

# Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



Meeting held at:  
Moorland House  
Blakelaw  
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Chairperson of Council: John Wears  
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**DATE HELD: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**TIME: 6.00 pm**

### **Present:**

Councillors: Cllrs John Wears (Chair), Jimmy Gill (Vice Chair), Deborah Wears(DW), Violet Rooke(VR) 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  
Maureen Kelly – Resident  
Blakelaw Ward Cllr Juna Sathian

### **58/24. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillor Ann Keenan and Blakelaw Ward Cllr Marion Williams.

### **59/24. Declaration of Interests**

- John Wears – Director of Learning 4 All and Secretary to the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Debbie Playford – Chair of Blakelaw Flats TARA
- James Gill – Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Violet Rooke – Governor at Thomas Walling Primary School
- Helen Richardson (Clerk) - Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers

## **60/24. Grant Applications**

The Clerk advised that despite issuing 3 funding applications, none of them had been returned.

## **61/24. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 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 Licencing Hearing due to take place for "The Legion" Club. It had been cancelled again and he had been advised that it was hoped it would go ahead in July. The Community Council continued to received concerns from residents regarding its possible re-opening.

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The Community Council were advised that the Police did not meet with Ward Councillors twice a month – it was thought the Police may be confusing meetings that they attended.

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Community Councillor James Gill advised that the concerns regarding motorbikes and electric scooters had been increasing. A resident had been assaulted by a motorbike rider who had been riding on the field and doing wheelies, they had asked them to stop and had been assaulted. The number of incidents within the shopping centre was also increasing.

JS advised that residents were reporting incidents to the Police as they were aware of the incidents and had advised that they had been patrolling the area in both uniform and as plain clothed officers. JS advised that the Police had applied for a drone that could be used in the area however this was yet to be purchased and would be shared across the Newcastle area.

Community Councillors raised concerns that even if residents were reporting they were not seeing results and the issues continued.

## **62/24. Police Update**

Once again, the Community Council expressed their disappointment that the Police were not in attendance. At a previous meeting the Police had boosted the Community Councils confidence in them due to their attendance.

## **63/24. Community Councillor Update**

The Chair, Clerk and other Community Councillors updated the meeting on the queries that they had received from residents which included concerns around diseased trees, wellbeing support, YHN tenants had been supported following candidate campaigning by Ward Councillors and visits to homes, Blakelaw Ward Councillors had asked for an audit to be undertaken YHN properties, parking

continued to be a problem outside of schools with cars idling becoming a real concern to residents living within the vicinity, it was hoped that the school could be contacted and asked to remind parents of the need to park considerately and switch engines off.

Concerns had been raised by residents regarding the “out of use” community defibrillator at the Blakelaw Centre. Residents had reported that the unit had been out of use for sometime and had a “not in service” type notice on it. Community Councillors and Ward Councillors expressed their concerns regarding this given that the Community Council supported a de-fib attached to Moorland House with the support of a resident. It was noted that this unit was regularly deployed albeit thankfully not always used.

It was agreed that both the Community Council and Ward Councillors would seek to find out why the unit was out of use and seek to have it brought back on to the defibrillator circuit.

#### **64/24. Community Councillor Recruitment**

The Chair updated the Community Council that the matter would progress following the general election on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

#### **65/24. 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 a further increase in fly tipping, a request had been made for a pop up recycling centre in Blakelaw – the Community Council asked that more notice was given for these pop up events and general housing related matters.

#### **66/24. Sub Groups Update**

##### **Community Engagement/Environmental Group**

The Community Council were provided with an update in relation to the arrangements that had been put in place for the community coach trip, summer fair and Christmas fair. Councillors were reminded of the need to support these events.

DW had spoken to Hilton School and they had confirmed that a banner advertising the events could be put up outside of the school.

##### **Staffing**

The Chair and Clerk continued to meet regularly to discuss a variety of matters. A formal meeting was due to take place in the near future.

#### **67/24. Financial Matters**

##### **Payments for Approval**

##### **Bank reconciliation:**

As per transactions relating to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Per Bank:	
Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£7,238.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,738.23</b>

Less: Payments;

HMRC (June 2024)	£387.28
Helen Richardson (June 2024 Salary)	£1075.88
Gordon Fletcher (Internal Auditor)	£175.00
Tesco Clubcard Topup	£416.50
Jennifer Foulds (Evoke Entertainment)	£195.00
Mr JL Ross (Balloon Professor)	£240.00
Mr JL Ross (Balloon Professor)	£240.00
Candy Kids Entertainment	£430.00
Candy Kids Entertainment	£460.00
Make My Day Events	£255.00
Keiths Coaches	£2200.00

**Total £6074.66**

Income

Whitby Community coach Trip	£171.00
Interest	£40.57
Precept	£41,500.00
Blackpool Community Coach Trip	£69.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£41,780.57</b>

Closing balance as at 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (account 1)	£500.00
Closing balance as at 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 (account 1)	£42,944.14

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

**Review of Internal Audit Report**

The Clerk took the Community Council through the report of the internal auditor. The Community Council noted its contents and the need for the Clerk to ensure she recorded in the minutes when the Community Council reviewed statutory documents albeit they recalled the documents being reviewed at the same time as the Statement of Internal Control.

**Consider and agree the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement**

The Clerk took the Community Council through the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Statement together with the accompanying documents required to be sent to the external auditors, Mazars LLP. The Community Council agreed the paperwork and thanked the Clerk for her hard work in preparing the audit return.

## **68/24. Any Other Business**

Community Councillor Violet Rooke advised the meeting that she had attended a NALC online meeting, the focus of the meeting had been bus shelters, the up and coming elections and national meetings of the association.

The Chair advised that a meeting had been arranged with Parish Councils and Newcastle City Council. Previous meetings had taken place and it was believed that the original purpose of the meetings was to discuss how the 2 organisation could work better together however, the Chair had attended 1 meeting where very individual issues to each council were discussed, it was felt the meeting was unproductive. The Chair had written to the organisers and asked a number of questions regarding the structure and purpose of the meetings and he was awaiting a response.

The Chair and Clerk had received an email from Northern Powergrid regarding working with local organisations with regards to energy saving. The Chair would like to invite them to present to the Community Council at a future meeting, the Community Council agreed they should be invited to talk to them about energy saving in the area.

Community Councillor Debbie Playford had been discussing the future of the Blakelaw shops with the current shop tenants, they had advised her that they had been informed that they would only be there for no more than a further 3 years.

## **69/24. Date, time and venue of next meeting**

The date and time of the next Community Council meeting was to be confirmed.