

Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



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

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

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE HELD: Thursday 3rd October 2024

TIME: 6.00 pm

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council
Kathy Smith – Resident and Chair of the Tuesday Trailblazers Community Group
Jean McCartney – Resident
Maddison Wears – Resident
Blakelaw Residents x 2

82/24. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Blakelaw Ward Cllrs Marion Williams and Juna Sathian.

The Clerk advised the community council that the Police had once again been invited but had not responded to the request.

83/24. 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

- Violet Rooke – Community representative for Thomas Walling School

84/24. Grant Applications

Jean McCartney(JMcC) from the Blakelaw Flats TARA Committee took the community council through their application for grant funding. The application was to provide a Christmas lunch and a small gift for those residents that lived within the 3 blocks of flats within the TARA – not all residents attended but all residents were invited. JMcC stated that whilst the request for funding was for £486.75, the TARA wished to request the maximum amount of £500 in case the cost of the lunches or the small gifts increased.

In response to questions community councillors were informed that the small gift was usually socks, smellies or a small novelty item. It was never alcohol. If more people decided to attend the Christmas lunch or it cost more than the funding allowed the TARA had a small amount of reserves that they could use. The event had attracted new people who had not attended in the past.

18.20pm DP and MK withdrew from the meeting

Following a discussion the community council agreed that given the TARA provided all of the information requested, monitoring forms and pictures of the event and that every year the event was a success in helping to combat loneliness they would grant the funding in the sum of £500.

DP and MK re-entered the room

85/24. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th September 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

The following matters were discussed:-

The community council were advised that in relation to the comments made by a resident in relation to the notice boards, the board at the Blakelaw Centre was now accessible however the board at Cragston Park had the plastic broken.

The Football Club had responded to the questions raised following their request for funding and the funding had been paid.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been uploaded to the website.

86/24. Police Update

Once again, the Community Council expressed their disappointment that the Police were not in attendance. The community council agreed that they would write to the PCC and ask for an explanation as to why the Police did not attend or send a replacement to the community council meetings. They had in the past sent an emailed update however that no longer happened.

87/24. Community Councillor Update

The Chair advised that following the advertisement of the community councillor vacancies, MK had joined the council however there continued to be a need to push the vacancies and get more people on board.

The Chair referred community councillors to the planning application that had been received for the Blakelaw Club and welcomed comments. The community council were very supportive of the application however the only concern raised was the placing of planters at the front of the club. It was however recognised that the Blakelaw Club ran a “tight ship” and it was believed they would monitor any damage to them should any be caused.

It was noted that the Legion Club remained closed and it appeared that work had ceased to be undertaken. The Chair had not received any update from Newcastle City Council and the number of concerns being raised by residents had reduced. It was believed that the Police had also been struggling to receive updates from the owners of the building.

88/24. Blakelaw Ward Councillors Update

Blakelaw Ward Councillors were not in attendance.

The Clerk advised the community council that Cllr Williams had taken a nasty fall and was currently recovering – the community council wished her a speedy recovery.

The Clerk advised that there had been an incident in relation to the bunker whereby the entrance to the bunker had been removed leaving it accessible to residents with reports that young people had already accessed underground. Between the community council and the Ward Councillors the entrance had been urgently resealed and made secure.

89/24. Sub Groups Update

Community Engagement/Environmental Group

The A5 newsletter was currently at the printers and once it was ready, Fast Track Distribution would collect it and begin distributing it around the area.

The Chair and the clerk updated community councillors on the plans for the Christmas fair, the clerk encouraged everyone to gather tombola prizes and raffle prizes. It was noted that Leisure United were also holding their Christmas event on the same day.

AK confirmed she would speak with the Bread Machine and ask for their support with a donation to the raffle.

The clerk requested that the community council consider the donation of a Christmas tree to the schools in the area, this had become a tradition which the schools always reported to be a very welcome and much appreciated donation. Community councillors agreed to contact the schools regarding the donation of the tree and to ask if they would advertise the Christmas fair event on their school socials.

VR advised that Thomas Walling wished to apply for grant funding. The clerk confirmed she would send the application form to the Head Teacher for her to complete.

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.

90/24. Financial Matters

Report of the Clerk to the Community Council

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 13th September 2024 – 3rd October 2024

Per Bank:	
Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£39,705.30

Total	£40,205.30
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Less: Payments:

HMRC (September 2024)	£387.28
Helen Richardson (September 2024 Salary)	£1075.88
DHN Newcastle ENGL (English Martyrs Church)	£36.00
Blakelaw Juniors Football Club (Grant)	£500.00
Tesco Payment Card	£382.10

Total	£2381.26
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Income

Tuesday Trailblazers (refund)	£467.67
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Closing balance as at 3 rd October 2024 (account 1)	£500.00
Closing balance as at 3 rd October 2024 (account 2)	£37,791.71

Recommendation: Members are asked to note this report and approve the above payments.

91/24. Any Other Business

A resident in attendance queried whether the community council could provide additional support to the food bank held at the Blakelaw Centre on the Wednesday and Friday. The resident raised concerns that she believed there was a large amount of food left over and going to waste following these 2 sessions. The community council advised that the Blakelaw Centre volunteers ran these 2 food bank sessions and not the community council although they were dismayed to hear of food going to waste. The resident was advised to contact the centre.

92/24. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Thursday 14th November 2024 at 6pm within the community room at Moorland House.