

## BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes

Minutes of the Blackwell Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 7pm at Blackwell Community Centre.



### PRESENT

Cllrs: Peters (Chair), Newham (Vice Chair), Renshaw, Poulter, Hart, Lee, Reynolds and Stocks

Absent Cllr Burrows and Gascoyne and Cllr D Harvey

Locum Clerk: - James Stirling

#### 1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Gascoyne and Cllr Burrows – RESOLVED to approve their absence.

#### 2. Declaration of Members Interests

#### 3. Public Speaking (twenty minutes)

- a. *A period of not more than twenty minutes will be made available for Members of the Public and Members of the Council to comment on any relevant matter. No more than three minutes per person.*

A group of residents raised concerns about changes to parking in at Westhouses. Derby County Council (DCC) have started ticketing cars parked on the verge. Historically there have been no such action for a number of years. This is causing issues for residents and possibly more chaos on the roads..

Representatives of the Council meet with Highways to discuss this matter and it was proposed that the parking bays be extended, convert to single yellow lines from double and have limited time periods to park. The concerns from residents were lack of space for visitors, disability access, parking on pavement and the lack of public transport.

The Locum Clerk suggested contacting the Chief Executive at DCC to express their concerns and to ask for arrangements going forward to minimize the impact on residents.

- b. *If the Police Liaison Officer, County Councillor Harvey and District Councillors Moesby and Renshaw are in attendance, members will be given the opportunity to raise any relevant matter.*

Cllr Renshaw advised the Council that the roll out of food recycling bins had been completed and there is an ongoing Governance review of councils in Derbyshire.

- c. Crime Figures

The Crime figures were reviewed and discussed.

Standing Orders were suspended at 19:05 to allow public participation and reinstated at 19:30.

#### 4. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2026 were approved as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chair, Cllr Poulter.**

#### 5. Chairman's Announcements

Blackwell Community Centre bar service is going well thanks to the efforts of Adele.

#### 6. Report from the Clerk

The Locum Clerk provided a report for the Council. This will be included with the minutes.

#### 7. To receive and consider any updates on the impact the formation of Derbyshire Unitary Council(s) will have on the parish council

No Councillor present from Derbyshire UC. However, Sally???? advised that there are working parties reviewing the possible formation of Derbyshire Unitary Authority. It was suggested that Donna Hale or Jane Yates from Broxtowe Borough Council was invited to attend a the June or July meeting to advise the Council and members of the public about the potential impact.

#### 8. Finance and Governance Matters and Reports

- a. To consider recommendations from the Finance & HR Committee  
**RESOLVED** to approve the report and recommendations submitted by the committee.
- b. To consider a list of Accounts for Payment and general financial reports  
**RESOLVED** to approve the payments as listed in the report.
- c. To receive current bank balances

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The balances on the accounts were duly noted.

- d. To consider updates on the internal and external audits  
The Council was advised that the Internal Audit progressing and await further input from the Auditor on the next step. Once complete work on the AGAR for submission to the External Auditor can move forward.
- e. To consider the updated funding report  
The funding report was circulated and noted.
- f. To consider any other financial and governance updates  
No additional items were noted.

### 9. Parish Buildings (LG(MP)A1976 s19 / LGA1894 s8 (1)(i))

- a. To consider updates on the floor at Blackwell Community Centre  
It was noted that the new flooring looks good, but we have had no response from the insurance company.
- b. To consider updates on the leak at Scanderlands Pavilion – including a pause on the insurance, offer from NBFC for plastering, boiler fixing  
The Council reviewed the report and the options available.  
**RESOLVED that the Clerk has delegated authority to progress the works with a suitably qualified contractor.**
- c. To consider any updates on maintenance and repairs to the parish buildings including – fire extinguisher servicing, shutter servicing, plumbing and electrical works (including fire safety works), PHS quote  
**RESOLVED to approve the following**
  - PHS to supply waste disposal units for the toilets.
  - Scanderlands shutters to be serviced
  - Fire extinguishers have been serviced.**The Clerk has delegated authority to progress the works with a suitably qualified contractors for the relevant maintenance issues as above.**  
The Fire Risk Assessments needs further consideration.
- d. To ratify hot water options for Newton Community Centre  
**RESOLVED to approve the purchase of the water heater.**
- e. To consider updates on the car park / Woburn Close development – including consideration of access to the garage  
Following communication from the contract regarding the car parking and access arrangements.
- f. To consider further requests from the Designated Premises Supervisor  
The report from the Designated Premises Supervisor was reviewed. The Council agreed that it would not be appropriate to have a television licence, satellite service, fruit machines and associated hardware in the bar area.  
It was noted that the bar area needs a refresh and work to make it more presentable and useable.  
**RESOLVED that the Clerk has delegated authority to review the appropriate actions and progress improvements with regard to storage, shelves and general minor improvements.**  
It was also noted that the Council wants to reenforce the need for the bar to hired under the DPS's name and not through third parties.
- g. To consider the Carnival Team viewpoint to the Newton Community Centre floor cost of repair  
**RESOLVED to engage original installers of the flooring to complete repairs.**
- h. To consider damage caused to the stage curtain at Newton Community Centre  
**RESOLVED that this would be classed as wear and tear.**
- i. To consider any updates on the In Post proposal  
The Council reviewed the location and agreed that a three-metre unit should fit in the space. There was a concern about plaques and pipework. This would be reviewed with the supplier.

