

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council held at Newton Community Centre, Newton on Monday 3 February 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor N J B Willens (Chairman)

Councillor D G B Bullock: I G Cox: C R Moesby: I J A Newham: R A Poulter: R J Sainsbury: B Stocks: A F Tomlinson: L Walker and Mrs P R Wilkinson.

237/2013

ALSO PRESENT

PCSO Stuart Swaby, Derbyshire Constabulary and seven Parishioners

238/2013

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs C Munks.

239/2013

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.

240/2013

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mrs J Smith, Newton asked what if with regard to the damage of the hedgerow at the North Street Allotments, Newton, she was advised by the Clerk that enquiries were still ongoing and a further report would be submitted to the Council at its Meeting on 3 March 2014.

Mrs R Smith, Newton advised Council Members that the drain outside her property on Littlemoor Lane was blocked and Councillor C R Moesby in his capacity as County Councillor undertook to speak with the appropriate Officer in the Highways Department, Derbyshire County Council to have the blocked drain cleared as soon as possible.

Mrs A Riley, Newton advised Council Members of her concerns with regard to what she considered indiscriminate parking by motorists outside Newton Primary School and she was advised by PCSO Stuart Swaby, that attention had already been given to this particular problem but further action would be considered

241/2013

POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Stuart Swaby. Derbyshire Constabulary attended the Meeting and advised Council Members of the crime figures to 31 January 2014 and that the next Police Drop-In Surgeries would be held at:

1. Blackwell Community Centre Thursday 13 February 2014
10.a.m./11 a.m.
2. Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre – 14 February
2014 10 a.m./11 00 a.m.

The Derbyshire Mobile Police Station would be visiting the Parish of Blackwell on 6/27 February 2014 between 9.00 a.m./12 noon.

PCSO Swaby further advised Council Members that two Community Speed Watch events had been carried out in Hilcote on 10/13 January 2014.

Following a suggestion from Councillor I J A Newham

RESOLVED that a vote of confidence be given to PCSO Stuart Swaby and his colleagues for the excellent manner in which they carried out their duties within the Parish of Blackwell.

It was further **RESOLVED** that PCSO Stuart Swaby be thanked for his attendance and report.

242/2013

COUNTY COUNCILLOR C R MOESBY

County Councillor C R Moesby advised Council Members:

1. A Comprehensive overview of savings of £57 million pounds which had to be made over the next four years.
2. County Council Tax Rise would be 1.99 per cent.
3. Establishment of Food Banks including the Village of South Normanton.
4. New roof provided to Blackwell Primary School
5. £14 Million Pound Plan for regenerating the former Markham Vale Colliery site
6. Preparation of a Derbyshire County Council County Plan.
7. Pavement improvements adjacent to the former Railway Bridge at Main Street, Newton,
8. Tibshelf School – OFSTED Report.

RESOLVED that County Councillor C R Moesby be thanked for his attendance and report.

Councillor A F Tomlinson, in his capacity as Deputy Leader, Bolsover District Council advised Council Members:

1. Joint Strategic Alliance with North East Derbyshire District Council.

2. Savings by restructuring the Senior Management Team.
3. Voluntary redundancy
4. Reduction to £2 million pounds in Government Grant for the financial year 2014/15.
5. Retention of 20% of the Business Rate within the Bolsover District.
6. No increase in District Council Tax for the year 2014/2015.

RESOLVED that Councillor A F Tomlinson be thanked for his report.

243/2013

BLACKWELL RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

Councillor I J A Newham, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Blackwell Residents Action Group advised Council Members of Events/Projects that the Group had been involved in during the last three months:

1. Concert by the Chapeltown Silver Prize Band was a great success attracting an audience of over 90 and that the evening had begun with a Carol Service round the village Christmas tree.
2. A Successful Christmas Fair.
- 3 Children of the Village of Blackwell had been invited to a Christmas Party in the Community Centre which included party games, a visit from Santa Claus, a Disco and a Bouncy Castle.
4. The Group were still looking for a Chairman.
5. A Pie and Pea Supper and Bingo night would be held at Blackwell Community Centre on 1 March 2014.
6. The Group would be celebrating the Anniversary of the Mining Memorial completion in April 2014 and the Celebration would include a Tribute Band Concert in the evening.
7. The Village Planters and Flower Beds had all been planted with Winter flowers and would provide a good display once the weather improves.
8. The Group was still awaiting for Western Power Distribution to install an unmetered supply to power the Christmas Tree Lights at Christmas time.
9. The Group had donated a hand carved wooden rocking horse made by Mr J Rusby, Blackwell to the Tiny Tots Nursery on Gloves Lane, Blackwell.

RESOLVED that Councillor I J A Newham be thanked for his report.

244/2013

HILCOTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEISURE PROJECT.

Mr M Greenwood, Chairman, Hilcote, Chairman Hilcote Environmental and Leisure Project advised Council Members

1. The Grot to Green Project to maintain the landscaping, etc round the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre.

