



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 9th March 2026

TIME: 6.00 pm

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council
Jean McCartney – Resident
Irene Turnbull – Resident
June Sathian – Blakelaw & North Fenham Ward Councillor

12/26. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from James Gill and Ward Councillor Marion Williams.

13/26. Declaration of Interests

- John Wears - Director of Learning 4 All and Secretary to the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Debbie Playford – Chair of Blakelaw Flats TARA and SIFT (*H&S Group via NCC*)
- Maureen Kelly – Member of the Blakelaw Flats TARA
- Helen Richardson (Clerk) - Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers

14/26. Grant Applications

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

The Chair advised that a piece regarding the ability to apply for grant funding would be put in the newsletter that was currently being prepared.

15/26. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th January 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

16/26. Police

The Police were not in attendance and no update had been provided by them.

Anti-social behaviour continued to be an issue in the area with Community Councillors, Ward Councillors and residents reporting issues.

17/26. Community Councillor Update

Community Councillors and the Clerk provided an update on a number of issues that they had been dealing with on behalf of residents. This included overgrown trees, fly tipping, general ASB, lighting, general parking, vehicles parking on paths and moss on paths.

The Chair advised that he had reported drug dealing in the area and issues regarding parking on Craigmillar and Cragston. Community Councillors held a discussion regarding the rise in parking issues across the area in particular the rise in vehicles being parked on pavements.

DP provided an update in relation to the bunker area, the bunker entrance had been grassed over however this had now been removed which raised concerns that an attempt to enter the bunker may have been made.

18/26. Blakelaw Ward Councillor Update

Blakelaw Ward Councillor Juna Sathian updated the Community Council on the casework she had been dealing with. This had included parking, fly tipping near Thomas Walling School and having moss removed from paving areas that were becoming slippery. North Fenham had also had a small amount of cleaning and tidying undertaken.

Plans had been put in place to re-paint the double yellow lines outside of the 2 primary schools to help support the schools being a parking free zone. Residents living on Binswood Avenue had reported parents parking over driveways before taking their children in to Hilton School.

A letter had been written detailing the library activities being moved to be held within the Leisure United building.

A SAP's meeting had also been that day. The Community Council were advised that there had been an escalation in anti-social behaviour since the previous Monday whereby a number of youths had taken a number of wheelie bins, they had made

their way to Ponteland Road before smashing up a bus stop and putting a brick through a resident's window – the Police were involved. The EPIC Team had also been out and about in the area.

The Clerk recapped the conversation that had taken place at the January 2026 meeting where she advised the meeting that an amount of money had been built in to the budget to support youth work in the area.

19/26. Sub Group Update

The Clerk provided an update in relation to the Legends on a Bench project, de-fib and the Bleed Kit that had been ordered although there appeared to be a continued delay on its delivery.

The Clerk provided an update in relation to the community coach trips, the summer fund day and the Christmas fair planned for the coming year.

The Chair updated the meeting on the delayed co-opting of the potential new Community Councillors. This had been due to not being able to hold a meeting where everyone was able to attend. It was hoped that this meeting could take place in the very near future.

20/26. Financial Matters

Report of the Clerk to the Community Council

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to transactions between the 13th January 2026 – 9th March 2026

Per Bank:	
Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£41,723.33
Total	£42.223.33

Less: Payments:

HMRC (February 2026)	£776.73
H V Richardson (February 2026 Salary)	£846.29
Forvis Mazars (External Auditor)	£252.00
Total	£1875.02

Payments: In

Christmas Fayre & Community Coach Trips	£505.00
Interest	£108.21
Closing balance as at 9 th March 2026 (account 1)	£500.00
Closing balance as at 9 th March 2026 (account 2)	£40,461.52

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

Banking Update

The Clerk provided Community Councillors with an update regarding the current banking arrangements. The Clerk now had full banking access restored however she shared her concerns with regards to having all of the Community Council funds held with 1 banking provider and should the same issues happen in the future and the Community Council not being able to access to the funds this was a risk.

The Clerk recommended that the Community Council discuss splitting the Council's funds across 2 banking providers.

Approval of Documents (1st April 25 – 31st March 26)

The Clerk took the Community Councillors through the below documents and requested that they were approved:

- Review and agree the Statement of Internal Control 2025/26
- Review and agree the Asset Register 2025/26
- Review and agree the Risk Assessment 2025/26

Community Councillors approved the documents for 2025/26.

The Clerk advised that the below documents would be deferred till the AGM meeting due to be held on the 11th May 2026:

1st April 2026 – 31st March 2027

- Review and agree the Statement of Internal Control 2026/27
- Review and agree Financial Regulations 2026/27
- Review and agree Standing Orders 2026/27
- Review and agree the Risk Assessment 2026/27

21/26. Any Other Business

DP advised the meeting that as of the end of March epi-pens were to be made compulsory within schools. DP queried whether this would be something the Community Council would be able to financially support the schools with.

The Community Council agreed that this would definitely be something they would look at receiving additional information.

The Chair reminded Community Councillors that the election period was due to commence in the coming days prior to the May elections, Community Councillors were reminded of their responsibility during this time.

22/26. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The AGM meeting would take place on Monday 11th May 2026 at 6pm within the community room at Moorland House.

Signed

Dated