

## Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



Meeting held at:  
Moorland House  
Blakelaw  
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Chairperson of Council: John Wears  
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

### **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM MEETING**

**DATE HELD: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**TIME: 6.00pm**

#### **Present:**

Councillors: Violet Rook(VR) – Vice Chair, Maureen Kelly(MK),Debbie Playford(DP), Irene Turnbull(IT) and Tabish Furqan (TF)

#### **In Attendance:**

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council  
Jean McCartney – Resident  
Blakelaw Ward Cllr Rachel Davison  
Dee Roberts – EPIC, Newcastle City Council  
Harish Jetta – EPIC, Newcastle City Council

### **36/26. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from John Wears and Ann Keenan.

Apologies were also received from Sarah Eagleston, Newcastle City Council.

### **37/26. Declaration of Interests**

- Debbie Playford – Chair of Blakelaw Flats TARA and SIFT (*H&S Group via NCC*)
- Maureen Kelly – Member/Secretary of the Blakelaw Flats TARA
- Helen Richardson (Clerk) - Bank signatory for the Tuesday Trailblazers
- Violet Rook – Member of the National Pensioner Convention and Later Life Audio Co-Operative
- Tabish Furqan – SYED

- Irene Turnbull – Blakelaw and Cowgate Ward Councillor and Chair of Newcastle Central and West Reform

### **38/26. Update from Newcastle City Council (Community Safety) and EPiC**

The Vice Chair welcomed Dee Roberts(DR) and Harish Jetta(HJ) to the meeting.

DR updated community councillors on the work that EPiC had been undertaking in the area. There were currently 6 EPiC officers working across Newcastle.

They advised that Blakelaw was an area of focus with a community project for youths being held at the Blakelaw Community Centre.

Community councillors queried how many areas of Newcastle the 6 EPiC officers covered, DR advised that there were 12 areas to cover with 6 officers which at times put a strain on the service.

Community councillors queried how residents contacted EPiC, DR advised that there was a booklet which had been distributed across the Newcastle area although they were unsure as to how much engagement this had created with residents. The Clerk queried whether the EPiC team would be able to attend the upcoming summer fair to meet residents. DR advised that this may not be possible due to the teams working hours.

Community councillors queried who the EPiC team reported too, DR advised that EPiC were part of the Community Safety Team, they were not involved with the Community Champions Team.

The Clerk requested an electronic version of the EPiC booklet which would be uploaded to the website.

The Vice Chair thanked EPiC for their attendance and valuable update.

### **39/26. Grant Application**

The Clerk advised that there were no grant applications for consideration.

The Clerk went on to explain the grant funding process including how and why the funding amount requested had been limited to £500. The Clerk advised that the process and funding limit had not been reviewed since 2024 and should the community council wish to review the process and funding limit this could be undertaken.

Community councillors advised that this maybe something that should be considered in the future.

### **40/26. Minutes of Previous Meetings/Matters Arising**

The minutes of the community council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chair.

There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the AGM meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chair.

There were no matters arising.

#### **41/26. Police Update**

The Police were not in attendance despite being invited to attend. No written update had been provided.

TF advised the community council that he would chase up the Police's attendance.

TB went on to advise that he had been made aware of a website "police.co.uk", this website advised about crimes in the area. The Police had also been part of Operation SNAPS – this Operation allowed the Police to use dashcam footage to identify poor/dangerous driving.

TB advised community councillors that a study was being undertaken with regards to the banning of electric scooters, the use of electric bikes was also being reviewed due to the number of fatal accidents that had occurred.

#### **42/26. Community Councillor Update**

The Vice Chair referred the meeting to the previously circulated updates received from community councillors which were taken as read.

TB advised community councillors that he wished to see more use of the community council's social media page. The Clerk advised that she was more than happy to post items of information but community councillors needed to provide the content.

#### **43/26. Blakelaw and Cowgate Ward Councillor Update**

IT and RD provided the meeting with an update with regards to their casework.

Community councillors and ward councillors held a discussion regarding the future of the old British Legion Club. Ward councillors had undertaken a visit inside of the building and had been pleasantly surprised at the condition of the building ie the building condition was not as bad as everyone had been led to believe.

Ward councillors had held discussions with Newcastle City Council regarding the condition of the Blakelaw Community Centre and it had been confirmed that the works requested had now been completed.

Since their time in office the Blakelaw and Cowgate Ward Councillors had reported the most enquiries out of the 26 wards with 150 resident issues being rectified.

DP advised that the trees in the bunker area continued to cause an issue. The bunker had been tidied but the trees continued to be overgrown and untouched – this had been the case for the last 12 years.

Ward councillors advised that they would raise this again with the City Council.

## **44/26. Sub Group Updates**

### **Community Engagement/environmental Group**

The sub-group had not formally met.

### **Community Events**

The Clerk advised that the Whitby Trip had been a huge success with residents providing excellent feedback – feedback forms had been made available at the meeting for community councillors to read through..

An update was provided in relation to the summer fair. The Clerk requested that additional volunteers were sourced to ensure that the event went ahead safely. Community councillors requested that a reminder was sent to them with the roles that required supporting.

RD advised that she and the other ward councillors would be in attendance to provide support on the day.

### **Projects Update**

This item was covered under agenda item 7.

DP queried whether any further information had been sourced in relation to “Benedict’s Law” and whether or not financial support was being provided to schools to enable them to purchase epi pens. The Clerk confirmed that no further information had been sourced but she would look into this further and provide an update at a future meeting.

### **Staffing Group**

The sub group had not met formally.

## **45/26. Financial Matters & Approval of Statutory Documentation**

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

#### **Bank reconciliation:**

As per transactions relating to transactions between the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Per Bank:    |                   |
| Account 1    | £500.00           |
| Account 2    | £32,033.25        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£32,533.25</b> |

#### **Less: Payments:**

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| HMRC (May 2026) | £777.13 |
|-----------------|---------|

|                                          |         |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| H V Richardson (May 2026 Salary)         | £845.89 |
| Gordon Fletcher (Internal Audit)         | £175.00 |
| HyperJar (Pre-payment Card)              | £500.00 |
| Mrs H V Richardson (Tesco Reimbursement) | £126.10 |
| Candy Kids (Summer Fair)                 | £765.00 |
| Candy Kids (Christmas Fair)              | £440.00 |
| HMRC (June 2026)                         | £777.13 |
| Mrs H V Richardson (June 2026 Salary)    | £845.89 |
| ROAM (Leaflet Distribution)              | £720.00 |
| HyperJar (Pre-payment Card)              | £500.00 |
| HFE Signs Ltd                            | £137.96 |
| NPS                                      | £530.00 |

**Total £7,140.10**

#### Income

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Whitby Trip                  | £285.00           |
| Tesco Refund (Pre-paid Card) | £153.70           |
| Interest                     | £98.07            |
| Precept                      | £41,500.00        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>£42,036.77</b> |

|                                                              |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Closing balance as at 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 (account 1) | £500.00    |
| Closing balance as at 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 (account 2) | £66,929.92 |

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

#### Banking Update

The Clerk reminded community councillors that they were required to review the signing arrangements on the bank account following recent resignations.

This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the council.

#### **46/26. Any Other Business**

There were no matters of any other business for discussion.

#### **47/26. Date, time and venue of next meeting**

Community Councillors noted that the next meeting of the community council would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 6pm within the community room at Moorland House.

**Signed .....**

**Dated .....**