

Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



Meeting held at:
The Community Room
Moorland House, Moulton Place
Blakelaw, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 3RY
Tel: 07588154441
E-mail: bnfcc@outlook.com

Chairperson of Council: John Wears
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE HELD: Thursday 9 May 2019

TIME: 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs John Wears(JW), Violet Rooke(VR), Ann Keenan(AK), Karen Ferry(KF), Ron Clarke(RC), James Gill(JG) and Lorraine Birkett(LB)

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council (minutes)
Jean McCartney – Resident
Debbie Playford – Resident
Edward Henry – Resident
Newcastle City Councillor – Nora Casey
Joan Gill – Resident
Margaret Taylor – Resident

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a resident raised concerns regarding the junction at Binswood Avenue and Sunnyway. Vehicles were travelling at speed up and down the road. It was felt that there were now too many cars for the area and residents were concerned what would happen when all the new houses were built. The resident stated that he had collected signatures for a petition which had been handed to City Councillor Sue Pearson when she had been a Councillor but he had not heard anything since. There was general discussion regarding traffic as it was a concern to all residents. It was agreed that the Clerk to the Community Council would contact Newcastle City Council for an update.

Another resident raised the ongoing concerns around parking at Hilton Primary School, she confirmed that it was getting better however the school was renting out their field on a weekend and those using it were unable to park within the school car park and were parking in streets next to the school. After some discussion it was agreed that JW would contact the school and KF would speak with the football club and ask if players parents could be more considerate when parking at the school on a weekend.

AK raised whether there was any information regarding the new allotments. It was thought that all of the allotments had been taken but as the Community Council had not had any involvement in their allocation they would need to speak with the allotments officer to find out what the process would be for obtaining an allotment.

51/19. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillor Rowena Spencer.

52/19. Declaration of Interests

- Violet Rook – Governor at Thomas Walling School and Governor with the North East Ambulance Service
- Ron Clarke - 165 TARA, Newcastle Community Asset Trust and Trading Arm of Newcastle Community Asset Trust
- Ann Keenan – Volunteer at Newcastle Community Asset Trust and Credit Union
- Karen Ferry – Blakelaw Club Juniors Football Club
- James Gill – Newcastle Community Asset Trust Board Member

53/19. Election of Chair and Vice Chair 2019-2020

Following a discussion, it was agreed that if John Wears was willing to stand as Chair of the Community Council for a second year, all other Councillors would be supportive of this.

It was therefore agreed that John Wears would be elected as the Chair of Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council for 2019-2020.

Election of Vice Chair

For the role of Vice Chair to the Community Council there were 2 nominations, Community Councillor Ron Clark and Community Councillor James Gill. Following a show of hands as per the below, it was agreed that Ron Clark would be elected as Vice Chair of Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council for 2019-2020

Ron Clark – 3 votes

James Gill – 2 votes

54/19. Minutes/Matters Arising from AGM dated 10 May 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 May 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair. However, it was noted that Rowena Spencer (RS) had not attended last year's AGM and was also not in attendance tonight. It was agreed that the Chair would contact RS regarding attendance.

55/19. Outgoing Chairs Report

JW took the Community Council through his review of 2018/2019 – See attached.

Highlights from the past year included our very own community defibrillator being installed, the very successful community coach trip to the Christmas market in York and the work that was being planned as part of our mental health in the community campaign.

56/19. Incoming Chairs Introduction

JW took the Community Council through what he hoped was going to be another successful year for the Community Council. The Community Council would continue to push on with engaging with the community, mental health awareness would be high on the agenda as we had been very lucky to obtain a grant from Blakelaw Ward Councillors and we were looking to arrange further coach trips for residents in the summer and December. Councillors thanked JW for his hard work over the last year.

JW confirmed that he would email Community Councillors in the next week regarding sub group memberships.

57/19. Minutes/Matters Arising - April 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 April 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

58/19. Police Update

Sadly the Police were not in attendance. Neither residents or Newcastle City Councillor Nora Casey knew who was the new PCSO but we would all pull together to find out who it was.

The 101 number still continued to be troublesome which was having a knock on affect as residents are reluctant to call and report issues.

59/19. Update from Blakelaw Ward Councillors

City Councillor Nora Casey provided an update to the Community Council. NC confirmed that Councillor Linda Hobson had been re-elected as a Ward member and thanked those who voted for her.

There was an update on the lifts within the 3 tower blocks. Your Homes Newcastle were awaiting a report on the next steps as the lifts continued to be troublesome.

Residents raised concerns around garden waste collection letters, some residents had received there's and other not – NC confirmed she would look in to this.

A resident queried whether a bin that had been placed very near her property could be moved. It was being filled full of household waste and kept being vandalised. NC confirmed she would request that it was moved or removed from it's current position. General comments were made about litter and fly tipping and it was generally felt that once they closed a further waste recycling plant the problem of fly tipping would get worse.

NC also confirmed that the Ward continue to support a welfare rights session in Cowgate for residents.

60/19. Financial Matters

Payments for Approval

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 12 April 2019 to 9 May 2019

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£31,584.07
Total	£32,084.07

Less: Payments:

Blakelaw Pensioners Association(Grant)	£900.00
Stanley Travel	£1210.00
NUFC(Grant)	£2000.00
Blakelaw Flats TARA(Grant 100584)	£350.00
Blakelaw Flats TARA(Grant 100585)	£1300.00
NALC(Subs)	£699.11
Peter Basnett(Internal Audit)	£152.00
H V Richardson – May 2019 Salary & Laptop Cover	£459.66
HMRC – May 2019	£91.00
Total	£7,161.77

Closing balance as at 9 May 2019 (account 2) £24,422.30

Closing balance as at 9 May 2019 (account 1) £500.00

Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The Clerk took the Community Council through the Annual Governance Return for 2018/19. Sections covered were:

- Annual Internal Report 2018/19
- Annual Governance Statement 2018/19
- Accounting Statement 2018/19
- Bank Reconciliation 2018/19
- Explanation of Variances 2018/19
- Bank Reconciliation 2018/19
- Internal Audit Report 2018/19
- Receipts and Payments 2018/19
- Contact details

The Community Council discussed each section in detail and approved the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk confirmed that the statement would be sent to PFK Littlejohn, external auditors.

61/19. Any Other Business

No issues raised

62/19. Date and time of the next meeting

The date and time of the next meeting is 13 June 2019 at 6pm in the Community Room, Moorland House, Moulton Place.