

# Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



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Chairperson of Council: Ann Keenan  
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

## **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**DATE HELD: Thursday 12 January 2017**

**TIME: 6.00 pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: Cllrs Ann Keenan(AK), Ron Clarke(RC), Violet Rook(VR), John Wears(JW), Ann Fullen(AF), Irene Teasdale(IT) and James Gill(JG)

### **In Attendance:**

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council (minutes)  
City Councillor Nora Casey  
Steve – NUFC Foundation  
Laura Wilson – NUFC Foundation  
Caroline Afolabi – Success4all  
PC Craig Foster 1634  
PC Chris Wilson 54

### **1/17. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah Nicholson, Doreen Jardine and Karen Ferry.

### **2/17. Declaration of Interests**

Violet Rook – Governor at Thomas Walling School  
Ron Clarke – Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership, 165 Estate TARA, Trading Arm of the BWCP, Trading Arm of the Blakelaw Post Office  
Ann Fullen – Credit Union and Volunteer of the Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership  
Ann Keenan – Credit Union and Volunteer of the Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership  
Irene Teasdale – Trading Arm of BWCP and Owner of Mrs T's Café 1 & 2  
James Gill – Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership

### **3/17. Grant Applications**

#### **Newcastle United Football Club Foundation – Kicks Project**

Laura and Steve from the NUFC Foundation Kicks Project took the Community Council through their grant application for £2000. Laura gave an update on how successful the sessions held on a Monday had been with numbers growing.

The Police expressed an interest in attending the sessions as community support to show the youths at the session that the Police were supportive to the community. Laura confirmed that there was never any anti-social behaviour and there was a huge amount of respect given to all those attending.

Steve confirmed that the project would be working with NCS in the engagement of 180 youths. Steve would like ideas for 15 youths to come and undertake projects in the Blakelaw and North Fenham area.

The Community Council all agreed that this project is vital to the community and the youth provision in the area. It was suggested that as there are a number of youths attending from other parts of Newcastle that the Kicks Project should apply to other Parish Councils for funding. The Clerk confirmed she would send the details of the other Councils over.

Following a discussion, the Community Council agreed to grant the request in full.

#### **Success4all**

Caroline Afolabi took the Community Council through their application for grant funding. Caroline confirmed that those children attending the sessions had been very successful in their GCSE's examinations.

The sessions were now exceeding the size of the room so they were having to move out in to the main hall. They were now also being asked to pay for the hire of the use of the centre.

The Community Council raised concerns at the size of the grant being requested due to the budget currently available for the Community Council. CA confirmed that the amount requested was how much it cost to run the session in Blakelaw and North Fenham. The Community Council queried where those attending came from within the area as it was explained that the Parish and Ward boundaries were considerably different. CA believes that they all come from within walking distance.

Following a discussion and prior to awarding the grant the Community Council wished to have further information regarding where the attendees came from.

The grant will be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Community Council and on receipt of the further information.

### **4/17. Police Update**

PC's Craig Foster 1634 and Chris Wilson 54 introduced themselves as the new Police in the area. Andrea had moved on to the self defence unit.

It was confirmed that there were now only 2 CSO's, one was tasked to Kenton and Fawdon and the other to Cowgate.

The Police confirmed that the main problems seemed to be within the tower blocks with kids getting in and stealing door bells. However, the Police wanted to reassure everyone that there was a Police presence in the area.

There had been some disorder in the Blakelaw Park and 10 vehicles from the 165 Estate had been damaged. There had been 4 arrests but these had been NFA'd. RC raised concerns that this would only get worse when the Council removed the garages during the proposed regeneration of the 165 Estate.

The Police reassured everyone that they were aware of the hotspots and would continue to work with the community.

There was then some general conversation regarding policing and the community.

### **5/17. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 November and 15 December 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **6/17. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising in either set of minutes.

### **7/17. Precept 2017 – 2018 Discussion**

For the benefit of those who were unable attend the Precept meeting on the 15 December 2016, JG took the Community Council through the discussion that was held. JG confirmed that following a very lengthy discussion, the precept was to rise by 7% to £31000.00.

It was also agreed that the grant funding terms and conditions would need to be considered, rewritten and possibly a cap put on the amount organisations were allowed to apply for.

### **8/17. Update on Sub Groups**

**Communications Group** – JW to confirmed that the newsletter was already to go and that it had been emailed to everyone for consideration prior to going to the printers. For those who had seen it, once again thanked JW for his hard work in its preparation. It was agreed that it would still be the plan to deliver the newsletters ourselves.

**Employment Group** – No update

**Environmental Group** – Concerns were raised as to what was happening with the community garden and polytunnel now that Mike Nelis had resigned from the Community Council and it wasn't known whether he was still tending to the gardens. It was acknowledged that Mike had looked after the gardens excellently. It was appreciated that it was currently winter and the garden and polytunnel had been closed down for the winter, it was important that the Community Council knew what was happening with the gardens as they had paid for them and didn't want them to

fall in to disrepair. JG confirmed he would find out and update the Community Council at the next meeting.

### **9/17. To received Correspondence and Communications**

The Clerk confirmed that there had been a wide range of informative emails and correspondence sent out to all.

The Clerk brought the invite to the Royal Garden Party to the attention of the Chair who confirmed she would consider it.

### **10/17. Consider Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to discuss.

### **11/17. Financial Matters**

#### **Bank reconciliation:**

As per transactions relating to 11 November 2016 – 12 January 2017

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£25,465.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>£25,965.80</b>

#### **Less: Payments:**

BWCP – Room Hire Sept-Oct 2016 (1004533)	£56.25
Mad Alice Theatre Company (100454)	£1325.00
New Blakelaw Community Association (100455)	£1020.00
Holly Court Club (100456)	£630.00
Blakelaw Pensioners Association (100457)	£350.00
165 Estate Tara (100458)	£650.00
Helen Richardson – Salary Dec 2016 (100459)	£444.00
HMRC – Dec 2016 (100460)	£88.80
Helen Richardson – Salary Jan 2017 (100461)	£444.00
HMRC – Jan 2017 (100462)	£88.80
Helen Richardson – Consumables (100463)	£67.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,164.25</b>

Closing balance as at 12 January 2017 (account 2)	£20,301.55
Closing balance as at 12 January 2017 (account 1)	£500.00

**12/17. Date, time and venue of next meeting: Thursday 9 February 2017 at 6.00pm in the Blakelaw Centre, Binswood Avenue, Blakelaw**