

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: Monday 14th July 2025

TIME: 6.00 pm

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council
Jean McCartney – Resident
Tabish Sharwani - Resident
Beverley Potts - Resident
Irene Turnbull – Resident
Joybringers Group

The Chair provided an update in relation to general house keeping and the running order of the meeting.

A resident raised concerns regarding the lack of community events taking place within the Blakelaw area. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of public space available to use now that the park was managed by Leisure United.

42/25. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from James Gill and Ann Keenan.

Apologies had also been received from the Police and Blakelaw Ward Councillors Williams and Sathian.

43/25. 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
- Violet Rook – Community Representative for Thomas Walling School
- Helen Richardson (Clerk) - Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers

DP was asked to explain what type of organisation CIFT was, the meeting were advised that this group supported the scrutiny of Newcastle City Council buildings on behalf of residents.

44/25. Grant Applications

The Chair advised that the Community Council had received 2 grant funding applications for consideration.

Joybringers Group

The Chair welcomed the Joybringers Group to the meeting and invited them to take Community Councillors through their funding application.

The Joybringers Group advised Community Councillors that they were looking to be granted £500 to help support a community event in the area. They had delivered a number of successful events in other parts of Newcastle and had also planned a summer trip for young people to Beamish.

The event that had been planned was a fun day for all and it was hoped following this event further community engagement could be undertaken with residents in the area encouraging positive behaviours.

Community Councillors asked a number of questions regarding the type of support that the group delivered, where the events/sessions would take place and how would they support those neurodivergent children. The Joybringers Group advised that they deliver a wide variety of sessions including sessions around ICT and have their own equipment, it was hoped that the Community Council could help sign post in relation to community venues to hold the sessions and each child/adult would be provided with support that was individual to them. Community Councillors were advised that it was hoped that the work in the area could be part of a long term plan.

All parties were asked to leave the room whilst Community Councillors considered the application.

Following an in depth discussion, the Community Council agreed to approve the request for grant funding in the sum of £500.

The Joybringers Group were invited to the next meeting of the Community Council to provide an update on their event.

Blakelaw Juniors Football Club

The Clerk provided Community Councillors with an update in relation to the application for funding from the Football Club. There was no one in attendance from the Football Club.

The Chair requested that this item was reconsidered at the end of the meeting.

45/25. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd June 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

The Chair provided those residents in attendance with an update on the process around the annual governance and accountability statement.

46/25. Police

The Police had submitted their apologies due to some officers being on training and others not being on shift.

The Community Council expressed their disappointment at the lack of attendance and updates from the Police.

47/25. Blakelaw Community Centre Update

The Chair provided an updated regarding the running and management of the Blakelaw Community Centre. It was confirmed that Newcastle City Council had taken back responsibility for the centre and were in discussion with the those who currently ran their businesses from the centre around responsibilities and rents.

The Chair was asked if there were any plans to bring the centre back to “public” use. The Chair advised that he had not been made aware that this would happen and concerns had been raised with regards to the current condition of the building.

The Community Council went on to discuss the current condition of the notice boards in the area and the issues in relation to having posters and community information removed from them by an unknown source. The Clerk advised that she would make enquiries with Newcastle City Council regarding access to the notice boards.

48/25. Community Councillor Update

Community Councillors provided an update on a number of issues that they had been dealing with on behalf of residents. This included overgrown trees, flytipping, general ASB, fires, youths accessing the old bunker and the next steps of the University project.

49/25. Blakelaw Ward Councillor Update

Ward Councillors had submitted their apologies however the Chair confirmed that the Community Council were in regular contact with Cllrs Williams and Sathian.

50/25. Sub Group Update

The Chair provided an update on the Whitby coach trip and the preparations for the Christmas fair. The next community and engagement/environmental sub group was due to take place on the 1st September 2025.

The Chair also provided an update in relation to the continued success of the Tuesday Trailblazers.

The Chair advised that he and the clerk continued to meet regularly.

51/25. Financial Matters

Report of the Clerk to the Community Council

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 9th May 2025 – 14th July 2025

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£62,756.19
Total	£63,256.19

Less: Payments:

HMRC (May 2025)	£747.80
Helen Richardson (Salary May 2025)	£822.59
HMRC (June 2025)	£747.80
Helen Richardson (Salary June 2025)	£822.59
HMRC (July 2025)	£747.80
Helen Richardson (Salary July 2025)	£822.59
G & H Fletcher Internal Audit	£175.00
Zurich Municipal	£455.93
Tesco Club Card (Top-up)	£223.45
Tyne & Wear Veterans (Grant Funding)	£480.00
Stanley Travel (Whitby)	£1432.00
Stanley Travel (York)	£676.00
Total	£8,153.55

Payments: In

Whitby Community Bus Trip	£205.00
VAT Return	£1178.19
Interest	£127.72
Easter Event	£352.85
Total	£1863.76

Closing balance as at 14 th July 2025 (account 1)	£500.00
Closing balance as at 14 th July 2025 (account 2)	£56,466.40

Members noted the report and approved the above payments.

52/25. Any Other Business

The Chair referred Community Councillors back to the grant funding application submitted on behalf of the Blakelaw Juniors Football Club. The Community Council appreciated that the Chairman worked away and was unable to attend but it had been hoped that another member of the Committee would have been in attendance to answer the questions the Community Council had. Following an in depth discussion it was agreed that questions would be sent back to the Football Club for a response.

53/25. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The full community council meeting would take place on Monday 8th September 2025 at 6pm within the community room at Moorland House.

Signed

Dated