

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 10th November 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

Ward Cllr Marion Williams

Jean McCartney – Residents

Beverley Potts - Resident

Irene Turnbull – Resident

Tabish Furqan – Resident

Kathy Smith – Resident (Chair of Tuesday Trailblazers)

Brenda Johnson – Tuesday Trailblazers

Lesley Hails – Tuesday Trailblazers

Nikki Niblo – North East Youth Ltd

Police

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

The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting and introductions were made.

66/25. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Violet Rooke and Ward Councillor Juna Sathian.

67/25. 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

The Chair advised the meeting that Nikki Niblo(NN) from North East Youth Ltd had attended to share with Councillors information regarding the youth work they do in the community and offering their support to any work the Community Council may wish to be involved in in the future.

NN advised Councillors that she had been to a recent Ward meeting and had discussed with Ward Councillors the issues the area had been encountering with regards to antisocial behaviour caused by youths in the area.

NN advised that she had grown up in the area and continued to have strong links, NN hoped that North East Youth Ltd would be able to support youth work in the area. North East Youth were currently delivering detached youth work in Kenton, Fenham and Fawdon. North East Youth Ltd were able to support match funding through the Newcastle Fund.

NN advised that they believed that support should be for no less than a year, they delivered detached youth work, encouraged youth volunteers and mentor peers. NN believed that North East Youth Ltd were likely to already work with a number of youths in the area. It was recognised that youths needed somewhere to go that was a safe place.

NN advised that North East Youth Ltd were currently delivering youth work in the Dinnington area, the cost of this was £15k for 2 youth workers for 2 nights per week.

Ward Cllr Williams advised that youth work was currently been delivered by Projects 4 Change for 2 nights, Inspire Youth were delivering for 1 night for around 26 weeks (6 months) in the area. Concerns were raised regarding what would happen following the 6 month period.

A general discussion took place regarding the problems around youth antisocial behaviour in the area and the Chair suggested that a meeting take place outside of the Community Council meeting.

The Chair thanked NN for her time and confirmed the Community Council would contact her to discuss the options further.

68/25. Grant Applications

Blakelaw Flats Tenants and Residents Association (TARA)

Debbie Playford and Maureen Kelly declared an interest in this agenda item.

Jean McCartney (JMc) took the Community Council through the Blakelaw Flats TARA application for grant funding in the sum of £500.

The application for funding was to enable the TARA to hold a Christmas meal for approximately 30 residents who lived within the 3 blocks of high rise flats. There would be room for 25 residents to attend in the community room but there were a number of residents who liked to have their lunch in their own homes. The TARA would also buy a small gift for those residents attending.

In response to questions from the Community Council, JMc advised that they had not obtained a number of quotes due to their usual supplier no longer trading and timescales being tight. The cost of each meal was £9 with a gift costing around £8. There were currently around 25 residents on the list of attendees with new residents being included.

Tuesday Trailblazers

John Wears declared an interest in this agenda item due to him being the Secretary to the group.

Lesley Hails(LH) and Brenda Johnson(BJ) presented the grant funding application on behalf of the Tuesday Trailblazers in the sum of £495.98. The grant application was for a projector, projector screen, room hire, stationary and refreshments, these items would be used to support the delivery of the fortnightly sessions held at the English Martyr's Church. BJ provided the Community Council with additional background in relation to the fortnightly sessions, and advised that the group continued to grow in numbers.

During the Community Council's discussions in relation to the above 2 applications for grant funding, those Community Councillors who declared an interest left the room whilst each grant application was discussed.

The remaining eligible Community Councillors thereafter discussed each application for funding and agreed to grant them both in full.

Christmas Trees

The Chair advised that it was now the time of year when the Community Council supported the 2 local primary schools, Hilton Primary and Thomas Walling Primary with the purchase of their Christmas trees.

The Clerk advised that she had spoken to the schools who had been very happy to accept the Community Council's kind offer for another year.

The Clerk advised that both schools would be starting their Christmas celebrations in the next week with Hilton Primary currently celebrating their very successful recent

Ofsted inspection. The Community Council congratulated Hilton Primary on their Ofsted success.

The Community Council discussed the recommendation of the Chair to purchase the Christmas trees for the 2 local schools.

The Community Council agreed that the schools should be supplied with their Christmas trees. The Clerk confirmed that the trees would be purchased from Northern Christmas Trees, once they opened in the coming week.

69/25. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th September 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising. It was confirmed that the Joybringers were in the process of arranging the following years events.

70/25. Police

The Police provided an update in relation to the recent issues being reported that included antisocial behaviour, fireworks and fire's being lit in the area.

The Police had been working with the bus company following an incident that had led to a bus being damaged.