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**RESOLVED to request UniPost to install the agreed unit.**

- j. To consider a request from a regular user to confirm continued use  
**RESOLVED that anyone making bookings need to comply with the booking Terms and Conditions and made in good time.**
- k. To consider updates relating to the Corner Club in Westhouses  
**RESOLVED to set a budget of between £750 to £1,000 to investigate the viability of ownership and purchase of the building. Clerk to issue a letter to instruct the solicitor to progress this.**
- l. To consider any other building updates  
**RESOLVED to approve the memorial request.**

### 10. Parks, Floral, Events and Other Outdoor Areas (LG(MP)A1976 s19(3))

- a. To consider updates on activities for young people – gone out again in current newsletter – deadline end of April  
This item was DEFERED.
- b. To consider hours offered for activities from Active Communities  
**RESOLVED to contact Active Communities on next steps.**
- c. To consider in-house summer planting – including what to get, where to go and payment options  
**RESOLVED to set a budget at the same level as last year with an uplift for inflation.**
- d. To consider the additional van repairs following the service.  
**RESOLVED to approve the repairs.**
- e. To ratify the updated terms for Bolsover District Council undertaking the park inspections for 2026/27  
**RESOLVED to approve the play inspection agreement with Bolsover DC.**
- f. To consider any updates on the repairs due on the parks and play areas – including removal of the swing frame at Westhouses Recreation Ground  
We are waiting for an update.
- g. To consider a request from HELP Group for the council to submit an Object in the Highway Request for a sculpture of a Kingfisher on a triangle of wasteland on Oaktree Road.
- h. **RESOLVED to arrange an agreement between Council and HELP Group regarding management of the structure.**
- i. To consider updates on the mowing of King Charles Orchard  
It was noted over concerns for mowing the orchard and damage to the equipment.
- j. To consider updates on the Annual Parish Meeting  
No additional information for discussion. The situation of the car park was a major concern. We will need to review the location if the car park is not suitable.
- k. To consider a request from BRAG for the use of Scanderlands on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026 for a community fun day.  
**RESOLVED to approve the request for a Community Fun day.**
- l. To consider the panto for 2026 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
**RESOLVED to approve the support for the Pnto at a cost of £940.**
- m. To consider updates on parish defibrillators  
**RESOLVED to approve the request for repairs to the Defib boxes. If there is a need for a unit at Hilcote, this would be supported.**
- n. To receive an update on the screening on Blackwell Trail  
This was discussed and we await further information.
- o. To consider any other outdoor area updates – including lamppost testing  
**RESOLVED to approve the charges for lamp post testing. It was also agreed to apply for a licence to install the hanging baskets.**

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- p. To consider new decals for the van (one is dropping off and contact details will be changing)  
**RESOLVED to approve the request for quotes for new van decals.**
- q. To consider updates on the pylon project  
**RESOLVED to object to the new Pylon route.**
- r. To receive a report from Friends of Doe Hill Park  
It was noted that there is a lack of volunteers and funding. Some maintenance is needed in the area.

### 11. Charity Updates (LGA 1972.bs.139(1))

- a. To consider anything that may affect the council coming out of the charity meetings  
The management and reconciliation of accounts is ongoing and should be completed soon.
- b. To consider a request from Greater Creative to put an installation/poppy feature (in the form of a 2m diameter clock with poppies and Tommies) on the back end of Hilcote Community Centre. They would need a power supply but are willing to pay for it.  
**NOTED.** The Council felt that was a lack of detail around this project and asked for more information on the arrangements.
- c. To consider a quote for fixing or replacing the heaters at Charnwood Pavilion  
Held over to a later meeting once a more details needs assessment has been completed.

### 12. Planning Applications

To ratify any decisions made via e-mail, including:

- a. 26/0050/FUL – Installation of a new Summer House open structure to the rear garden and new EV charging point on the side of existing 20<sup>th</sup> century garage – Old Hall, Cragg Lane, Newton (No objections)
- b. 26/00052/FUL- Restoration of property, remove existing flat roof garden room/side entrance and replace with proposed pitched roofed side entrance/lobby extension, and retention of fence- 6 Littlemoor Lane, Newton, Alfreton DE55 5TY (No objections)
- c. 26/00059/FUL- Close existing farm access and create new access from highway with new drive, fence, gates and hedge- Three Lane Ends Farm Huthwaite Lane Old Blackwell Alfreton DE55 5HY (No objections)
- d. 26/00055/FUL- Retention of car port erected to the side- 97 The Ridge Blackwell Alfreton DE55 5JR (No objections- declaration of interest by Cllr Gascoyne)

In addition, we had the following TPO submitted.

26/00130/TCON – Removal to ground level of two leylandii conifer trees (marked 1 and 2) and removal of three self set elder trees (marked 3.4 and 5) – Newton Hall Cottage, Cragg Lane.

Delegated to Clerk.

**RESOLVED to approve the responses submitted.**

To consider any additional planning applications including:

- e. Road closure for Newton Carnival – it was noted the usual route will be used.

### 13. Communications (Newsletter - LGA1972 s142 (1A), Website – LGA 1972 s142)

- a. To note updates on the newsletter  
After some difficulties with finding volunteers in one area, they were hand delivered.
- b. To receive any updates on the new website and e-mail addresses  
The new website is built and awaiting content. Email address have been allocated and waiting for ParishOnline to confirm how to set them up.

### 14. Highways

To consider bus services and highways issues in general including pot holes  
No specific feedback on these items.

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### 15. Staffing

- a. To resolve to exclude the Public and Press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 due to the confidential nature of these items.
- b. To consider recommendations from the Finance & HR Committee  
The Finance & HR Committee approved the appointment of the Locum Clerk.
- c. To consider any staffing updates  
The Clerk submitted a report for discussion and raised some concerns. Further investigations and potential outcomes to be discussed.

### 16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Full Council – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7pm at Blackwell Community Centre

Standing Orders were suspended at 21:15 to allow the remaining business to be conducted, reinstated at 22:15, and decisions made during that period were ratified.