

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council held at Blackwell Community Centre, Woburn Close, Blackwell on Monday 2 February 2015 at 7pm.

PRESENT

Councillor N J B Willens (Chairman)

Councillors: I G Cox: C R Moesby: Mrs C Munks: I J A Newham: R A Poulter: R J Sainsbury: B Stocks: A F Tomlinson: and L Walker.

214/2014 **ALSO PRESENT**

P C Lorna Evans, PCSO Paul Brownlee, Derbyshire Constabulary and three Parishioners.

215/2014 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D G B Bullock.

216/2014 **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS/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.

217/2014 **PUBLIC SPEAKING (20 MINUTES)**

Mr B Clarkson, Blackwell expressed concerns with regard to the number of potholes on the following roads within the parish – Cragg Lane, Alfreton Road, Main Street, Newton, Fordbridge Lane, Blackwell, Hilcote Lane, Hilcote.

Following a suggestion from Councillor C R Moesby, in his capacity as County Councillor, he advised Mr Clarkson that there was a direct telephone line to Derbyshire County Council, 01629 533190, where pot holes could be reported.

218/2014 **POLICE MATTERS**

PC Lorna Evans and PCSO Paul Brownlee Derbyshire Constabulary attended the Meeting and advised Council Members:

1. Crime Figures to January 2015.

2. Police Drop in Surgeries would be held at:-

- a. Blackwell Community Centre 19 February 2015 10 a.m./11. a.m.
- b. Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre 20 February 2015
10 a.m./11 a.m.

RESOLVED that PC Lorna Evans and PCSO Paul Brownlee be thanked for their attendance and report

219/2014

COUNTY COUNCILLOR C R MOESBY

County Councillor C R Moesby attended the Meeting and advised Council Members that he had no report to give.

220/2014

MR M HARRIS - CREATIVE DIRECTOR - ABSOLUTE VIDEO

The Chairman welcomed to the Meeting Mr Martyn Harris, Creative Director, Absolute Video, who outlined a video proposal for a Blackwell History Project. Mr Harris advised Council Members that the filming for this project would take place during February 2015 and the films would sit on the Blackwell Parish Council Web Site and would also be produced on a DVD and the project could be used as an archive by the local community.

Film No1: This film would feature Councillor Alan Tomlinson talking about his time representing the Parish and contain memories and pictures.

Film No 2: The History of Blackwell with contributions from local historians, pictures and possible archive film to be used.

Film No 3: This film would feature young voices from the area talking about how they see the future.

Mr Harris further advised Council Members that he was liaising with Mrs Carole Hirst, Arts Development Officer at Bolsover District Council in the production of this video and there would not be any political content at all, the video would only be dealing with the history of the Parish.

Councillor L Walker advised Council Members that he would be contacting the Returning Officer, Bolsover District Council, to say that he considered Councillor Tomlinson would be using this video as a political platform for the forthcoming District and Parish Council elections to be held on 7 May 2015.

Mr Harris advised Councillor Walker that this was not true but Councillor Walker insisted that he was correct.

RESOLVED that Mr Martyn Harris, Creative Director, Absolute Video, be thanked for his attendance and report.

221/2014**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 January 2015 and the Special Council Meeting held on 26 January 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

222/20/14**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

There were no confidential items for discussion.

223/2014**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported receipt of an invitation for himself and his wife to attend the Bolsover District Council Civic Service to be held on Sunday 29 March 2015 at Holy Trinity Church, Church Drive, Shirebrook.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and his wife be authorised to attend the Bolsover District Councils Civic Service, to be held on Sunday 29 March 2015 at Holy Trinity Church, Church Drive, Shirebrook.

224/2014**ALLOTMENTS**

The Chairman reported for information that the next Committee Meeting of the Allotment Holders Association would be held on 3 February 2015.

