

Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



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Chairperson of Council: Ron Clarke
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE HELD: Thursday 11 May 2017

TIME: 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs Ann Keenan(AK), Ann Fullen(AF), Violet Rook(VR), James Gill(JG), Irene Teasdale(IT), John Wears, Ron Clarke, Doreen Jardine(DJ), Karen Ferry(KF) and Lorraine Birkett(LB)

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council (minutes)
Cllr Nora Casey – Blakelaw Ward Councillor
Joan Gill – Resident
Joan McCartney – Resident
Margaret Kilpatrick – Resident
Rowena Spencer – Resident
Debbie Playford – Resident
Sgt Grant Urqhart – Police
PC Graeme Wilkinson – Police

61/17. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

62/17. Declaration of Interests

Ann Keenan – Volunteer at the Credit Union
Violet Rook – Governor at Thomas Walling School
James Gill – Blakelaw Ward Community Asset Trust (BWCAT)
Irene Teasdale – Mrs T's Café 1 & 2 and Trading Arm of BWCAT
Ron Clark – Blakelaw Ward Community Asset Trust, 165 TARA and Trading Arm of BWCAT
Doreen Jardine – 165 TARA and Blakelaw Ward Community Asset Trust
Ann Fullen – Volunteer at Credit Union

63/17. Police

Sgt Urqhart and PC Graeme Wilkinson were in attendance to provide an update.

The Community Council and Police had a very long discussion regarding the 165 Estate, the multi-story flats, incidents around Cambo Green and Inchcliffe Avenue, the Police had met with Keep Moat regarding a break in at a container and anti-social behaviour orders. There was also a long discussion regarding the issue of youths being on roof causing damage.

Sgt Urqhart confirmed that burglaries had been down however it was acknowledged that criminal damage was still an issue. He confirmed that more CSO's were being recruited and it was hoped that this would help in the community.

It was acknowledged that there had been problems with larger groups of youths coming in to the area and causing problems however it was thought that this was reducing due the work being undertaken with YHN.

JG queried following the incident at the Blakelaw Neighbourhood Centre how were the youths involved being dealt with. JG felt that the Police response had been very poor.

JG stated that he had contacted the Police a number of times and felt that they had been forgotten despite flagging don a Police vehicle. JG commented that whilst he accepted that he can't be kept up to speed with every detail it was felt the matter was handled poorly. JG also commented that it had happened previously at the shops in Blakelaw and that there were numerous comments over social media that it was going to happen again.

Sgt Urqhart stated that he would look in to the issues raised in an attempt to find out why residents weren't responded to but he explained that there were various ways in which to deal with these types of situations. The issue of health and safety in relation to both the Police and perpetrators was highlighted and the meeting accepted this needed to be considered although it was difficult to show any empathy towards those causing damage.

JG queried what would happen in relation to claims for criminal damage. Damage caused to cars and property in the street had been anywhere between £800 and 3k. Sgt Urqhart explained that a form MG19 would need to be completed but it was often hard to claim anything back due to the age of those offending, it was confirmed that a lot of the youth who were offending were given Referral Orders. KF queried what this entailed. Sgt Urqhart confirmed it was a mixture of courses arranged via the Youth Offending team with input from other organisations ie YHN etc. JG raised concerns that no one seemed to have an answer for anything. JW was concerned as no one had discussed any form of compensation with him and when looking on the website it was not clear. GW asked for JW's details to be sent to him and he would arrange a form to be sent out.

AK raised concerns regarding issues with a large number of youths gathering and drinking in Southmead. It was thought that these youths were coming down from Cowgate and West Denton but now it seems to be involving those youths in Blakelaw.

64/17. Grant Applications

There were no grant applications however the Blakelaw Ward Community Asset Trust had provided a handout with regards to the work that they had been undertaken. This handout had been provided to the Community Council members to read at their leisure.

65/17. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 April 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

66/17. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

67/17. Update from Blakelaw Ward Councillors

Councillor Nora Casey(NC) was in attendance to provide an update. NC commented that it was a very busy time of year for the members of Council. They had held a coffee morning, continued to hold surgeries in Fenham Library and of course had been canvassing hard due to the General Election.

NC confirmed that they had been dealing with a lot of queries regarding trees and the problems residents were experiencing.

AK raised concerns regarding the entrance to Rosehill Way being resurfaced however it seemed that there was approximately 30 yards not done. NC confirmed that Elder Drive was the same but that Newcastle City Council had requested that the developers undertake this.

LB queried whether anything could be done regarding the parking outside schools, RC commented that Curzon Place was full of the cars from the workmen undertaking the work on the 165 Estate. A number of residents agree that the parking in the streets was causing some issues but that this had been raised on a number of occasions and nothing had been done to solve the problem. It was thought that schools should make more of walking to school or Rowena Spencer suggested that something should may be put in place for those parents who drop children off at school on their way to work.

JW had been asked by a resident to raise the problems being caused by broken glass in the park. NC stated she wasn't aware of this however was aware that there had been reports of deliberate placing of glass to cause harm.

The issue of the bins overflowing in the park was also raised.

68/17. Vacancies for the Role of Community Council

The Clerk confirmed that we still had 2 vacancies for the role of community Councillor. The Clerk confirmed that Rowena Spencer had expressed a wish to join the Council however would attend a number of meetings to find out whether it was something she would wish to continue to be involved with.

69/17. Updates from Sub Groups

There was no update from the Employment or Environmental group however JW fed back that more people had been sharing information on the facebook page. JW had received a couple of requests to look in to queries via the page. The newsletter was discussed and everyone should continue to provide information to JW for the next issue. It was agreed at the next meeting the membership of groups would be discussed and agreed.

70/17. To Receive Correspondence and Communication

The Clerk confirmed that she had shared a large amount of information with Community Councillors. She had also brought handouts and community information to tonight's meeting for anyone who wished to take it.

71/17. Planning Applications

There were no applications to consider.

72/17. Financial Matters

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 14 April 2017 – 11 May 2017

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£12,644.77
Total	£13,144.70

Less: Payments:

Helen Richardson – May 2017 Salary(100477)	£444.00
Helen Richardson – Laptop Cover(100480)	£5.00
HMRC – May 2017(100478)	£88.80
NALC (100479)	£668.17
Helen Richardson – Stationary(100480)	£62.69
Total	£1,268.66

Closing balance as at 11 May 2017 (account 2)	£11,376.11
Closing balance as at 11 May 2017 (account 1)	£500.00

Recommendation:

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

73/17. Date and time of the next meeting

Following a discussion it was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be changed and moved to the 15 June at 6pm due to the general Election.