A dispersal order had been put in place over a recent weekend for a period of 48 hours. The Police advised that they had been taking youths home, speaking with parents and issuing warning letters.

The Police advised that the interventions being put in place and being monitored were working in the area.

In response to number of questions, the Police confirmed residents should be contacting the Police and reporting any speeding on Sunnyway, the Police were still trying to get to grips with the number of motorbikes being used unlawfully and being able to predict when they would be out on the street. The Police were not able to chase the bikes but would be able to use drones to track them.

The Police confirmed that the cables recently used in the area monitored the volume of traffic and not the speed.

Community Councillors and residents shared a number of concerns with the Police that included speeding cars, parking concerns, wheelie bins being set on fire, motorbikes riding around the shopping centre and rubbish bags being taken to the park, emptied and set on fire.

The Police advised that they would continue to monitor the area and encouraged residents to report any issues.

71/25. 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.

72/25. Parish Council Elections

The Clerk referred Community Councillors to the pre-circulated information regarding the arrangements for the Parish Council elections in 2027. The main change being that there would be a charge by Newcastle City Council for administering the election with a potential cost of around £10,847 should the election be contested. Community Councillors would need to consider this cost when preparing future precept budgets.

73/25. Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation 2026/27

The Clerk referred Community Councillors to the pre-circulated correspondence from Newcastle City Council for information, the letter detailed the arrangements in relation to the Council Tax Support consultation.

74/25. 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 the increase in youth antisocial behaviour.

The Police advised that they had had a significant Police presence in the area during the period of the disposal order. The youth workers in the area were supporting the Police. Ward Cllr Williams advised that work was being undertaken to identify the ring leaders and a hard line was being taken once the ring leaders had been identified.

A discussion was held around youths being displaced from surrounding areas ie Kenton and Lemington. There had also been a large crackdown on antisocial behaviour in the city centre.

DP advised that residents felt that when solutions were found for youth antisocial behaviour it impacted upon residents, in particular when the youth were accessing the flats, the seats were removed, heating was switched off in communal areas and the wi-fi was switched off – this impacted residents. A resident had also been attacked in the shopping centre.

Ward Councillor Williams stated that this had not been raised prior to tonight and that those attending SAPs meeting were reporting that everything was fine.

DP raised concerns regarding what would happen when the flats were being renovated. Someone had also been in the Old Legion Club but she had not been able to contact the Police via 101, eventually DP had contacted Kuan directly.

Ward Councillor Williams advised that SAPs meetings were being held monthly on a Friday and they would continue for the foreseeable future, those who were attending

were reporting a very different story and the STATs were not showing a high level of 101 calls.

75/25. Blakelaw Ward Councillor Update

Ward Councillor Williams updated the meeting regarding the possibility of a feasibility study being undertaken in relation to the Legion Club and there had been no further update in relation to the future plans for the Blakelaw Community Centre. It appeared that Newcastle City Council did not want the Community Centre's back. However, the Cowgate Centre was ran very well.

Youth work in the area was going well with 2 sessions being held at Leisure United and Projects 4 Change undertaking 2 outreach sessions per week. Additional sessions were required to ensure all age ranges were being catered for.

Ward Councillor Williams advised that she continued to deal with lots of resident's queries including concerns around the bunker area.

AK queried who was running the Blakelaw Centre as a number of concerns had been raised around the condition and running of the building. AK advised that she had been unable to pay rent for the use of the centre for the bingo club, she was being asked to lock the building up after using it and drop the keys off at the home of those who ran the café, there as a washer machine in the toilets, there was no caretaker and they couldn't use the water. AK felt that nobody cared.

Ward Councillor Williams advised that Matt Wilton was responsible as Assistant Chief Executive and the City Council's Neighbourhood Team for the building.

76/25. 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.

Plans were well underway for the Christmas Fair and Community Coach trip.

The Chair provided an update in relation to the recruitment of Community Councillors.

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

77/25. Financial Matters

Report of the Clerk to the Community Council

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 10th November 2025

Per Bank:

Account 1

Account 2

£500.00

£50,413.11

Total	£50,913.11
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Less: Payments:

HMRC (October 2025)	£776.73
Helen Richardson (Salary October 2025)	£846.29
Mr. J Wears (Expenses)	£450.00
HFE Signs	£132.58
Tesco Card	£500.00
ICO	£47.00
HMRC (November 2025)	£776.73
Helen Richardson (Salary November 2025)	£846.29

Total £4375.62

Payments: In

Community Coach Trip	£125.00
Closing balance as at 10 th November 2025 (account 1)	£500.00
Closing balance as at 10 th November 2025 (account 2)	£46,162.49

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

78/25. Any Other Business

There was no other business raised.

79/25. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The full community council meeting would take place on Monday 12th January 2026 at 6pm within the community room at Moorland House.

Signed

Dated