

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes

Minutes of the Blackwell Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023, 7pm at Blackwell Community Centre.

PRESENT

Cllrs: D Bullock (Chair), I Newham (Vice Chair), S Renshaw, S Gill, T Gascoyne, S Knox, C Moesby and A Burrows

ALSO PRESENT

K Poynter (Clerk)

Representative from Remedy

Members of Public: 8

1054/2023 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Stocks and Marshall-Curtis

1055/2023 Variation of Order of Business (if required)

To be decided as meeting progresses.

1056/2023 Declaration of Members Interests

To be declared if relevant items arise.

1057/2023 Public Speaking

- A member of public mentioned the entrance to the Littlemoor Lane Allotments and that the route taken by cars now has a mound in the centre which is causing issues.
- A representative from Remedi spoke about working on the Immediate Justice Scheme for the Police and Crime Commissioner with Derbyshire Constabulary. Derbyshire is one of four forces to receive a £.4 million grant to focus on Anti-Social Behaviour, which includes a new Derbyshire Immediate Justice Scheme. The scheme will provide perpetrators of Anti-Social Behaviour the opportunity to repair the harm caused to their victims and wider communities by taking part in reparative activities such as community clean ups, supporting community gardens, spending time in charity shops and foodbanks, or directly repairing the harm caused such as painting over graffiti. Where appropriate, they will also be seeking input from the victims involved. They would like to work with local communities to identify potential placements and keep them updated with the work they are doing in the area. If any local groups have any idea for placements in the parish, they welcome suggestions, which can be sent to: admin@IJservice.org
- A member of public enquired about the number of people standing for co-option. Once a reply was accepted, they left the meeting.
- A member of public asked when there would be any updates on the refurbishment of Blackwell Community Centre. It was noted that the first meeting of the Parish Facilities Committee is yet to take place, but in the meantime other works have been taking place to keep the building safe. The question of hirers not cleaning down tables was also raised. It was confirmed that it is being looked at.
- A member of public spoke about the ramp that was built on Westhouses Recreation Ground at the time that the soak away was completed – at the time of installation, it didn't set properly and it is now starting to crumble and there are weeds growing through the cracks. There are concerns because children ride their bikes over it and it is an access point for mobility scooters. Cllr Gascoyne said he would assess the condition.
- The overgrown hedges at the front of the community centre were mentioned. Cllr Moesby said he would check with the housing department at district.

Report from District Councillors Moesby and Renshaw

- The council has been working to allow Rangers to issue tickets to people and owners of cars who breach the Nuisance Vehicle Public Space Protection Order.
- The Public Space Protection Order regarding dogs mainly concentrates on environmental health.
- £260,000 was set aside last week for the demolition of the bungalows on Woburn Close. The building work is due to start by the middle of next year and to be completed in 2025.

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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- Derbyshire County Council has been contacted regarding parking on Main Street.
- The owner of the hedge that is overgrowing onto the path between Newton and Tibshelf have been contacted.
- Derbyshire County Council are coming out to look at the hedges on Cragg Lane soon.

Report from County Councillor Barron - Cllr Barron sent his apologies and a report:

- Mark Fletcher MP has secured a new sixth form for Bolsover Town. Working with him and the County Council to see what impact this will have on Tibshelf Division. Will report any updates for Blackwell Parish.
- Reported potholes and overhanging trees and hedges galore over the summer.
- If anyone has reported anything but had nothing back, please send over your case number and it will be chased up.

Crime Figures - It was noted that the crime figures had been distributed.

1058/2023 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Monday 3rd July and Tuesday 25th July 2023

RESOLVED: To approve the above minutes.

Mover: Cllr Renshaw

Seconder: Cllr Newham

Agreed by All

1059/2023 Chairman's Announcements

D Marshall-Curtis has submitted their resignation from the council. A letter of thanks for their work whilst with the council is to be sent.

1060/2023 Report from the Clerk

RESOLVED: To accept the format for a parish plan and that the committees would feed into it to keep it updated and priorities clear.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Newham

Agreed by All

1061/2023 Accounts for Payment and Financial reports

Cllrs Moesby and Renshaw declared an interest in payments due to Bolsover District Council as they are District Councillors.

RESOLVED: to approve the payments list for Julys and August

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Burrows

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: to approve the draft asset register

Mover: Cllr Burrows

Seconder: Cllr Newham

Agreed by All

Revaluing the parish buildings for the purposes of insurance – Cllr Moesby declared an interest because of the quote from Carter Jonas.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Gallagher for re-valuing the buildings that the Parish Council manage - £700+VAT.

Mover: Cllr Knox

Seconder: Cllr Renshaw

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: that the Finance and HR Committee would be delegated to review and approve the quotes for insurance renewal at their September meeting and that it would be formalised at the full meeting in October to make sure there is continuation of insurance from 1st October.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Renshaw

Agreed by All

The Clerk reported that communication had been received from PKF Littlejohn regarding the external audit and that additional information had been requested, but because of the change of accounting packages as well as moving from receipts and payments to income and expenditure, and the division of the charities, that was not unexpected.