Councillor A F Tomlinson, in his capacity as Deputy Leader, Bolsover District Council, thanked the Clerk for providing him with a copy of a conveyance dated 3 February 1972 between Blackwell Parish Council and Blackwell Rural District Council which showed that the maintenance of the fencing at the rear of bungalows situated on Woburn Close, Blackwell, adjacent to the allotments was to be maintained by Blackwell Rural District Council and its successors, i.e. Bolsover District Council.

Councillor Tomlinson further advised Council Members he would be discussing the matter with the appropriate Officers at Bolsover District Council

225/2014**HIGHWAYS**

The Clerk reported for information receipt of a letter from the Development Control Manager, Bolsover District Council with regard to the felling of a tree at 5 Littlemoor Lane, Newton. Following representations from Councillor A F Tomlinson and the Parish Council an emergency order had been prepared and after completion of the legal paper work on the 7 January 2015 the Planning Officer, Bolsover District Council, telephoned the contractors to advise that an order was being issued and they, the contractors, stopped work.

The Development Control Manager then drove to the site to assess the state of the tree with a view to serving the order however the condition of the tree on his arrival at the site was such that it would have been dangerous to stop the work. He therefore approved the felling of the tree and was advised by the owners that they were intending to plant a replacement tree.

The Chairman also reported that an e-mail had been received with regard to the condition of the bus shelter at Hilcote Lane, Hilcote, but advised Council Members that the shelter had been inspected by a competent engineer and found to be structurally sound.

Councillor L Walker disputed the report.

RESOLVED that no action be taken with regard to the removal of the bus shelter at Hilcote Lane, Hilcote.

226/2014

PLAYING FIELDS

The Clerk reported for information receipt of a letter from the Assistant Contracts Manager, Groundwork Creswell stating that the Contractor responsible for installing the Solar lighting at the Councils Tibshelf Road Playing Field, Westhouses, had been in contact with him and it had been ascertained that the control boards of the solar lights were at fault and they had located a potential replacement which they wanted to trial in the workshop before fitting the control boards to the lights at Tibshelf Road Playing Field.

A further report would be given in due course.

The Chairman reported for information that, along with the Vice Chairman, Councillor I J A Newham and Councillors B Stocks, Mrs C Munks and the Clerk would be attending the Bolsover District Council Offices to meet with the Senior Principal Solicitor there with regard to the land at Pasture Lane, Hilcote.

The Chairman also reported for information that a date and time was still required for the Newton Community Association representatives to meet with Groundwork Creswell with regard to the proposed installation of new Play Equipment at the Councils Charnwood Crescent Playing Field, Newton.

227/2014

FOOTPATHS

Councillor C R Moesby, in his capacity as County Councillor advised Council Members that there were still works outstanding on the Blackwell Trail and, despite pressure from Derbyshire County Council Ranger Service on the contractors progress was slow.

The Chairman advised Council Members that a number of

complaints had been received from local residents with regard to dog fouling and it was agreed that contact be made with the Shop Keepers at Blackwell, Hilcote and Newton urging them to stock a supply of "poop scoop" bags to enable dog owners to purchase same.

228/2014

ACCOUNTS

The Clerk submitted a list of Accounts for payment totaling £5000.24p, and it was agreed that 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.
4. List of Direct Debit payments.

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

The Clerk also handed to each Member present a redacted copy of the accounts for payment.

The Clerk also reported for information the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund dividend statement to 31 December 2014.

229/2014

BOLSOVER PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman reported for information that the next Meeting of the Bolsover Partnership and Parish Council Liaison would be held on 23 February 2015.

The Chairman further reported that a Meeting of the Bolsover Partnership Executive Board would be held on 12 February 2015.

230/2014

DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

1. 01/2015 – Index 2014 Index DALC circulars.
2. 02/2015 – DALC Banking details etc.

231/2014

QUALITY STATUS AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME

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

Councillor I J A Newham also advised Council Members that the Spring Edition of the Councils Newsletter was in the course of preparation.

