

# Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



Council Office,  
Blakelaw Centre,  
Binswood Avenue, Blakelaw,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3PN.  
Tel: 07588154441  
E-mail: [bnfcc@outlook.com](mailto:bnfcc@outlook.com)

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

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

**DATE HELD: Thursday 13 April 2017**

**TIME: 6.00 pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: Cllrs Ann Keenan(AK), Violet Rook(VR), James Gill(JG), Irene Teasdale(IT) and Karen Ferry(KF)

### **In Attendance:**

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council (minutes)  
Cllr Oskar Avery – Blakelaw Ward Councillor  
Carole Keith – Independent Welfare Advice

### **41/17. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ron Clarke, Ann Fullen, John Wears, Doreen Jardine and City Councillors Sue Pearson and Nora Casey.

### **42/17. Declaration of Interests**

Ann Keenan – Volunteer at the Credit Union  
Violet Rook – Governor at Thomas Walling School  
James Gill – Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership  
Irene Teasdale – Mrs T's Café 1 & 2 and Trading Arm of BWCP

### **43/17. Police Update**

The Police unfortunately were not in attendance. The Community Councillors expressed their dismay especially in light of the current vandalism that had occurred the previous night to the Blakelaw Neighbourhood Centre, residents cars and homes on Binswood Avenue. The Clerk confirmed that she had received an email from PC Graeme Wilkinson who had confirmed that they would be attending the next meeting. The Clerk had also emailed PC Wilkinson that morning to ensure that there would be Police in attendance but had failed to get a response.

City Councillor Avery stated that he would be able to give an update on Policing in the area as they regularly met with the Police. Cllr Avery commented that there had been a spike in ASB but that disorder around the 3 blocks of flats seemed to have gone down. However it was felt amongst the Community Councillors that since the work had started on the 165 Estate it was felt that disorder had again escalated.

Cllr Gill queried with Cllr Avery as to whether he was aware of the incident on the night of the 12 April where youths had been on the Blakelaw Centre roof pulling tiles off and throwing them in to the road. These acts had not only caused damage to the roof but also damage to cars and one tile had even been thrown through the window of someone home. Cllr Avery was unaware of this incident however he stated that he would make a number of calls in an attempt to have an Officer attend or at least get an update.

The Clerk stated that she would once again contact the Police and attempt to impress upon the importance of attending especially when incident like this one are occurring.

#### **44/17. Grant Applications**

##### **Independent Welfare Rights Service**

Carole Keith(CK) from Independent Welfare Rights Service confirmed that the sessions had been going well.

CK confirmed that she had been advertising in Holly Court, Anchor Housing and on Facebook. The Clerk queried this she had also looked at the page and had struggled to see the advertising but also commented that there had been no mention of the funding given to CK by the Community Council. The Community Council felt that there had not been enough advertising.

The Community Council queried how many people had attended. CK confirmed that she had had 35 people attend her sessions. It was commented that the Community Council felt that the grant funding given previously had not been used wisely based on 35 people attending.

Concerns were raised in relation to where the sessions had been held. JG explained that during a previous application for a grant it was requested that the session were kept away from the Blakelaw Centre however it turned out that they were being held there. Concern was also raised as mixed messages had been received as to whether or not room hire was being paid. CK stating that it was not being paid however, the Trust stated a small amount was being paid.

The Community Council queried what the success rate had been. CK confirmed that she had been able to help all 35 people who had attended and seen each problem through to the end. Some of those 35 attendees had visit more than once about different problems.

Concern was raised in relation to how funding is kept separate as CK undertook a number of different sessions across Newcastle. CK was unable to confirm what the split was. It was suggested that it may be wise to keep separate bank accounts for each session/funding as it was impossible to see from the current incomplete bank statement what was being spent where.

CK commented that she would withdraw her application and that the amount requested did not cover the cost of undertaking the sessions in Blakelaw. CK stated she had been undertaking the session out of good will and would have done them for free. The Clerk stated that if that had been the case why had there been an application for a grant!

The Community Council stated that they had a number of queries and that on the basis that grant funding was becoming harder all over Newcastle procedure had to be tighter. It was confirmed that the Clerk would forward queries to CK to enable her to answer them to progress her funding application.

### **Blakelaw Pensioners Association**

Unfortunately Linda Palmer and Audrey Boyd were unable to attend but the Community Council went through the grant application to pay for coach travel for 6 trips around the country.

Concern was raised that not all of those attending the group were from the Blakelaw and North Fenham area despite the group being held in the Blakelaw Centre. The Community Council felt that on the basis that they were only funding £800 of £2190 grant that this was reasonable. It was confirmed that further fund raising had been undertaken elsewhere.

The Community Council thereafter agreed to fund the £800 funding request. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Audrey Boyd and requested that they attend a future meeting to update the Community Council on their travels.

### **45/17. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 March 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **46/17. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **47/17. Vacancies for the role of Community Councillor**

The Clerk confirmed that there were still vacancies for Community Councillors and thought should be given to how co-optees should be welcomed to the Council. After a discussion it was agreed that anyone wishing to join the Community Council should attend a number of meetings before meeting with the Council to discuss joining.

### **48/17. Update on Sub Groups**

**Communications Group** – Everyone was reminded to send to Community Councillor John Wears anything that would be of interest to the residents.

**Employment Group** – Due to lack of availability the meeting was cancelled.

**Environmental Group** – No update

#### **49/17. 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 Chair commented that it was disappointing to noted in the Suceess4all newsletter there had been no mention of the Community Councils grant funding. This however may have been due to the newsletter being printed prior to the grant funding being agreed.

#### **49/17. Consider Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to discuss.

#### **50/17. Financial Matters**

##### **Bank reconciliation:**

As per transactions relating to 1 April 2017 – 13 April 2017

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£15,977.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,477.57</b>

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

Helen Richardson – April 2017 Salary(100472)	£444.00
Helen Richardson – Laptop Cover(100472)	£5.00
HMRC – April 2017(100473)	£88.80
Success4all (100474	£2000.00
Hattricks (100475)	£795.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,332.80</b>

Closing balance as at 13 April 2017 (account 2)	£12,644.77
Closing balance as at 13 April 2017 (account 1)	£500.00

#### **51/17. AOB**

The Clerk raised the idea of holding a fayre which may attract others to the Community Council. It was confirmed that there was already a Christmas Fayre and Cllr Avery talked the meeting through the possibility of a dog fun day at Blakelaw Park that the Community Council could attend advertising themselves. Further updates to come in the near future.

**52/17. Date, time and venue of next meeting: Thursday 11 May 2017 at 6.00pm in the Blakelaw Centre, Binswood Avenue, Blakelaw**