1062/2023 Committees

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RESOLVED: to accept the recommendations from the Parks, Floral and Events Committee meeting held on Thursday 31st August 2023.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Newham

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: That the first Finance & HR Committee would be held on Wednesday 20th September and that Cllr Burrows would join.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Renshaw

Agreed by All

1063/2023

Charities

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes from the Newton War Memorial Playing Fields Charity and Westhouses Memorial Playing fields meetings held on 31st August 2023

Agreed by All

1064/2023

Westhouses

- It was agreed that the continuation of the Westhouses survey would be discussed after the co-option of the new Westhouses Councillors
- It was noted that there were no updates regarding the solar farm at Westhouses.

1065/2023

Parish Buildings

Newton Floor – extreme disappointment was expressed that there was no progress on the floor at Newton Community Centre. Delays were caused by waiting for further information and approval of documents. Cllr Moesby offered to chase up information still required from the district council. It was agreed that all groups affected by winter openings should be written to, to update on the situation and that it was looking unlikely that the centre would be open in time for Christmas Fayres.

Building updates – the floor in the gents at Blackwell Community Centre has been fixed. Quotes are in the process of being obtained for replacing the fire alarm at Newton Community Centre.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from PHS for £324.87 +VAT to supply and empty sanitary bins at the five buildings managed by the council.

Mover: Cllr Moesby

Seconder: Cllr Renshaw

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: that if any groups were to cause any issues with the hire of a council facility, in the first instance a warning would be issued, the second time there would be an increase in charges for hire, and the third time they would be banned outright.

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: to install a new post box for the parish council at Hilcote Community Centre.

Mover: Cllr Renshaw

Seconder: Cllr Moesby

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: to accept a request for a storage cupboard at Blackwell Community Centre (at the groups own risk), once the mats had been moved.

Mover: Cllr Renshaw

Seconder: Cllr Moesby

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Stocks, Gascoyne, Bullock and Newham, along with the Clerk, would meet with the Designated Premises Supervisor to discuss bar provision.

Agreed by All

1066/2023

Highways / Provision of Buses

There was a discussion about the difficulties that parents are having helping their children get to college, that there was still no news on the Derbyshire County Council 'on demand service' that had previously been mentioned by Cllr Barron, and how there is no bus service to the East Midlands Designer Outlet. It was agreed that Mark Fletcher MP should be e-mailed to be made aware of issues still being faced.

1067/2023

Recreation and Outdoor Areas

RESOLVED: to ratify the decision to replace the rope equipment on Bamford Street for £1,026.28 through Bolsover District Council

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Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Renshaw

Agreed by All

Cllr Newham gave an update on Doe Hill Park: funding of £17,000 has been granted by Durham Community Foundation for a park 'reset'. Contractors will be on site in September to cut back and enable everything to flourish again before it becomes too overgrown.

1068/2023

Allotments

There was a discussion about the state of the allotments on North/South Street with glass, asbestos and wire making it unsafe for children and animals. The comments in the Public Speaking part of the meeting about the entrance way for car being worn down and causing problems was also picked up and it was discussed whether it would be better to skim the top from the centre ground, or to fill in the tracks with hardcore. The issues with kids on Blackwell allotments continues. Fences will be put up when they start to knock down bungalows on Woburn Close. It was reported that the CAN Rangers are now patrolling the area more often between 9pm and midnight.

RESOLVED: that following the discovery that the council is paying for the water bill for the allotments, this should continue, but be claimed back from the Allotment Association.

Mover: Cllr Renshaw

Seconder: Cllr Gascoyne

Agreed by All

1069/2023

Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed that more research should be done to find out what is involved, what the Bolsover District Council plan is, and that it should be left as an agenda item.

1070/2023

Planning Reports

RESOLVED: to ratify that there were no objections to the following planning applications: 23/00391/TCON, 23/00424/TCON and 23/00406/TCON and that the response to 23/00421/FUL should comment that in light of the current green agenda it was noted that the applicant intends to use gas to generate electricity.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Knox

Agreed by All

1071/2023

Correspondence Received

- It was noted that the Clerk had sent the DALC newsletter to Councillors
- It was agreed that if Code of Conduct Training was still available from Bolsover District Council, it should be booked in.

1072/2023

Data Protection/GDPR

It was agreed to defer this agenda item to the next meeting.

1073/2023

General Power of Competence

The Council is no longer eligible for GPC as two thirds of Councillors are no longer elected, meaning that conditions are not met.

1074/2023

Staffing

RESOLVED: to change the pay date for staff to match that of Bolsover District Council to avoid any future instances of being paid late.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Renshaw

Agreed by All

1075/2023

Co-option

8.55pm – it was agreed to suspend standing orders

The three remaining candidates left the meeting and were individually invited back in to introduce themselves to the council and answer questions.

The council discussed the candidates whilst they were out of the room and took a vote.

9.10pm – it was agreed to reinstate standing orders

RESOLVED: to co-opt Abee Wilkinson and Roger Poulter onto the council to represent Newton Ward.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconder: Cllr Renshaw

Agreed by All

1076/2023

Date and Time of the Next Meeting:

Monday 2nd October 2023, 7pm at Westhouses Primary School

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____