

Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



Meeting held at:
Moorland House
Blakelaw
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 3RY

Tel: 07588154441
E-mail: bnfcc@outlook.com

Chairperson of Council: John Wears
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE HELD: Thursday 12th September 2024

TIME: 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs John Wears (Chair), Jimmy Gill (Vice Chair), Deborah Wears(DW), Ann Keenan(AK), Maureen Kelly(MK) and Debbie Playford(DP)

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council
Kathy Smith – Resident and Chair of the Tuesday Trailblazers Community Group
Jean McCartney – Resident
Blakelaw Ward Cllr Juna Sathian

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a resident raised that she had spoken to another resident who lived in North Fenham. The resident had stated that she wasn't aware of any of the events the Community Council held as the notice board was not updated. The Chair and other Community Councillors confirmed that the notice board was regularly updated in that area as they did it themselves.

70/24. Co-option of Community Councillor

The Chair advised the Community Council that following the recent vacancy notices being published, the Community Council were now able to co-opt any interested residents.

The Chair confirmed they had been approached by 1 resident who wished to join the Community Council.

The Chair welcomed Maureen Kelly(MK) to the meeting. MK confirmed that she wished to be considered for the role of Community Councillor and provided

Community Councillors with information regarding her interests, the reasons why she wished to join the Council and her community experience.

Community Councillors agreed to co-opt MK to the Council and MK joined the meeting as a Community Councillor.

The Community Council discussed how they could further raise resident's awareness and interest. It was agreed that a "meet the Community Council" event would be arranged in the hope of doing this.

71/24. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillor Violet Rook and Blakelaw Ward Cllr Marion Williams.

72/24. Declaration of Interests

- John Wears – Director of Learning 4 All and Secretary to the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Debbie Playford – Chair of Blakelaw Flats TARA
- Maureen Kelly – Member of the Blakelaw Flats TARA
- James Gill – Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Helen Richardson (Clerk) - Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers

73/24. Grant Applications

The Clerk advised the Community Council that they had received 1 grant application to consider from Blakelaw Juniors Football Club.

Gavin Campbell had been due to attend the meeting to take the community Council through their request there had been a technical problem on the part of the Community Council and he was unable to join.

The Chair talked through the grant application and advised that the original application had been a request for significantly more than the agreed amount the Community Council would grant but this had not been reduced.

It was felt that a number of questions would need to be asked, these were as follows:

- When the Community Council part funded the goal posts in the previous season did these not come with nets? Would they not last more than a year. JG believed that they could be damaged via wear and tear (depending on usage) and 12 months was probably about right period of time for the shelf life of football nets.
- Who would pay the balance of the costs of the nets if the Community Council were providing £500?
- Were the Football Club buying all of the nets on the list? – they were all different sizes.
- The Football Club had over £3k in reserves in the bank – what was this being used for?

18.20pm DW withdrew from the meeting

The Chair asked Ward Councillors if the Foot Club had approached the Ward Councillors for funding. Ward Councillor Sathian believed that they had.

Following a discussion the Community Council agreed that providing the monitoring form and the above questions were answered they would grant the funding in the sum of £500.

74/24. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th June 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

The following matters were discussed:-

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The Chair provided an update in relation to the re-opening of the "Legion Club". An urgent meeting had been called by Newcastle City Council to discuss the Club following the licencing hearing and a number of further complaints being received, the owners had not been in attendance. It was noted that whilst work appeared to be happening at the building it was clear that conditions placed upon the licence had clearly not yet been met.

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Parking had been quiet around the schools but it had been the summer holidays.

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There had been no further update in relation to the shopping centre area and the shops.

75/24. Police Update

Once again, the Community Council expressed their disappointment that the Police were not in attendance. Ward Cllr Sathian advised that a lot of work had been taking place in relation to issues the SPAR were having in relation to persistent thefts by 1 resident.

76/24. Community Councillor Update

AK updated the meeting regarding a resident who was experiencing difficulties with their neighbour who was tipping rubbish in to the resident's garden.

DP advised that scaffolding had been placed on one of the blocks of flats to help with the roof replacement work taking place and had been attracting young people who were climbing up it. It would be up for around 12/13 weeks before being moved on to another block of flats.

The Chair had been in contact with YHN regarding repairs. It appeared that the main concern being raised was the length of time it was taking for repairs to be undertaken, was this due to the recent move back to Newcastle City Council. The new area manager had been very responsive to queries.

AK advised that she had been approached by a resident who had asked if she knew about a scheme whereby residents could have a new roof by the Local Authority and the resident would pay a percentage. It was confirmed that Newcastle City Council had a very similar scheme.

Litter continued to be a problem around the 165 Estate and the SPAR. It appeared to be a never ending problem despite the hard work of community litter picking groups.

18.53pm DW rejoined the meeting

Over grown ivy was starting to grow over paths in various areas, it would become slippery as winter started to arrive – this had been reported.

77/24. Blakelaw Ward Councillors Update

Blakelaw Ward Councillor Juna Sathian provided the Community Council with an update on the work that her and Councillor Williams had been undertaken in the area. This included case work involving around trees and grass cutting, preparations for bonfire night and a new food waste project that would be introduced in the Craigmillar area of Blakelaw.

The Annual Ward meeting would take place on the 9 October 2024 at 6pm within the Blakelaw Social Club.

78/24. Sub Groups Update

Community Engagement/Environmental Group

The Community Council were provided with an update in relation to feedback received from the community coach trip and preparations for the Christmas fair. Councillors were reminded of the need to support these events.

A number of residents had made enquiries about a Christmas community bus trip. The Community Council had agreed that there would be no trip this year due to significantly rising costs and Community Councillor availability. It was suggested that next year a spring and Christmas coach trip would be arranged and a summer trip would be missed out.

It was hoped that an A5 newsletter would be distributed no later than the end of October. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the newsletter would have information regarding the Christmas fair and varying different types of welfare rights information plus a reminder to residents about keeping their wheelie bins secure in the run up to bonfire night.

19.09 JG withdrew from the meeting.

Staffing

The Chair and Clerk continued to meet regularly to discuss a variety of matters. A formal meeting was due to take place on the 4th November.

79/24. Financial Matters

Payments for Approval

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 14th June 2024 – 12th September 2024

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£42,944.14
Total	£43,444.14

Less: Payments:

HMRC (July 2024)	£387.48
Helen Richardson (July 2024 Salary)	£1075.68
HFE Signs	£290.17
Zurich Municipal	£454.40
Fabric and Pins	£60.00
HMRC (August 2024)	£387.48
Helen Richardson (August 2024 Salary)	£1075.68
Tesco Payment Card	£295.41
Total	£4026.30

Income

Blackpool Community Coach Trip	£186.00
Summer Fair	£449.00
Interest	£152.46
Total	£787.46

Closing balance as at 12 th September 2024 (account 1)	£500.00
Closing balance as at 12 th September 2024 (account 2)	£39,705.30

Members were asked to note the report and approve the above payments.

Annual Governance Audit Report

The Clerk update the meeting regarding the outcome of the recent external audit. The audit had gone very well and there were not matters arising from it. The Clerk would upload the relevant documentation to the website.

80/24. Any Other Business

There were no items of other business

81/24. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The date and time of the next meeting was discussed and to ensure maximum attendance the meeting was to be held on the 3rd October 2024 at 6pm instead of

the 10th October 2024. It was also agreed that that the Community Council would hold their “meet your Community Council” event prior to this meeting from 4.30pm in the community room at Moorland House.