

# **BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council held at Blackwell Community Centre, Woburn Close, Blackwell on Monday 7 April 2014 at 7.25 p.m.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor N J B Willens (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Munks: I J A Newham: R A Poulter: R J

Sainsbury; B Stocks: A F Tomlinson: L Walker and Mrs P R

Wilkinson.

## **1/2014 ALSO PRESENT**

Four Parishioners

## **2/2014 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D G B Bullock, I G Cox and C R Moesby.

## **3/2014 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST/CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Chairman reminded Council members to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in subsequent Agenda items in accordance with the Parish Councils code of Conduct. Interest that became apparent at a later stage in the proceedings could be declared at that time.

## **4/2014 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**Mr G Heaseman, Newton** circulated a copy of a letter of objection to the proposed planning development by Wheeldon Brothers Limited for a further 45 dwellings situated at Thurgarton Way, Newton. Mr Heaseman explained to Council Members in a very coherent manner his reasons for objecting to the proposals and Council Members were fully supportive of him.

Following comments by various members of the Council with regard to the possible development, it was agreed that the

Clerk write to the Planning Officer, Bolsover District Council enclosing a copy of the letter written by Mr Heaseman.

**Mr B Clarkson, Blackwell** advised Council Members that the Road Sign at the junction of Fordbridge Lane/Primrose Hill, Blackwell had been damaged. It was agreed the Clerk write to the Highways Department, Derbyshire County Council requesting that the damaged sign be replaced.

**5/2014**      **POLICE MATTERS**

Council Members noted that no Police Officer was in attendance.

**6/2014**      **COUNTY COUNCILLOR C R MOESBY**

The Clerk advised Council Members, that due to illness, County Councillor C R Moesby was unable to attend the Meeting.

**7/2014**      **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 March 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**8/2014**      **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

There were no confidential items.

**9/2014**      **CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Following a brief report from the Chairman with regard to the Code of Conduct.

**RESOLVED** that the Blackwell Parish Council resolves that the wording of the General Conduct Agreement be included in its Code of Conduct in order to bring that Code of Conduct in to line with that adopted by Bolsover District Council (Minute 289/2013 refers).

Following a request from the Chairman, Councillor L Walker acknowledged that he had in fact received a copy of the Councils Standing Orders.

The Clerk advised Council Members that since the last Meeting of the Council held on 3 March 2014 a Freedom of Information request had been received from a resident with regard to having a copy of the Accounts for Payment and also copies of the individual invoices.

The Clerk further commented that he had been in conversation with the Information Commissioner who had advised him that as the resident concerned had been noted at the Council Meeting on 3 March 2014 to peruse all the Invoices presented for payment in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (Section 22) there was no requirement on the Councils part to provide the resident concerned with individual copies of the Invoices.

Councillor L Walker claimed that the Clerk had not, at the Meeting on 3 March 2014 presented the Invoices for payment and Councillor Walker was roundly criticised by Council Members that the Clerk had in fact provided copies of the Invoices for payment.

It was further agreed, following a suggestion from the Clerk, that should any further requests be received under the Terms and Conditions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, these would be referred to the Vice Chairman of the Council, Councillor I J A Newham for him to record and then pass to the Clerk to respond.

## **10/2014      ALLOTMENTS**

The Chairman reported for information that a complaint had been received from a resident of Sherwood Street, Newton with regard to bonfires that had been lit at the Councils Littlemoor Lane Allotment Site.

The Chairman further commented that the complaint would be referred to the Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Holders Association to be held on 29 April 2014 and that a reminder would be sent to all Allotment Holders of the Tenancy Conditions with regard to bonfires.

The Clerk reported for information that the Memorial Seat in respect of the late Councillor Walter (Sam) Haynes had been received and that the location of the Seat at the Councils Littlemoor Lane Allotments was to be determined.

The Clerk also reported for information receipt of a letter from the Senior Principle Solicitor, Bolsover District Council advising that he had written to the owner of 60 The Ridge, Blackwell advising him that once the Council (Bolsover District Council) had sold the land where 60 The Ridge was now situated it would have passed on the Boundary Fence responsibilities to the new owner.

**11/2014**      **HIGHWAYS**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Project Engineer, Highways Department, Nottinghamshire County Council advising him that the Parish Councils objections to a proposed 7.5 tonne environmental weight limit at Chesterfield Road, Huthwaite had been considered at a Meeting of the Transport and Highways Committee, Nottinghamshire County Council on 11 September 2013 who had resolved to over rule the objection and it considered that the route through Hilcote, and Tibshelf carrying a "B" classification was more suitable than unclassified Chesterfield Road for carrying heavy traffic to and from the Tibshelf Industrial Estate. The order would come into effect on 31 March 2014. It was further noted that the Environmental Weight Limit did not cover entirely Chesterfield Road, Huthwaite but only to its junction with Newtonwood Lane, Council Members considered this to be most unsatisfactory.

