

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes

Minutes of the Blackwell Parish Council Finance & HR Committee Meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2025, 4.30pm at Hilcote Community Centre.

PRESENT

Cllrs: R Poulter (Chair), I Newham (Vice-Chair), Miles and P Stocks (arrived after the meeting started)

ALSO PRESENT

K Poynter (Clerk)

Members of Public: 0

FHR/017/25 To elect a Chair for the ensuing year

RESOLVED: to elect Cllr Poulter as Chair for the ensuing year

Mover: Cllr Newham

Seconder: Cllr Miles

Agreed

FHR/018/25 To elect a Vice Chair for the ensuing year

RESOLVED: to elect Cllr Newham as Vice Chair for the ensuing year

Mover: Cllr Poulter

Seconder Cllr Miles

Agreed

FHR/019/25 To Receive Apologies for Absence

None.

FHR/020/25 Variation of Order of Business (if required)

To be implemented as needed as the meeting goes.

FHR/021/25 Declaration of Members Interests

To be declared when items arise on the agenda.

FHR/022/25 Public Speaking

No members of public were present.

FHR/023/25 To confirm the minutes of the Finance & HR Committee meetings held on 8th May 2025.

RESOLVED: to approve the above minutes

Mover: Cllr Newham

Agreed by Cllr Poulter

Cllr Miles abstained as she wasn't present at the meeting.

FHR/024/25 Finance

a. It was noted that there were no further updates from the external auditors.

Cllr Stocks arrived at this point in the meeting

b. **RESOLVED:** after reviewing and asking questions about the budget, to recommend that it looks to be in a reasonable place

Mover: Cllr Newham

Seconder: Cllr Miles

Agreed by All

c. It was noted that the bank balances, as of today, stand at:

CO-OP - £277,708.21

CCLA - £7,179.86

RESOLVED: to recommend moving over £120,000 to the CCLA account

Mover: Cllr Stocks

Seconder: Cllr Newham

Agreed by All

RESOLVED: to recommend that decisions regarding movement of money between accounts is delegated to the Chair of the Finance & HR Committee and the Clerk.

Mover: Cllr Newham

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

d. **RESOLVED:** to recommend that at this stage, the preferred pot to pay for the recent election in Newton and the upcoming elections in Blackwell and Hilcote would be from reserves as the rest of the budget is so tight.

Mover: Cllr Newham

Seconder: Cllr Stocks

Agreed by All

e. Charity Agreements

i. **RESOLVED:** to recommend approval of the proposed agreement between the council and Westhouses Memorial Playing Field Charity

Mover: Cllr Newham

Seconder: Stocks

Agreed by All

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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- ii. **RESOLVED:** to recommend approval of the proposed agreement between the council and Newton War Memorial Playing Fields following a couple of amendments
Mover: Cllr Stocks Seconder: Cllr Miles Agreed by All
- iii. **RESOLVED:** to recommend approval of the proposed agreement between the council and Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre Charity following a couple of amendments
Mover: Cllr Newham Seconder: Cllr Miles Agreed by All
- f. Cllr Poulter declared an interest in anything relating to the Allotment Association as he is a member.
RESOLVED: to recommend:
- contacting the football clubs, asking if they would like to make an offer on how much they would like to pay before it goes to the council meeting in September where the small claims court will be discussed
 - for the Clerk to set up payment plans with people and groups who are behind with payments
- Mover: Cllr Stocks Seconder: Cllr Newham Agreed by All
- g. It was noted that the accounts for Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre Charity are still at the accountants. The Clerk has chased but has heard nothing back so far.
- h. **RESOLVED:** to recommend continuing with the purchase of the parish van from the lease company, despite the final quoted price going up to £12,550 plus VAT as it is still cheaper than other options and the van is known to the council. However, if the heater isn't fixed before the time of purchase, then to ask if the price quoted for the fix can be taken off the final cost.
Mover: Cllr Miles Seconder: Cllr Stocks Agreed by All
- RESOLVED:** to recommend replacing the air conditioning unit in the cellar at Blackwell Community Centre to help enable the bar to run – particularly if the 'pub nights' are a success. Due to the weather, it will need sorting sooner rather than later.
Mover: Cllr Newham Seconder: Cllr Miles Agreed by All

FHR/025/25 Staffing

- a. **RESOLVED:** to recommend approval of the letter to be sent to the Parish Ranger.
Mover: Cllr Stocks Seconder: Cllr Newham Agreed by All
- b. **RESOLVED:** to recommend that the Projects and Procurement Assistant has now completed the probationary period and should be offered the role full time.
Mover: Cllr Newham Seconder: Cllr Miles Agreed by All

FHR/026/25 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Full Council – Monday 1st September 2025, 7pm at Blackwell Community Centre
Finance & HR Committee – Thursday 23rd October 2025, 5pm at Hilcote Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 6.24pm

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____