The Clerk reported for information receipt of a letter from the National Association of Local Councils with regard to the Parish Councils Quality Status confirming that the Council had been awarded the Foundation Level for one year which would expire in January 2016.

232/2014

PLANS

The following Plans were submitted and determined as indicated:

Mr J Johal – Site of Blackwell Hotel, Alfreton Road, Blackwell – erection of four houses comprising of two link detached houses and 2 semidetached houses and associated garages and parking with access off Primrose Hill, Blackwell - **no objections.**

Blackwell Methodist Church, Whites Lane, Blackwell – demolition of former Methodist Church and erection of three dwellings – **no objections.**

Derbyshire County Council - Westhouses Primary School – erection of various singular pieces of woodland inspired trim trail equipment within an isolated corner of the Schools Play Ground - **no objections**

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

.An informal enquiry Mr and Mrs M Allard, Hilcote Arms, New Lane, Hilcote - Change of use to dwellings.

Councillor B Stocks advised Council Members that he had received information that an additional party was interested in re-opening the Hilcote Arms as licensed premises and it was agreed the Clerk advise the Planning Officer, Bolsover District Council of this.

The Chairman reported for information his recent conversation with Mr G Heaseman, Alfreton Road, Newton who thanked the Council for their support with regard to the Planning Application submitted by Wheeldon Brothers Limited for further development at Thurgaton Way, Newton.

233/2014

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman advised Council Members that he had received a letter of complaint from Councillor L Walker, in which he claimed that a complaint made by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer made against him had been placed in the Public Domain without his

knowledge. A copy of Councillor Walker's letter had been circulated to all Council Members with the agenda.

The Chairman made it clear to all Councillors that the detailed agenda as distributed to Councillors is not put into the Public Domain until immediately before the meeting. Had he so wished, Councillor Walker could have asked for the complaint by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to be discussed as a confidential item. Councillor Walker had made no such request.

Council Members agreed that the Chairman had acted in a correct and proper manner in dealing with Council Walker's complaint.

The Chairman and Clerk further advised Council Members that advice had been received from the Regional Advisor and Employment Support Officer, Society of Local Council Clerks in which it was stated that the Council had a duty of care towards its employee namely the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and should take steps to remove this nuisance if Members agreed that there was a nuisance.

Council Members agreed that a nuisance and a constant negative attitude was being caused by Councillor L Walker towards the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that a vote of no confidence be passed on Councillor L Walker.

The Chairman and Clerk also reported receipt of a letter from the Caretaker, Newton Community Centre, advising that on 8 January 2015 Councillor L Walker had made an unannounced visit to the Centre and during his visit had said to the Caretaker that she had only got the job because Councillor C R Moesby in his capacity as County Councillor had had an interest in her being appointed.

Councillor C R Moesby referred Councillor Walker to Minute Number 187/2014 which stated that, he Councillor Moesby had a personal interest in the item under discussion and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

Councillor Walker was declined to respond.

234/2014

DOE HILL COMMUNITY PARK

Councillor I J A Newham reported for information that a Meeting would be taking place on 10 February 2015 with a view to forming a Friends of Doe Hill Park and it was agreed that Councillor C R Moesby contact Morton, Shirland and Higham, Tibshelf Parish Councils requesting that a representative be asked to attend the Meeting.

It was agreed that a vote of thanks be given to Councillor Newham for his work with the Doe Hill Community Park.

235/2014

BLACKWELL/NEWTON/ HILCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRES

The Clerk reported that the Fire Alarm System had failed at Blackwell Community Centre and that an estimate had been received from NE and MS Electrical in the sum of £1215.54p plus VAT had been received.

It was agreed that a further estimate be secured and in the event of the second estimate being higher than the original the Chairman, Vice- Chairman and Clerk be authorised to give instructions for the work to go ahead with NE and MS Electrical.

236/2014

MEETING

RESOLVED that the next Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council be held at Newton Community Centre. Newton, on Monday 2 March 2015.

The Meeting concluded at 8.42 p.m.