doe Hill Park – the request for a memorial seat on the park is currently on hold as Banks want conditions put in place, the car park is flooding in heavy rain, so will not be opened on those days, new volunteers have joined the group, the group is having to pay for removal of fly tipping (which takes money away from other endeavours), there will be a health and safety check undertaken in the next few days, and the park is coming along nicely and should look good in the spring.

1147/2023 **Allotments**

The Clerk has been in touch with the Allotment Association and they are going to get together site plans, so it will be easier to identify any vacant plots, and the Parish Ranger will be asked to assess what would be needed to clear them. Once plans are obtained, a meeting will be set up between the Allotment Association, the Council representative and the Clerk to go through the agreement to make sure that it is still working for everyone.

1148/2023 **To consider planning reports received:**

RESOLVED:

23/00562/OUT & 23/00600/NCO – no objections

23/00085/FUL – no objections

23/00564/TCON – no objections

23/00617/NCO – no objections

23/00597/FUL – request more information

Mover: Cllr Newham Seconder: Cllr Poulter Agreed by All

Information on the proposal to stop up the highway on Woburn Close will be displayed at Blackwell Community Centre from 14th December until 11th January.

1149/2023 **To consider the adoption of the following policies**

Grant Giving and Internal Controls – it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting as the Clerk hadn't had time to complete amendments.

1150/2023 **Biodiversity**

There was a discussion about the proposed Biodiversity statement and that it would start the process on which future decisions would be made.

At this point it was agreed to suspend standing orders.

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There were discussions about community events, councillor training, a Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk, Staffing and Chairmans Announcements

9.25pm it was agreed that Standing Orders to be re-instated

RESOLVED: to accept the proposed Biodiversity statement and use it as a starting point for further consideration. (See attached)

Mover: Cllr Poulter

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

1151/2023 **Community Events**

It was noted that a poster had been created for the Carol Service.

1152/2023 **Correspondence Received**

It was noted that the DALC newsletter had been sent out.

It was noted that the Ashfield Local Plan is available on the Ashfield Council website.

It was agreed that the council wouldn't be able to help with a discount on council tax bills for Special Constables as requested by the Police Commissioner.

1153/2023 **Councillor Training (LGA 1972 s111)**

It was noted that DALC would be able to offer additional bespoke training if required.

1154/2023 **Delegation**

RESOLVED: to approve the proposed Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk.

Mover: Cllr Poulter

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

1155/2023 **Staffing (LGA 1972 s112(2))**

RESOLVED: to appoint R Gooch to the position of Procurement and Projects Assistant and make contractual amendments as recommended by the Finance & HR Committee. The official start date would be 8th January 2023.

Mover: Cllr Newham

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

It was noted that the annual appraisal for the Clerk had been undertaken and was passed.

RESOLVED:

That the pay rise recommended by NALC be approved and back dated to April 2023.

That the Bolsover District Council Payroll Manage be added to the HMRC Payroll Account in case there are ever any issues.

That two laptops be purchased in accordance with the cheapest price researched online and presented to council. (approximately £499 each).

Mover: Cllr Poulter

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

1156/2023 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chair announced that they were standing down as Chair and as a Councillor and thanked Cllr Newham as for his work as Vice Chair, the rest of the Council, and staff.

RESOLVED: That as Vice Chair, Cllr Newham would take on the role of Acting Chair until the annual parish council meeting in May 2024.

Mover: Cllr Poulter

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

1157/2023 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 8th January 2024, 7pm at Blackwell Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.31pm

