

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 13th February 2025

TIME: 6.00 pm

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council
Newcastle Ward Cllr Marion Williams
Jean McCartney – Resident
Jacob Miller – Northumbria University
Sgt Ritchie – Northumbria Police

12/25. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ward Cllr Juna Sathian.

No apologies for absence had been received from Ann Keenan.

13/25. Declaration of Interests

- John Wears – Director of Learning 4 All and Secretary to the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Debbie Playford – Chair of Blakelaw Flats TARA and CIFT (*H&S Group via NCC*)
- 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

14/25. Northumbria University Presentation – Community Cohesion

Ward Cllr Marion Williams updated the community council regarding the work that had been started by the University previously and sadly due to circumstances outside of everyone's control had not been pursued. However, following discussions with Jacob Miller, the community project could begin again. The previous project manager had been invited to meet with Jacob to talk through the work that had been undertaken in the area previously in a hope that some of the information previously gathered could be fed in to this project.

Jacob advised the community council that the work he had previously undertaken was around bringing empty shops back to life. Jacob advised that he was keen to talk with residents to find out what they wanted to see in Blakelaw, it was hoped that the community council and residents could help support the co-design of something new in Blakelaw that residents wanted.

Jacob advised that he would have a team of research assistants to help support the project in terms of gathering information from the community and collating the responses. Once this information had been gathered, a proposal would be developed and workshops would be planned to discuss the proposal with residents.

A general discussion was held around Blakelaw and what the community council believed the area needed.

The Clerk asked if there would be any financial implication for the community council. Jacob confirmed that grant funding would be applied for to support the project.

The community council thanked Jacob for attending the meeting and taking them through the details of the project and expressed a wish to work with him and his colleagues to deliver the wishes of residents.

15/25. Police Update

Sgt Ritchie was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair.

Sgt Ritchie introduced himself and updated the meeting on the work of the Police. The Police had been dealing with a number of arrests for drugs, vehicle offences, domestic violence, sexual offences and ASB involving youths.

Sgt Ritchie advised that he wanted more engagement with the community and encouraged everyone to continue to report crimes.

The Chair shared concerns that residents had raised and commented that residents would appreciate seeing the Police on the streets engaging with the community.

Sgt Ritchie was invited to attend the upcoming Easter event.

16/25. Grant Applications

The Clerk advised that there were no grant applications to be considered.

17/25. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising that weren't covered on this meeting agenda.

18/25. Community Councillor Update

The Chair advised that all updates were covered within this meeting agenda.

19/25. Blakelaw Ward Councillors Update

Ward Cllr Marion Williams updated the community council on the work she continued to undertake on behalf of the residents of Blakelaw.

A new tree map of the area had been shared.

The Director of Housing had been approached and spoken to regarding the concerns residents had around the materials being used on the flats.

Litter and fly tipping had been reported with fly tipping hot spots being closely monitored.

20/25. Sub Groups Update

Community Engagement/Environmental Group

The Chair and clerk updated everyone on the progress of the community events being planned for this year.

Preparation for the Easter Eggstravaganza was in full swing and all community events had been advertised via social media.

The newsletter had been drafted and it was hoped that it would be submitted to the printers very soon with a view to being distributed to residents mid-March.

The Chair reiterated the importance of all community councillors being involved in the planning and the event on the day.

Staffing

The Chair and Clerk continued to meet regularly to discuss a variety of matters. The staffing committee had met and any community councillor who wished to receive an update should contact the Chair directly.

21/25. Financial Matters

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 17th January 2025 – 13th February 2025

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£28,447.98

Total	£28,947.98
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Less: Payments:

HMRC (February 2025)	£405.11
Helen Richardson (February 2025)	£1106.19

Total	£1511.30
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Closing balance as at 13 th February 2025 (account 1)	£500.00
Closing balance as at 13 th February 2025 (account 2)	£26,936.68

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

22/25. Any Other Business

There were no items of other business.

23/25. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The full community council meeting would take place on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 6pm within the community room at Moorland House.