2. The Lottery Project which would help maintain the diversity of the woodland and to remove all unsightly timbers from the planted hedgerow and to drain the path.
3. Duck Day money, some of the money from this event would be spent within the village i.e. Spring bulb Planting and also the provision of Planters at New Lane, Hilcote.

RESOLVED that Mr M Greenwood be thanked for his attendance and report.

245/2013

NEWTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

In the absence, due to illness of Mrs D Willens, Secretary, Newton Community Association, Councillor N J B Willens advised Council Members

1. The Association had recommenced Film Nights at Newton Community Centre and these were held on the last Wednesday in each month.
2. The Flower Beds outside the Community Centre had now been planted.

RESOLVED that Councillor N J B Willens be thanked for his report.

246/2013

WESTHOUSES RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

Mr D Fowkes, Chairman Westhouses Residents Action Group advised Council Members

1. Volunteers from the Village of Westhouses were still required.
2. Solar Lighting at the Councils Tibshelf Road Playing Field. He was advised by the Chairman that, due to poor weather conditions, it was not possible to get the appropriate machinery on to the Playing Field to carry out remedial repair work to the lighting, however, as and when weather conditions improved the necessary work would be carried out.
3. Petty vandalism to fencing and gate at a small picnic area, Midland Terrace Westhouses, it was agreed the Clerk write to the Street Services Manager, Bolsover District Council, requesting that appropriate repair work be carried out at this location.

RESOLVED that Mr D Fowkes be thanked for his attendance and report.

Following a suggestion from Councillors R A Poulter and Mrs P R Wilkinson a letter of thanks be sent to the representatives of all the Residents Group within the Parish thanking them for the hard work that their respective Groups had carried out on behalf of the community.

247/2013

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 January 2014 and Special Council Meeting held on 20 January 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

248/2013 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Clerk reported in view of the confidential nature of the matter concerning:

- a. Report received from the Monitoring Officer, Bolsover District Council.
- b. Receipt of a letter from the Information Commissioner.

It would be necessary to consider a resolution to exclude the Public and Press from the Meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (S1) in order to discuss the items.

249/2013 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Council Members that they all been provided with a copy of the Councils revised Standing Orders.

RESOLVED that Blackwell Parish Council adopt the revised version of its Standing Orders as distributed to all Council Members with immediate effect.

The Clerk reported receipt of an invitation for the Chairman and his wife to attend Bolsover District Council Civic Service on Sunday 23 March 2014 at Holy Trinity Church Drive, Shirebrook at 3.00 p.m.

RESOLVED the Chairman and his wife be authorised to attend the Bolsover District Council Civic Service on Sunday 23 March 2013.

250/2013 ALLOTMENTS

Councillor R A Poulter reported for information that the next Committee Meeting of the Newton/Blackwell Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association would be held on 12 February 2014

The Clerk advised Council Members that he had been in contact with Glasdon Products, Blackpool with regard to the provision of a Memorial Seat to former Councillor Sam Haynes (Minute 235/2013 refers) and the Seat comprising recycled materials was £419.56 which included delivery but excluded VAT.

The Clerk also reported that Glasdon Products would undertake a suitable engraving the memory of Councillor Sam Haynes and this would cost £64.80.

RESOLVED the Clerk be authorised to contact Glasdon Products Limited, Blackpool to purchase a suitable memorial seat together with engraving in the total sum of £484.36.

251/2013

HIGHWAYS

Councillor Mrs P R Wilkinson advised Council Members that the Grit Bin located at the junction of Church Close, Tibshelf Road, Westhouses was empty.

RESOLVED the Clerk write to the Highways Department, Derbyshire County Council requesting that the Grit Bin located at the junction of Church Close/Tibshelf Road, Westhouses be filled.

Councillor R A Poulter expressed further concerns with regard to indiscriminate parking by motorists at the junction of Westfield Drive and Alfreton Road, Blackwell.

RESOLVED the Clerk write to the local Beat Officer. Derbyshire Constabulary requesting that attention be given to the problem of indiscriminate parking by motorists at the junction of Westfield Drive and Alfreton Road, Blackwell.

Councillor C R Moesby, in his capacity as County Councillor, advised that the Derbyshire County Council contact telephone number for reporting pot holes was 01629 533190.

252/2013

PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman reported for information that due to poor weather conditions it had not been possible for the Contractors to take machinery on to the Councils Tibshelf Road Playing Field, Westhouses to deal with the faulty Solar Lighting system.

The Chairman further reported that a Meeting was to be arranged between Newton Community Association and Groundwork Creswell with regard to the provision of new Play Equipment at the Councils Charnwood Crescent Playing Field, Newton.

253/2013

FOOTPATHS

Following a complaint from Councillor I G Cox

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Parish Caretaker with regard to "No Dog Fouling" signs being highlighted on the pavement at Main Street, Newton.

Councillor L Walker advised Council Members that a number of care tyres had been dumped in the hedgerow at Hilcote Lane, Hilcote.

RESOLVED the Clerk contact the Street Services Manger, Bolsover District Council requesting that the car tyres dumped at Hilcote Lane, Hilcote be removed as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs P R Wilkinson advised Council Members that the hedgerow belonging to Dennis Rye Limited at Alfreton Road, Westhouses was obstructing the pavement.