The Clerk further reported that he had spoken with the Highways Engineer, Derbyshire County Council who had advised him that the County Council had objected to the proposals by Nottinghamshire County Council but had been over ruled.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Highways Engineer, Derbyshire County Council expressing the Councils concern with regard to the attitude taken by Nottinghamshire County Council in dealing with this particular objection and it was further agreed that the Cabinet Member responsible for Transport at Derbyshire County Council also be informed.

The Clerk further reported receipt of a letter from the Highways Department, Derbyshire County Council advising that the recent severe winter, wet winter weather had caused extensive damage to the County's roads and that the County Council had taken action to mend as many pot holes as quickly as possible. Road Workers had been working extra hours to help fix the backlog and external contractors had also been brought in 7600 reports about pot holes in the current year had been received compared 5,200 during the same period last year. Progress was being made but it would take time to sort it out.

**12/2014**      **PLAYING FIELDS**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Street Scene Co-ordinator, Bolsover District Council giving a quotation for a Grounds Maintenance Contract (grass cutting) at the Councils various Playing Fields in the sum of £3475.15 plus VAT. Following a short discussion

**RESOLVED** that the Quotation received from Bolsover District Council with regard to grass cutting at the Councils Playing Fields in the sum of £3475.15 plus VAT be accepted.

Councillors Mrs C Munks and A F Tomlinson declared a personal interest in the foregoing item and took no part in the discussion and decision thereon.

The Chairman reported for information that a Meeting with representatives of Groundwork Creswell, Mansfield and Ashfield with regard to the provision of new Play Equipment at Charnwood Crescent Playing Field, Newton was being organised and it was anticipated that a report would be submitted to a future Meeting of the Council.

Councillor R A Poulter advised Council Members of £750 Match Funding to be provided by Sporting Hearts for the Bolsover District Council Streets Sports Diversionsary Out Reach Programme 2014.

Councillors expressed their appreciation of Councillor Poulter's action as the additional funding would provide a further ten additional sessions.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor R A Poulter be thanked for his work in relation to the Match Funding for the Sports Diversionsary Out Reach Programme 2014.

Councillor R A Poulter took no part in the decision thereon.

**13/2014**

**FOOTPATHS**

Councillor I J A Newham circulated a photograph of what was suspected clinical waste had been dumped on Network Rail land at Westhouses.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk, as a matter of urgency, contact Network Rail with regard to the removal of the possible clinical waste that had been deposited on Network Rail land at Westhouses.

Councillor B Stocks advised Council Members of a letter that he had received from a resident of Fairfield Avenue, Hilcote with regard to Japanese Knotweed on Derbyshire County Council owned land adjacent to the residents' property.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk write to the Environmental Services Section, Derbyshire County Council, requesting urgent attention

be given the complaint from the resident of Fairfield Avenue, Hilcote, with regard to Japanese Knotweed.

Councillor Stocks further advised Council Members that the Hilcote Environmental and Leisure Project Group had been in negotiation with a local farmer and had acquired an area of land at the junction of Pasture Lane, New Lane, Hilcote and that this would be used for the planting of a suitable fir tree in time for the Christmas 2014 celebrations.

Councillor Mrs P R Wilkinson expressed concerns with regard to dog fouling along the footpath between Littlemoor Lane/Charnwood Crescent, Newton.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk write to the Dog Warden, Bolsover District Council requesting that urgent attention be given to this particular complaint.

Several Council Members commented with regard to the stone wall adjacent to the old vicarage, Church Hill, Old Blackwell, being structurally unsafe.

**RESOLVED** the Clerk write to the Engineer, Bolsover District Council requesting that an urgent inspection be carried out of the stone wall adjacent to the old vicarage, Church Hill, Old Blackwell as soon as possible.

**14/2014**

**ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk submitted a list of Accounts for payment totalling £15,124.75 and it was agreed these be paid. The Clerk also furnished the following documents to Members for their inspection,

- 1 .Copy of the Councils Bank Reconciliation Statement,
2. Copy of the Councils Audit Form confirming the Councils current financial position.
3. Copy of the Councils Bank Statement.

The foregoing documents conform to the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England 2011) (SI number 2011/817).

**15/2014**

**BOLSOVER PARTNERSHIP**

The Chairman reported for information that he had attended a Meeting of the Parish Councils Liaison Group on 20 March 2014. There had been presentation by a

1.A Presentation by a Representative of Rural Action Derbyshire on neighbourhood planning.

