

Minutes of the Extraordinary Blackwell Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at Westhouses Primary School

PRESENT

Cllrs: Gascoyne (Chair), Newham (Vice Chair), Lee, Stocks, Hart, Peters, Hough, and Reynolds

ALSO PRESENT

K Poynter (Clerk)

Cllr D Harvey (Derbyshire County Council)

Members of Public: 1

1682/2026 To Receive Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED: to accept apologies received from: Cllrs Renshaw (looking after grandchildren) and Poulter (work pressures)

Mover: Cllr Hart

Seconded: Cllr Stocks

Agreed

1683/2026 Variation of Order of Business (if required)

RESOLVED: in view of the confidential nature of item 17 Staffing, it is necessary to discuss this item with the press and public excluded.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconded: Cllr Stocks

Agreed

1684/2026 Declaration of Members Interests

Interests to be declared as appropriate during the meeting.

1685/2026 Public Speaking

- a. The member of public present didn't make any comments.
- b. County Councillor Harvey reported that the submission had gone in from Derbyshire County Council to the government for one unitary council for Derbyshire. The government report is due at the end of June. 28,000 pot holes had been filled in and there are still a few thousand to go and suggested that when it comes to reporting, those who shout loudest get the most attention. Flags remain an issue, the county council will not remove them unless they pose a danger. The council tax rate has been fixed at 4.9%. Cllr Harvey will chase information on the trees at Hilcote that are in danger of damaging the community centre there when he is in county hall on Wednesday and will look at the HGV sign that has been taken down which has resulted in a HGV going through a resident's wall.

The Clerk read out a report sent in by District Councillor Moesby:

Council tax is going up by £6.25 a year on a band D property, which equates to 12p per week.

Rents on council houses are going up by £4.84 per week for social rent and £6.53 on affordable

rent. Reserves are provisionally okay at this point, but the council is still waiting for the

government to confirm the settlement. Dragonfly are coming back into the council from Monday

2nd February. Local Government Regeneration is still in the cards from 2028 – there isn't

confirmation but discussions are still in progress. Progress on the Woburn Development is still on

course and phase 2 should be completed in July and most of the flats are now occupied. There is

still a couple of hundred pounds left in the community group grant pot. The Great Wolf planning

application has gone in. Food waste bins are going out to residents ready for waste collections

starting in May – this is a directive from government NOT a Bolsover District Council initiative and it is nationwide.

- c. It was noted that the latest crime figures had not yet been released.

1686/2026 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Monday 12th January 2026 and Thursday 22nd January 2026

RESOLVED: To approve the above meetings

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Seconded: Cllr Newham

Agreed

1687/2026 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair spoke about how important it is to get Blackwell Community Centre open again as the loss was especially being felt by the BRAG café users and there was a fear that the Post Office would be lost.

1688/2026 Report from the Clerk

Chairman's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

There was nothing to additional to report

1689/2026 The impact of the formation of Derbyshire Unitary Council(s) on the Parish Council

It was noted that if Bolsover District Council were to be taken up into the unitary council (whatever form that takes), it wouldn't just affect the possibility of more work being filtered down to the parish council, but that the parish council would lose its' main contractor as the district council provides grounds maintenance, monthly and annual playground inspections, commercial waste removal, emptying dog and litter bins and payroll services. It is still speculation that it will happen, though.

1690/2026 Finance and Governance Matters and Reports

a. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: to approve the payments lists

Mover: Cllr Hough

Second: Cllr Reynolds

Agreed

b. Bank Balances

It was noted that the bank balances stand at: current account - £222,632.17 and the CCLA account - £7,328.81

c. Variances in Expenditure

RESOLVED: to delegate considerations regarding variances in the budget to the Finance & HR Committee

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Second: Cllr Hart

Agreed

d. Reserves

RESOLVED: to delegate considerations regarding the state of the reserves to the Finance & HR Committee

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Second: Cllr Newham

Agreed

e. Audits

It was noted that staff are in the process of preparing information for the first part of the internal audit.

f. Policies

RESOLVED: to re-adopt or adopt the following policies: Training; Debt Management; Scheme of Delegation (with an additional item added); Internal Controls; Keyholder (with an addition about contractors); IT; Lone Working; Mobile Device; Recruitment; Safeguarding (with an addition that covers request DBS checks and policies from groups to reflect practice that is already in place); Social Media; and Subject Access

Mover: Cllr Hough

Second: Cllr Newham

Agreed

g. Funding Report

RESOLVED: to ask the District Councillors about funding that might be available to cover planning applications for proposed noticeboards for the larger recreation grounds in relation to another pot of funding

Mover: Cllr Reynolds

Second: Cllr Gascoyne

Agreed

h. Other Financial and Governance Updates

It was noted that the precept request letter had been sent to the district council.