RESOLVED the Clerk write to the Highways Department, Derbyshire County Council requesting the hedgerow at Alfreton Road, Westhouses be cut back.

Councillor I J A Newham asked Councillor C R Moesby, in his capacity as County Councillor, when the Blackwell Trail was likely to be formally adopted and Councillor Moesby said he would investigate this and report back to the next Meeting of the Council on 3 March 2014.

254/2013

ACCOUNTS

The Clerk submitted a list of accounts for payment totalling £47,491.97 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 Regulation (England 2011) (SI number 2011/817).

255/2013

BOLSOVER PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman reported for information on his attendance at a Parish Councils Liaison Group held on 27 January 2014 and the main item was a Presentation by Disability Dynamics, an Organisation dedicated to helping disabled people into self employment where they were not restricted by the constraints of conventional employment.

The Chairman further reported for information that he had attended a Meeting of the Partnership Executive Board on 9 January 2014 with a Presentation on the proposed HS2, the main points raised related to the items this project would bring to the district or rather the lack of them.

256/2013

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

1. 23/2013 – Section 137 expenditure limit for 2014/2015 – Council Tax Benefits Support Grant – DALC Spring Seminar 27 March 2014.

It was agreed the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to attend the DALC Spring Seminar to be held at Ashover Village Hall on 27 March 2014.

2. 01/2014 – Index.
3. 02/2014 - DALC Spring Seminar.

257/2013 **QUALITY STATUS PARISH/AND TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME**

The Chairman advised Council Members that the Councils Web Site was functioning satisfactorily.

Following a Report from Councillor I J A Newham it was agreed that future editions of the Councils News Letter contained.

“The Council accept no responsibility for any of the advertisements appearing in this Newsletter”.

258/2013 **PLANS**

The following Plan was submitted and determined as indicated:

1. 14/00028/TPO – Mr J Smith, 8 Penine Close, Newton – to prune oak tree to rear of property – **no objections.**

259/2023 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Bolsover District Council Street Sports Diversionary Out Reach Programme Worker with regard to the Out Reach Programme for the current year.

RESOLVED the Street Sports Diversionary Out Reach Programme worker be invited to the next Meeting of the Council to be held on 3 March 2014.

260/2013 **BLACKWELL/NEWTON COMMUNITY CENTRES**

The Clerk reported for information that Mr S Stevenson, Blackwell had commenced his employment on 17 January 2014 with Derbyshire County Council as now Part Time (22 hours per week) Caretaker of the Councils Newton Community Centre.

Councillor C R Moesby declared an interest in the foregoing item and took no part in the discussion and decision thereon.

Following a suggestion from Councillor Mrs P R Wilkinson it was agreed to investigate further additional water saving devices at both Blackwell and Newton Community Centres.

261/2013 **DOE HILL COMMUNITY PARK**

The Clerk reported for information that he had received a letter from the Clerk to Tibshelf Parish Council confirming that the Council had agreed £1000 contribution towards the maintenance of Doe Hill Community Park for the year 2014/2015.

Councillor C R Moesby, in his capacity as County Councillor, advised Council Members that he would be visiting both Morton Parish Council and Shirland and Higham Parish Councils to discuss a contribution towards the upkeep of the Doe Hill Community Park.

262/2013

HILCOTE MINERS WELFARE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Clerk reported for information that the completed Deed of Novation had now been received from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The Clerk further reported that he was in the process of applying for the licence for the premises to be transferred in to his name.

263/2013

MEETING

RESOLVED that the next Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council be held at Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre on Monday 3 March 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

In View of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed RESOLVED the press and public be excluded from the Meeting in accordance with the public bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960 (SI) in order to discuss the following items.

264/2013

MONITORING OFFICERS REPORT BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Chairman advised Council Members of a report from the Monitoring Officer Bolsover District Council with regard to the complaints brought by the Clerk against a Member of the Parish Council.

The Investigator acting on behalf of the Monitoring Officer concluded that the Council Member concerned had breached the Parish Council's General Conduct Agreement as outlined in paragraphs 8.2 and 8.3 of the investigated report and was therefore referring the matter to the Parish Council so that the Parish Council could determine what action to take.

RESOLVED

1. A vote of confidence was approved for the Clerk.

2. The Council Member concerned be issued with a formal warning that if there was a repeat of inappropriate conduct towards the Clerk, the Member would no longer be heard and excluded from the Meeting under Standing Order 2B.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Monitoring Officer, Bolsover District Council requesting clarification on comments by the Council Member concerned.

The Chairman further advised Council Members of the involvement of the Information Commissioner with regard to complaints from the same Council Member and the Clerk highlighted a number of comments/requests that had been received regarding the Councils Accounts etc. from the said Council Member.

Council Members expressed their concern with regard to what they considered the Clerks time being spent on one individual Councillor to deal with that particular Members enquiries.

It was suggested to the Member concerned that the Member work with the Council and not against it.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.