2.Community Out Reach Programme given by a representative from Bolsover District Council Leisure Services.

A Work Shop had also taken place to monitor activities of Parish and Town Councils to measure contributions to the District Councils Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Chairman further advised Council Members that also on 20 March 2014 he had attended a Meeting of the Business and Enterprise Action Group which had involved:

1. Some Self Assessment.
2. Consideration of commissioning briefs for approve of projects on volunteering, budget mentors, help to work and raising aspirations.

**16/2014 DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Clerk reported receipt of the following Derbyshire Association of Local Council Circulars:-

1. 05/2014 – DALC Subscription Renewal/NALC Policy Consultation etc.
2. 06/2014 – Repeal of Section 105 (5 Local Government Act 1972) Ways to pay PAYE and National Insurance contributions.
3. 7/2014 –Spring Seminar reminder/openness in Local Government.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk reported on their attendance at the DALC Spring Seminar held at Ashover Village Hall on 27 March 2014 where there had been a good cross section of items for discussion ranging from Insurance/Community Transport/ New Pensions requirements Annual Return/On line banking procedure/World War 1 Commemoration Project.

**17/2014 QUALITY STATUS PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME**

The Chairman reported that the Councils Website was functioning satisfactorily.

Councillor I J A Newham reported for information that the Councils Newsletter had been distributed to all households

within the Parish of Blackwell and asked for contributions for the Summer edition of the Newsletter to be with him by no later than 28 May 2014

**18/2014**

**PLANS**

The following Plans were submitted and determined as indicated:

1. 14/00062/FUL – Mr J Lynch, Church Hill Farm, Cragg Lane, Old Blackwell – single storey, rear extension and insertion of roof lights **no objections.**
2. 14/001/1/FUL – Mrs K Brindle, Westhouses Farm, Alfreton Road. Westhouses – Conversion of Barn into dog kennels and conversion of stables into reception and welcome centre **no objections.**
3. 14/00095/FUL – Mr B Winter, Boucher House, Huthwaite Lane, Old Blackwell – change of existing Planning Consent for a garage block and store to garage block and annexe over the property – **no objections.**
4. 14/00123/RETRO – Mr and Mrs Castledine, Gloves Lane, Blackwell – Retrospective application for the retention of a lean to side extension to barn on land South West of Gloves Lane and North Hardwick Close, Blackwell – **not approved.**
5. 14/00149/FUL – Mr R Oud, 510 New Street, Hilcote – Single storey, side and rear extension to the property **-no objections.**

**19/2014**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported for information receipt of a letter from County Councillor Anne Western, Leader of Derbyshire County Council advising the Council during the next twelve months, the County Council needed to cut £36.7 million pound from their budget.

This had been reported previously to a Council Meeting by County Councillor C R Moesby.

The Clerk also reported receipt of a letter from Grant Thornton UK LLP the Councils external Auditors advising that the notice of Annual Audit of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2014 and that the notice of appointment of date for the exercise of elective rights had to be displayed for 14 days from the 16



May 2014 and the statutory dead line for the approval of the Annual Return was 30 June 2014.

**20/2014**      **BLACKWELL,HILCOTE, NEWTON COMMUNITY CENTRES**

The Chairman and Clerk reported for information that water misers had now been fitted at Blackwell/Newton Community Centres.

**21/2014**      **DOE HILL COMMUNITY PARK**

The Clerk reported that the next Meeting of the Doe Hill Community Park Advisory Panel would be held on 9 April 2014.

**22/2014**      **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2014/2015**

The Council approved the following Schedule of Meetings for the year 2014/2015:

Monday 12 May 2014	Newton Community Centre 7.00 p.m.
Monday 2 June 2014	Hilcote Community Centre 7.00 p.m.
Monday 7 July 2014	Blackwell Community Centre 7.00 p.m.
August 2014	No Meeting
Monday 1 September 2014	Newton Community Centre 7.00 p.m.
Monday 6 October 2014	Hilcote Community Centre.
Monday 3 November 2014	Blackwell Community Centre 7.00 p.m.
Monday 1 December 2014	Newton Community Centre 7.00 p.m.
Monday 5 January 2015	Hilcote Community Centre 7.00 p.m.
Monday 2 February 2015	Blackwell Community Centre 7.000 p.m.
Monday 2 March 2015	Newton C community Centre 7.00 p.m.
Monday 13 April 2015	Hilcote Community Centre 7.00 p.m.

**23/2014**      **MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council be held at Newton Community Centre, Newton on Monday 12 May 2014 at 7.00 p.m. and would incorporate the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.