

Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



Meeting held at:
The Community Room
Moorland House, Moulton Place
Blakelaw, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 3RY
Tel: 07588154441
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Chairperson of Council: Ron Clarke
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE HELD: Thursday 8 February 2018

TIME: 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs Ron Clarke(RC), Violet Rook(VR), Doreen Jardine(DJ), Ann Keenan(AK) and Lorraine Birkett(LB)

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council (minutes)
Margaret Kilpatrick – Resident
Debbie Playford – Resident
Jean McCartney– Resident
Nora Casey – Newcastle City Councillor
Shelley O'Brien – Mad Alice Theatre Company

15/18. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillors Ann Fullen, Rowena Spencer, James Gill, John Wears, Irene Teasdale and Karen Ferry.

16/18. Declaration of Interests

Ron Clark – Newcastle Community Asset Trust(NCAT), Post Master, 165 TARA and Trading Arm of NCAT
Violet Rook – Governor at Thomas Walling School and Governor with North East Ambulance Service
Ann Keenan – Volunteer for NCAT and Credit Union
Doreen Jardine – NCAT and 165 TARA

17/18. Shelley O'Brien – Mad Alice Theatre Company

Shelley attended the meeting to provide feedback on how the Theatre Company had spent the grant funding that they had received from the Community Council. The funding had been used to undertake a number of performances at schools in the area. All the performances had been well received and it was hoped that they would

be able to undertake further work with the schools in the near future. Shelley also provided all receipts and monitoring forms for the Community Council records.

18/18. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 January 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

19/18. Matters Arising

Traffic/parking concerns were again raised as being a concern particularly around the Hylton School area. Cars were parking on the grass and paths which were causing a hazard.

City Councillor Nora Casey confirmed that further meetings would need to take place with the school and a discussion around some kind of fencing/bollards may be able to take place as this seemed to be the only solution however who would pay for them. It was acknowledged that residents who lived on Gishford continued to experience problems.

DJ commented that she had called the Police as a residents have been walking past the school when a van drove past at speed and covered the resident in mud before speeding off without stopping. The Police had stated that they would contact the school.

20/18. Grants Applications

The Clerk confirmed that there were no applications for funding to be considered.

21/18. Police Update

The Police were not in attendance. Debbie Playford(resident) had attended a residents meeting with the Police where there had been a large amount of discussion around wheelie bins going missing and being set on fire. This is seemed to be a big problem in the area at the moment.

RC and DJ both commented that they had had their bins stolen.

RC thought that the area had been quiet however DJ disagreed with this and commented that youths had been lifting the newly laid paving stones in the streets. DJ felt it was pointless challenging the youths due to fear of reprisal.

22/18. Update from Blakelaw Ward Councillors

City Councillor Nora Casey updated the Community Council and guests on what had been happening within the Ward.

NC was due to meet with Keep Moat regarding the issues around the 165 Estate. These included the length of time taken to undertake the work and the mess that was being left.

Trees and bushes had been pruned within the bunker area. Debbie Playford(resident) confirmed that further bushes would be removed from that area to

make it more open as residents still felt threatened when walking past at night due to the density of the overgrown shrubs.

NC confirmed that the Walkin Centre on Ponteland Road would be given an upgrade but that the GP Surgery attached to the centre would definitely be closed. Margaret Kilpatrick commented that she had only received a letter regarding the closure that day.

VR stated that she had been involved in the consultation and had been told that the Walkin Centre regularly borrowed GP's from the surgery – what would happen now?

The closure of the surgery had led to over 3000 patients having to find a new GP practice.

23/18. Discussion re Defibrillators in the Community

Due to the number of Community Councillors in attendance at the meeting it was decided that this agenda item would be deferred to the next meeting.

There was some general discussion and the Clerk fed back that Community Councillor Karen Ferry had advised that she felt it should be based outside at the Blakelaw Neighbourhood Centre given the CCTV, good lighting and it was central. The only concern raised regarding this location was the antisocial behaviour that still continued around the centre, however this is a concern regardless of where the unit would be placed.

24/18. Sub Committee Memberships

Employment Group – As this is a closed group should anyone wish to have further details they should contact John Wears.

Communications Group – The Community Council were reminded to provide items for the next newsletter.

RC raised his concerns regarding the current condition of the notice boards within the parish boundary. However, as the Community Council only own 2 out of the 5 located around the area and those 2 are in relatively good condition. There was a discussion in relation to what they were used for and it was very evident that they are underused therefore the question was raised as to whether they were needed. A further discussion needs to be held as to whether the Community Council should pay to have those noticeboards that are owned by the City Council repaired.

There is still no Environmental Group. Community Councillors were reminded to think about bringing this group back.

25/18. To Receive Correspondence and Communications

The Clerk raised a concern regarding communications within the Community Council. It had been feedback to the Clerk that concerns had been raised by Newcastle Community Asset Trust (NCAT) as there had only been 1 member of the Community Council in attendance at their recent launch event. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any notification of this event nor heard from any Community Councillor stating that it was taking place. The Clerk had spoken to Leanne Risk at NCAT who had been sure an invite had been sent but that she would

look in to it. RC confirmed he had been invited and AK confirmed that she had been made aware at the last minute that the event was taking place. DJ stated that despite being on the Board of NCAT she had been unaware of the event taking place. RC commented that he had not been very impressed by those who had attended and felt it missed off a number of people who should have been there.

The Clerk asked everyone to ensure that if they are invited or made aware of events that Community Councillors maybe interested in attending that they pass the details to her so she can pass the details on.

26/18. To Consider Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

27/18. Financial Matters

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 12 January 2018 – 8 February 2018

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£29,904.97
Total	£30,404.97

Less: Payments:

Helen Richardson – February 2018 Salary(100518)	£444.00
HMRC – February 2018(100519)	£88.80
Helen Richardson – Laptop Cover (100519)	£5.00
Total	£537.80

Closing balance as at 8 February 2018 (account 2)	£29,367.17
Closing balance as at 8 February 2018 (account 1)	£500.00

Recommendation:

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

Precept 2017/18

The precept was confirmed as being £31,000.00 for the year 2017/18.

Audit Report 2016/17

The Community Council considered the notes of the discussion meeting that was held on the 4 December 2017 to go through the audit report of the BDO LLP(copy notes attached). All Community Councillors present were happy with the explanations provided and the recommendations going forward for the following year, this document has been shared with all Community Councillors and all feedback taken in to account. It was also noted that new external auditors (PFK Littlejohn) had been appointed.

28/18. Date and time of the next meeting

The date and time of the next meeting is 8 March 2018 at 6pm in the Community Room, Moorland House, Moulton Place.