

# 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 15 June 2017**

**TIME: 6.00 pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: Cllrs Ron Clarke, Violet Rook(VR), Irene Teasdale(IT), John Wears, Doreen Jardine(DJ) and Karen Ferry(KF)

### **In Attendance:**

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council (minutes)  
Cllr Nora Casey – Blakelaw Ward Councillor  
Margaret Kilpatrick – Resident  
Rowena Spencer – Resident  
Debbie Playford – Resident  
Cecil Anderson – Resident

Prior to the formal business of the meeting commencing Cecil Anderson(CA) queried what the Community Council could do with regards to the communal gardens at Yewvale Cottages and Holmesdale Road. CA stated that he had attempted to contact Newcastle City Council on a number of occasions but they kept putting him back to YHN's office in Kenton. The Clerk explained that this would be due to the properties being managed by YHN and that the City Council would not get involved and unfortunately the Community Council would not be able to become involved as YHN had a responsibility to their residents. The Community Council suggested that CA discuss his concerns with City Councillor Nora Casey.

### **74/17. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillors Ann Keenan, Ann Fullen, James Gill and Lorraine Birkett

### **75/17. Declaration of Interests**

Violet Rook – Governor at Thomas Walling School and Governor with North East Ambulance Service  
Irene Teasdale – Mrs T's Café 1 & 2 and Trading Arm of BWCAT

### **76/17. Police**

The Police were not in attendance.

### **77/17. Grant Applications**

#### **Blakelaw Flats Tenants and Resident Association**

Debbie Playford spoke to the Community Council regarding the flats up and coming trip to Ulswater. Debbie confirmed that they advertised the trip within the flats and they worked on a first come first served basis however if they had enough people to fill a bigger bus they would order the bigger bus. The trip was being used to get older people out and about and they tried to go where people who lived in the flats had never been before.

DJ commented that the organisers needed to ensure that they had enough space to ensure those people with walking aids were able to attend as storage was not always good on some buses.

Following a small discussion the funding was granted in full.

#### **Blakelaw Social Football Club Juniors**

After a brief discussion it was decided that this grant should be rolled over to the next meeting to allow the club to attend.

It was decided however that Karen Ferry would sit on their Committee following an invite by them.

### **78/17. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 May 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **79/17. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **80/17. Annual Accounts Return 2016-17**

The Clerk took the meeting through the annual account return to BDO LLP. The account/return was agreed by all members of the Community Council and signed by the Chair.

### **81/17. Update from Blakelaw Ward Councillors**

City Councillor Nora Casey(NC) provided the Community Council with an update as to what had been happening with the Blakelaw Ward.

Following the Grenfell Tower fire, a discussion was held with regards to the cladding used on the tower blocks within the Ward. NC confirmed that she had been in regular communication with YHN and that they were due to attend at the tower blocks. Debbie Playford confirmed that they had been in touch with her to confirm that correspondence would be sent out in the next day or two. Debbie also stated that there had been a problem with the fire alarms within the towers. The problem being that the call back service was not working but instead they were just sending fire crews out straight away. NC confirmed that she had written to YHN today chasing up answers.

NC confirmed that it was Carers Week next week.

NC had been contacted a number of times regarding trees within the Ward. NC was still waiting for a meeting to be set up with the City Council to discuss the ongoing problem of overgrown trees. The Community Council and NC discussed the issues of large trees in the area and how the Community Council were currently reluctant to fund the removal as it was felt that this was a City Council problem (they put them in) and it would be difficult to know where to stop once the Community Council started.

JW raised the other major issue of parking on Binswood Avenue. Cars were being damaged as there was nowhere to park and they were just being left all over. NC acknowledge this was a problem but it seemed that the City Council were reluctant to pave some of the verges.

There was then a discussion around parking at the schools within the area.

It was also commented that the recent elections had gone well.

### **82/17. Update from Community Councillor Violet Rook re Northumbria Police Volunteers Conference**

VR updated the Community Council following her attendance at the conference. VR commented that there was a presentation by Cadets, a talk on the history of the Police and a display of how equipment was used.

One issue that VR was very interested in was the use of Safe Hubs within the area. These Safe Hubs were used across the area and were a place where the community could talk in confidence to the Police. Volunteers in the community can set these hubs up. VR stressed that the Police were trying to engage with the community to show that the Police can be trusted. The Police had attended at Thomas Walling School to work with the children to build trust.

### **83/17. Venues for Future Meetings**

JW expressed to the Community Council that they should consider moving the monthly meetings around venues within the Parish boundary.

RC queried why we should do this when the meeting was established within the Community Centre. JW believes that the community may have the perception that the Community Council are a part of the Blakelaw Community Asset Trust. However, by moving around the area this would show the Community Council were independent.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact English Martyr Church, St Peters Church and Moorland House.

### **84/17. Sub Committee Memberships**

The Clerk discussed the membership of the sub committees as they currently stood and took the Community Council through what was discussed at each meeting. It was agreed that all the sub groups needed to meet and that membership would stay as it was unless any of the new Community Councillors wished to join.

It was agreed that the sub groups would be made up as follows:

#### **Employment**

John Wears  
Ann Keenan  
James Gill  
Ron Clarke  
Karen Ferry

#### **Communications**

John Wears  
James Gill  
Ann Keenan  
Violet Rook  
Irene Teasdale

The Clerk asked the Community Council to consider how they wished to move forward with the Environment Group.

It was agreed that the Employment Group would meet on the 10 July 2017 at 6pm and the Communications Group would meet at 7pm on the same night within the community room at Moorland House.

### **85/17. To Receive Correspondence and Communications**

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a number of emails and communications that were full of information that could be passed throughout the community.

### **86/17. To Consider Planning Applications**

Once again, the Community Council had been notified of any planning applications. The Council queried whether the second tier of Cragston Court had been approved. The Clerk confirmed that she would look on the portal and try and find out further information.

### **87/17. Financial Matters**

#### **Bank reconciliation:**

As per transactions relating to 12 May 2017 – 15 June 2017

Per Bank:  
Account 1

£500.00

Account 2		£11,376.11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,876.11</b>

Less: Payments:

Helen Richardson – June 2017 Salary(100481)	£444.00
Helen Richardson – Laptop/Stationary(100481)	£10.00
HMRC – June 2017(100482)	£88.80
Peter Basnett (100483)	£202.40
	<b>Total £745.20</b>

**Credit**

Newcastle City Council - precept	£31,000.00
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Closing balance as at 15 June 2017 (account 2)	£41,630.91
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Closing balance as at 15 June 2017 (account 1)	£500.00
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**Recommendation:**

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

**88/17. Date and time of the next meeting**

The date and time of the next meeting is 13 July 2017 at 6pm.