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Payments Nov/Dec 23						
Date	Vendor	Item	NET	VAT	TOTAL	PAID
06/10/2023	Bolsover District Council	staff costs September 23 & payroll provision	5,672.11	12.00	5,684.11	09/11/2023
26/10/2023	Bolsover District Council	Admin fees for parish election	1,725.16		1,725.16	09/11/2012
23/10/2023	Community Heartbeat Trust	Annual Sub Westhouses & Newton	330.00	66.00	396.00	
05/10/2023	Bolsover District Council	Annual Playground inspection	434.00	86.80	520.80	09/11/2012
20/10/2023	Bolsover District Council	maintenance Westhouses play area	123.05	24.61	147.66	09/11/2023
26/10/2023	Waterplus	BCC water charges	60.50		60.50	DD
26/10/2023	Waterplus	NCC water charges	96.95		96.95	DD
27/10/2023	Clarke's Cemetery Services	Churchyard maintenance	620.00		620.00	09/11/2023
31/10/2023	Allstar fuel	fuel	83.96	16.79	100.75	DD
01/11/2023	Bolsover District Council	procurement NCC floor	350.00	70.00	420.00	24/11/2023
02/11/2023	Dexter Bullock	refund of plants for winter planters	357.99		357.99	02/11/2023
03/11/2023	Total Energies	HCC Gas	139.40			DD
04/12/2023	Amazon	dog poo bags (6000)	87.00		87.00	CARD
06/11/2023	Chaplins Pantos	Panto	1,020.00	204.00	1,224.00	20/11/2023
06/11/2023	Amazon / Kaskana Ltd	Christmas flags x 4	39.88		39.88	CARD
07/11/2023	Amazon / WHMXHE Direct Ltd	Fairy lights x 9	84.06		84.06	CARD
07/11/2023	Corona	CP electricity	20.58	2.54	23.12	DD
07/11/2023	Corona	HCC electricity	120.36	6.02	126.38	DD
07/11/2023	Corona	SP Electricity	32.62	1.63	34.25	DD
07/11/2023	Corona	NCC electricity	67.92	27.64	95.56	DD
07/11/2023	Corona	BCC electricity	105.67	5.28	110.95	DD
08/11/2023	Sharp	photocopier copies	37.16	7.43	44.59	DD
10/11/2023	B&Q	spare keys for NCC	14.00		14.00	DD
13/11/2023	Hargan Electrical	50% costs of invoice for installation of CCTV	619.04		619.04	20/11/2023
13/11/2023	Namesco	SMTP access renewal	32.89	6.58	39.47	CARD
14/11/2023	Microsoft	subscription	6.00	1.20	7.20	CARD
14/11/2023	Onecom	Phone & broadband	215.73	43.15	258.88	DD
15/11/2023	Leaseplan	VAN rental	294.86	58.97	353.83	DD
16/11/2023	Waterplus	CP water charges	2,106.52		2,106.52	DD
16/11/2023	Bolsover District Council	Staff costs October 2023	5,272.74		5,272.74	20/11/2023
16/11/2023	Waterplus	HCC water charges	89.83		89.83	DD
16/11/2023	Waterplus	BCC water charges	84.18		84.18	DD
16/11/2023	Waterplus	NCC water charges	99.98		99.98	DD
17/11/2023	Hargan Electrical	fault on outdoor NCC circuit / light pat testing	70.00		70.00	
24/11/2023	Wholesale Office Supplies	Stationery	64.96	12.99	77.95	

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27/11/2023	K Poynter	Refund for gravel from Tippers	41.95	8.39	50.34	01/12/2023
27/11/2023	Godber	Fences at Charnwood Recreation Ground	1,000.00	200.00	1,200.00	
27/11/2023	Green Vision	plumbing repairs at BCC and SP	248.40	49.68	298.08	
28/11/2023	Wilkinson	HCC key holder	96.00		96.00	28/11/2023
28/11/2023	Bullock	Weekend key holder	208.00		208.00	28/11/2023
30/11/2023	Allstar fuel	fuel	80.28	16.41	96.69	DD
	PPLPRS	music licence BCC	264.96	52.99	317.95	24/11/2023
	Newton Carnival Team	Christmas tree	300.00		300.00	
01/12/2023	Screwfix	Fan heaters for BCC	29.98	6.00	35.98	DD
01/12/2023	ASI	Alarm testing HCC	115.00	23.00	138.00	
01/12/2023	ASI	Alarm testing NCC	115.00	23.00	138.00	
01/12/2023	ASI	Alarm Testing BCC	115.00	23.00	138.00	ASSUMED
			23,193.67	1,056.10	24,110.37	

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Blackwell Parish Council - Biodiversity and Climate Change Acknowledgement Statement

It is essential that the council helps to proactively facilitate the protection of our local environment, heritage and natural beauty. This needs to be delivered in a way that promotes sustainability and healthy living within the parish.

There are a number of ways that this can be achieved:

- Promote sustainable and energy efficient practices throughout the council
- Embed the principle of 'reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink' throughout the council
- Consider ways to protect and enhance our natural environment, stimulate biodiversity and nurture our wildlife and pollinators
- Promote behavioural change
- Working with partners, residents, community groups, schools and other councils
- Exploring new opportunities and technologies to reduce our carbon footprint
- For every decision, consider the impact on the environment

Actions that are already being taken:

Buildings:

- Ensuring that the heating is turned off after buildings have been vacated
- A system has been fitted to Newton Community Centre to enable staff to control the heating system remotely. This will be trialled properly to see if there is a significant reduction in heating bills once the new floor has been installed and the centre is open for hire again
- Whenever lights need replacing in full, they are changed to LED lighting.

Areas where improvements could be made:

- Recycling bins for the office and kitchens
- Encouraging users to avoid plastic plates cups and cutlery
- Looking at the environmental impact of suppliers

Outside Areas:

- Leaving grass clippings down
- Allowing organic materials to naturally mulch down in hedgerows and under trees
- Ensuring that the parish van is well maintained
- Through the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre Charity, enabling the H.E.L.P. group to develop Royal Oak Meadow and promoting their activities in the parish newsletter
- Receiving regular updates from Friends of Doe Hill Country Park and promoting their activities in the parish newsletter
- The provision of allotments in partnership with the Allotment Association
- Reuses materials (such as gates and fences) from other projects where possible

Areas where improvements can be made:

- Composting waste where possible
- Consider converting unused grass and wasteland areas into wildflower zones
- Look for natural options when artificial surfaces and equipment need to be replaced
- Consider habitats for wildlife

Other areas where improvements can be made:

- Look for funding opportunities for projects that encourage biodiversity in the parish
- Regular articles in the parish newsletter promoting biodiversity
- Engage with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to find out what they are doing, advice they offer and participate in relevant projects
- Reposting climate change relevant information from other local councils on social media
- Writing and adopting a full biodiversity policy

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____