1691/2026 Parish Buildings (LG(MP)A 1976 s19 / LGA 1894 s8(1)(i))

a. To consider updates relating to Blackwell Community Centre Floor

Cllr Stocks still declared an interest in this item because of the connection Westhouses Community Association has to THC Midlands Ltd. Cllr Gascoyne declared an interest Harrabelle as he had worked with them previously.

A significant amount of time was spent going through the details of the quotes.

19.47 Cllr Newham left the meeting and returned at 19.49.

Going round the table, four Councillors voted for Derbyshire Specialists, One voted for Harrabelle. one voted for Ashdale Flooring and Harrabelle, and two abstained.

RESOLVED: that, due to the urgency of re-opening the community centre, if the preferred contractor could finish the contract by the end of February, to go ahead and appoint, and if they can't to e-mail Councillors and if the new date is acceptable, go ahead, if not, to call a special meeting to discuss the way forward.

Mover: Cllr Reynolds

Second: Cllr Lee

Agreed

RESOLVED: that the panelling be a similar grey to the kitchen walls and the floor a similar colour to Newton Community Centre

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne

Second: Cllr Reynolds

Agreed

b. Scanderlands Pavilion

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Gascoyne and Hough be delegated to decide which plumbing a ceiling quote be most appropriate for the repairs

Mover: Cllr Hart Second: Cllr Reynolds Agreed

c. *Other maintenance works*

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Gascoyne and Newham be delegated to decide fire extinguisher quotes and the shutter service quotes so work can take place as soon as possible

Mover: Cllr Hart Second: Cllr Lee Agreed

It was noted that the works needed on the emergency lighting were yet to be priced up by the electrician.

d. *Water heater for Newton Community Centre*

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Reynolds and Gascoyne be delegated to decide the best quote to replace the water heater

Mover: Cllr Hart Second: Cllr Stocks Agreed

e. *In Post Proposal*

It was noted that the Projects and Procurement Assistant had been chasing In Post as to whether they would pay for the planning application, but was yet to receive a response.

f. *Woburn Close*

It was noted that Woburn House was looking fantastic and that they are offering dinners for £5 on a Thursday to members of the community.

g. *Corner Club*

Cllr Newham reported that the Land Registry information for the Corner Club remained the same and that he had contacted Brabners and was going to send over the information he had gathered so far so they could make an assessment of the work that would be involved.

h. *Other Building Updates*

Cllr Hough confirmed that a quote for a new cover for the electrical supply at Charnwood Pavilion could be sought. It was noted that the gas servicing for Hilcote and Newton Community Centres had been booked in. It was noted that the staff are keeping an eye on electrics randomly tripping in the office as tests so far hadn't revealed the cause.

1692/2026

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

a. *Activities for young people*

It was noted that there had been 18 responses to the survey on activities for young people so far.

b. *Repairs*

Cllr Gascoyne offered to fetch some top soil to fill the hole under the goal posts at Hilcote Recreation Ground. Cllr Stocks is looking for some Marine Ply to make a replacement face board for the train at Westhouses Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Bolsover District Council for the works needed at the various park, but to save the low category items (which are still safe but just need monitoring according to the playground inspector) for a later date

Mover: Cllr Reynolds Second: Cllr Gascoyne Agreed

c. *Annual Parish Meeting*

It was noted that the annual parish meeting could go ahead as planned without the Clerk and everything was in place for the Admin Assistant and Projects and Procurement Assistant to start making the arrangements

d. *Christmas Tree for Newton*

RESOLVED: that Cllr Reynolds should be delegated to help staff continue the research onto the best option for a live tree for Newton as numerous dead ends had been hot so far

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne Second: Cllr Hart Agreed

e. *Lamp post testing*

RESOLVED: to accept Quote two from Civic Pride for testing the lamp posts for the hanging baskets and Christmas Decorations for the coming year

Mover: Cllr Newham Second: Cllr Gascoyne Agreed

f. *Grit bins*

It was noted that the grit bins had all been filled with thanks to the Parish Ranger, Admins Assistant and Projects and Procurement Assistant.

g. *Parish Van*

RESOLVED: that the Parish Ranger would take the van to the closest Ayvens approved garage in Marehay for the annual service (whilst it is under warranty) and that if there were any further issues, the cost to be run past Cllrs Gascoyne and Newham for approval before going back to the same garage whilst the Clerk is on leave.

