

## 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: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**TIME: 6.00 pm**

#### **Present:**

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

#### **In Attendance:**

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council  
Andy Turnbull – Newcastle City Council  
Jean McCartney – Resident  
Ward Cllr Marion Williams  
Ward Cllr Juna Sathian  
Beverley Potts - Resident  
Irene Turnbull – Resident  
Laura Mallinder – 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 anti-social behaviour caused by youths in the area which included fire setting, general acts of vandalism and nuisance. The Blakelaw Park was littered with rubbish and dog fouling in the area was increasing. The Chair and Ward Cllrs provided an update in relation to the work that had been undertaken in an attempt to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area and encouraged everyone to continue to report issues to the Police. By reporting issues, it would ensure that the area retained the Police presence it needed.

## **54/25. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Violet Rooke and the Police.

## **55/25. 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
- Helen Richardson (Clerk) - Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Jimmy Gill - Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers

## **56/25. Grant Applications**

The Chair provided an update regarding the grant application previously submitted by Blakelaw Juniors Football Club following their recent email exchange with the Community Council. Councillors were advised that again the grant would not be considered due to outstanding information not being provided.

### **Joybringers Group**

The Joybringers Group were in attendance and provided an update following their recent grant application and successful family fun day.

The Community Council were thanked for their support in part-funding the day which had been a huge success with lots of people attending. The Group had encountered a small number of challenges in the planning and delivery but had delivered a successful event and would incorporate these challenges into the planning of future events.

A written summary and photos of the event would be forwarded to the Community Council following the meeting.

The Chair advised that the Community Council had been impressed at the speed in which the event had been organised and its success.

The future of the Joybringers Group working in the area was discussed and the Community Council advised that they would look forward to working with them in the future.

## **57/25. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

## **58/25. Police**

The Chair provided an update in relation to the lack of a Police presence. No apologies had been submitted and an update had not been provided.

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

Ward Cllr Williams advised that the current Inspector was annual leave. The SAPs meetings had been re-introduced with the next one being held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September, a telephone call had taken place with the Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council. Ward Cllrs advised that there would be a residents session held on 17 September within the community room of Moorland House. Leafleting was taking place to advise residents of the meeting.

JG queried whether this session was open to all residents or only those who lived within the flats. Ward Cllrs advised that all residents were invited.

DP advised that youths had again been attempting to lift the lid off the sealed bunker area.

The Chair commented that it was good that the SAPs meetings had been resurrected albeit the Community Council had not been invited to attend. It was recognised that community groups were trying to support residents.

Ward Cllrs advised the meeting that it was hoped that youth workers would be in the area very soon for a period of 8 to 10 weeks.

Mr Turnbull advised that he had been patrolling the area for some time now and had previously witnessed a small number of youths hanging around this had now changed and included around 35 youths wearing face masks.

A resident advised that off road bikes were causing mayhem and were a danger to other residents, this type of behaviour was very intimidating.

The meeting thereafter held an in-depth discussion around the lack of Police presence, dispersal orders, evictions and no obvious consequence for poor behaviour.

### **59/25. Polling District and Polling Station Review 2025**

The Clerk referred Community Councillors to the pre-circulated information regarding the Polling District and Polling Station Review and provided an update on the current position,

### **60/25. 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, problems with social housing, fires, and youths accessing the old bunker.

Youths had stolen the copper from the roof of the old Legion Club. Community Councillors advised that the canopy from the front of the Club had snapped off and had been lying in the street until it was removed.

Ward Cllr Williams provided an update in relation to the Legion Club and assurance was given that it would not reopen as the Legion Club. The building was owned by Newcastle City Council and they were keen to hear from residents with ideas as to what to do with the area. A residents meeting would be arranged in the future.

In relation to the Blakelaw Community Centre, AK advised that nobody from the City Council had been seen in the building. The building continued to fall apart, was dirty and unkempt. It was believed that the City Council were looking for another organisation to run and manage the centres previously ran by NCAT.

A discussion took place regarding the consultation currently ongoing regarding the re-introduction of a Post Office – it was confirmed that the Post Office would definitely not be placed in the Blakelaw Community Centre despite the current rumours.

### **61/25. Blakelaw Ward Councillor Update**

Ward Cllrs Williams and Sathian updated the meeting with regards to the work they had been doing to support residents. This had included bins being burnt out, significant amounts of ASB, overgrown trees and weeds.

DP requested an update regarding the proposed thinning out of the trees in the bunker area. Ward Cllrs advised that this work would be undertaken in the autumn.

Work was being undertaken in relation to tidying green areas with a recognition that with an aging population in Blakelaw gardens were not looked after however, that being said it was not always the responsibility of the City Council to pick up after residents.

There was an acknowledgment that residents were fed up and simply wanted to be supported and to feel safe.

In relation to the litter left following football matches on the Blakelaw Park pitches, Cllr Sathian advised that she had provided the football club with litter pickers. Cllr Williams suggested reintroducing the Friends of Blakelaw Park group.

### **62/25. Sub Group Update**

The Clerk provided an update in relation to the Legends on a Bench project and the Bleed Kit that had been ordered although there was a delay on it's delivery.

The Chair provided an update in relation to the recruitment of Community Councillors and the potential projects that could be undertaken within the community around first aid.

The Chair advised that he and the Clerk continued to meet regularly. The Staffing Group were due to meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.

### **63/25. Financial Matters**

### **Report of the Clerk to the Community Council**

**Bank reconciliation:**

As per transactions relating to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Per Bank:

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Account 1 | £500.00    |
| Account 2 | £56,466.40 |

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£56,966.40</b> |
|--------------|-------------------|

**Less: Payments:**

|                                          |         |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| HMRC (August 2025)                       | £892.02 |
| Helen Richardson (Salary August 2025)    | £941.49 |
| Tesco Club Card (Top-up)                 | £357.37 |
| Joybringers (Grant Funding)              | £500.00 |
| J L Ross                                 | £240.00 |
| Holly's Hope                             | £520.00 |
| HMRC (September 2025)                    | £776.73 |
| Helen Richardson (Salary September 2025) | £846.29 |
| Candy Kids                               | £320.00 |
| Stanley Travel                           | £845.00 |

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£6,238.90</b> |
|--------------|------------------|

**Income**

|                                                                  |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Interest                                                         | £185.61    |
| Closing balance as at 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 (account 1) | £500.00    |
| Closing balance as at 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 (account 2) | £50,413.11 |

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

**64/25. Any Other Business**

There was no other business raised.

**65/25. Date, time and venue of next meeting**

The full community council meeting would take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6pm within the community room at Moorland House.

**Signed .....**

**Dated .....**