Chairman's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mover: Cllr Hart Second: Cllr Lee Agreed

h. Grounds Maintenance and Bin Emptying

RESOLVED: to approve the quotes from Bolsover District Council for grounds maintenance (£6,226+vat) and dog bin emptying (£2,475.20) for the upcoming year

Mover: Cllr Hart second: Cllr Gascoyne Agreed

i. Other outdoor updates

RESOLVED: following a tree review by Cllr Newham and the Parish Ranger, the specification for works resulting is approved and that Cllrs Newham and Reynolds be delegated to select the most appropriate contractor

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne Second: Cllr Hart Agreed

RESOLVED: After discovering that the top water pipe from the new extension at the house was emptying directly onto allotment land, to write to the owners.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne Second: Cllr Newham Agreed

It was noted that staff were still looking for a carpenter to attend to the defibrillator phone box in Newton.

j. Chesterfield to Willington Pylon Project

It was noted that there were no new updates to report

k. Friends of Doe Hill

Cllr Newham updated that Doe Hill Park had largely been under water due to the rain.

1693/2026 Charity Updates (LGA1972 bs139(1))

It was noted that there was nothing new to report from the charities.

1694/2026 Planning Applications

RESOLVED: that there were no objections to planning application 26/00024/TCON

Agreed

1695/2026 Correspondence Received

It was noted that the DALC newsletter had been sent out to Councillors

1696/2026 Communications (Newsletter LGA1972 s142(1A), Website – LGA1972s142)

IT was noted that the deadline for the next newsletter is 13th February, it will be sent to the printers by 9th March and delivered week commencing 23rd March.

The work on the new website by Parish Online has started.

1697/2026 Highways

Cllr Hart updated that approval from residents and proof of ownership was still required to formally rename Allport Terrace. He is continuing working on the project.

It was noted that on the corner of Pendean Close and Primrose Hill, Virgin Media had installed antennae which don't look in keeping with the area. Cllr Renshaw was chasing it up with the district council.

RESOLVED: to suspend Standing Orders due to the time

Mover: Cllr Hough Second: Cllr Newham Agreed

At this point, the member of public was asked to leave the room.

There was a discussion about what would happen whilst the Clerk is on leave.

RESOLVED: To reinstate Standing Orders

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne Second: Cllr Hart Agreed

1698/2026 Staffing

It was noted that staff appraisals had been undertaken by the Clerk and that everyone was happy with how staff are performing.

RESOLVED: to approve that a named locum be appointed to cover meetings and help with legal queries from the council whilst the Clerk is on leave at a cost of £30 per hour and 45p per mile travel expenses.

Mover: Cllr Gascoyne Second: Cllr Reynolds Agreed

Chairman's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes

1699/2026

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monthly Full Council meeting - Monday 13th April 2026, 7pm at Blackwell Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.11pm

Blackwell Parish Council						
Invoices for January/February 2026						
February 2026 Parish Council Meeting						
Date	Vendor	Invoice Detail	NETT	VAT	TOTAL	NOTES
28/10/2025	Community Heartbeat Trust	Annual support costs	591.00	99.00	690.00	Paid 14/01/26
03/11/2025	Screwfix	rat trap Hilcote Community Centre	19.97	4.00	23.97	DD
04/11/2025	B&Q	socket bank	20.00	4.00	24.00	DD
14/11/2025	B&Q	Rawlplugs & screws	7.92	1.58	9.50	DD
20/11/2025	Valda Energy	utilities across all sites	-2,009.97	-245.36	-2,255.33	taken from money owed by Valda
26/11/2025	Screwfix	Drill bit masonry set	3.77	0.76	4.53	DD
28/11/2025	Rural Action Derbyshire	Annual Membership Fee	50.00		50.00	Paid 14/01/26
04/12/2025	B&Q	glass plate, no more nails, rawl pplug	23.57	4.71	28.28	DD
06/12/2025	Water Plus	Blackwell Community Centre water charges	-564.63		-564.63	
09/12/2025	Screwfix	masonry drill bits	3.82	0.76	4.58	DD
11/12/2025	P&D Specialist Services	Blackwell & Newton Christmas Decorations	2,805.00	561.08	3,366.08	Paid 14/01/26
12/12/2025	Water Plus	Charnwood Pavilion water charges	136.99		136.99	DD
14/12/2025	St Werburgh's	Carole Service Refreshments	39.55		39.55	Paid 14/01/26
15/12/2025	Unity Concert Band	music for Carol Service	30.00		30.00	
16/12/2025	Peac Solutions	photocopier rental Feb-Apr	153.00	30.60	183.60	DD
16/12/2025	P&D Specialist Services	Hilcote decoration installation	954.51	190.90	1,145.41	Paid 23/01/26
17/12/2025	Bolsover District Council	Grounds maintenance works Summer 2025	6,014.00	1,202.80	7,216.80	Paid 14/01/26
20/12/2025	Valda Energy	utilities across all sites	-2,564.49	-292.62	-2,857.11	taken from money owed by Valda
22/12/2025	Bolsover District Council	Playground inspections Aug-Nov	720.00	144.00	864.00	Paid 14/01/26
23/12/2025	Bolsover District Council	Staff Costs for December	9,203.75	12.00	9,215.75	Paid 14/01/26
05/01/2026	SGP Garden Machinery	service for Snapper Mower	467.25	93.45	560.70	Paid 14/01/26
06/01/2026	Bolsover District Council	dog bin emptying Oct-Dec 25	598.00	119.60	717.60	Paid 14/01/26
06/01/2026	Water Plus	Blackwell Community Centre water charges	-504.39		-504.39	
06/01/2026	Water Plus	Newton Community Centre water charges	108.74		108.74	DD
07/01/2026	K Poynter	reimbursement for dehumidifier hire	402.00		402.00	Paid 14/01/26
08/01/2026	Hargan Electrical	Scanderlands electric repairs after leak	155.00		155.00	Paid 14/01/26
08/01/2026	Sharp	photocopier copies Dec	25.00	5.00	30.00	DD
09/01/2026	Wholesale Office Supplies	paper, tape, blu-tack	41.38	8.27	49.65	Paid 14/01/26
13/01/2026	K Poynter	reimbursement for dehumidifier hire	252.00		252.00	Paid 23/01/26
16/01/2026	C&L Janitorial	hand towels, blue roll	69.11	13.82	82.93	
16/01/2026	Roe Clean	window cleaning three community centres	59.00		59.00	Paid 23/01/26
20/01/2026	Mansfield Garden Machinery	brush cutter service	52.49	10.51	63.00	Card on day
20/01/2026	Mansfield Garden Machinery	blower service	54.33	10.87	65.20	Card on day
20/01/2026	Woodro Ltd	Scanderlands pipe insulation & boiler service	1,753.60		1,753.60	
20/01/2026	Jewson	rock salt	798.00	159.60	957.60	paid 21/01/26
20/01/2026	C&L Janitorial	air freshener	22.50	4.50	27.00	
22/01/2026	P&D Specialist Services	Christmas Decoration Removal Blackwell & Newton	907.30	181.46	1,088.76	
23/01/2026	Bolsover District Council	Staff costs for January	9,143.75		9,143.75	
27/01/2026	Online bulb retailer	Bulbs for parish office	28.00	5.60	33.60	Card on day
28/01/2026	SGP Garden Machinery	Snapper Mower repairs	333.32	66.66	399.98	
29/01/2026	Walkington	Hilcote key holder Dec/Jan	176.00		176.00	
29/01/2026	Argos	curtain pole (NCC) and Bissell cleaner	190.00		190.00	Card on day
29/01/2026	Arkwright & Sons Engineering Ltd	Assessment of Blackwell Community Centre Floor	150.00	30.00	180.00	
31/01/2026	Bullock	Weekend opening and Closing January	184.00		184.00	
31/01/2026	Allstar	van fuel	70.88	14.17	85.05	DD
			31,175.02	2,441.72	33,616.74	

Chairman's Signature: _____

Date: _____