

Blakelaw and North Fenham Community Council



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Chairperson of Council: Ron Clarke
Clerk to the Council: Helen Richardson

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE HELD: Thursday 21 September 2017

TIME: 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs Ron Clarke(RC), Ann Keenan(AK), Ann Fullen, Doreen Jardine(DJ), Lorraine Birkett(LB), Karen Ferry(KF), Jimmy Gill(JG), John Wears(JW) and Irene Teesdale(IT)

In Attendance:

Helen Richardson(HR) – Clerk to the Community Council (minutes)
Margaret Kilpatrick – Resident
Debbie Playford – Resident
Nora Casey – Newcastle City Councillor
Oskar Avery – Newcastle City Councillor
Sarah Mason – NE Youth Ltd
Pauline – Resident
Vera – Resident

103/17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillor Violet Rooke

104/17. Declaration of Interests

Irene Teasdale – Mrs T's Café 1 & 2 and Trading Arm of Newcastle Community Asset Trust(NCAT)
Ron Clark – Newcastle Community Asset Trust, Post Master, 165 TARA and Trading Arm of NCAT
Doreen Jardine – 165 TARA and Newcastle Community Asset Trust
Ann Keenan – Volunteer at Moneywise
Karen Ferry – Board Member of Blakelaw Club Juniors Football Club
Ann Fullen – Volunteer at Moneywise
James Gill – Newcastle Community Asset Trust

105/17. Co-options of New Community Councillor

This item was carried over to the next meeting of the Community Council.

106/17. Police

The Police were not in attendance. It was reported that they had attended the week previously despite being informed that the meeting had been put back a week.

107/17. Grant Applications

NE Youth Ltd

Ann Keenan declared an interest in this agenda item.

Sarah Mason attended on behalf of NE Youth Ltd. Sarah took the meeting through how they planned to use the grant funding requested. Sarah stated that the funding would be used to run a youth group at St Peter's Church for youths between the age of 11-14 years old. Sarah confirmed that they had a younger age group and an older age group currently being ran in Cowgate working alongside Kidz Cabin and Play Newcastle, However, it was felt that it was important that the 11-14 year olds didn't mix with the older group.

KF queried how NE Youth would be market the sessions. Sarah confirmed that they would work alongside the Kidz Cabin, advertise on social media, use flyers and they also had a member of the team who worked in Kenton School.

JG queried what are NE Youth would be looking to target? Sarah confirmed that the would be looking to target the area around St Peters Church. JG raised concerns in relation to what youth provision Newcastle Community Asset Trust were providing bearing in mind that they had obtained a 3 year grant from Children in Need to provide youth provision across the Ward last year when they had been named the Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership. JG was concerned that other providers were now coming in to the area to undertake the work it had been understood they would undertake.

Following a very lengthy discussion it was decided that the Community Council would write to the Newcastle Community Asset Trust and ask what youth provision they were supporting in the area following the grant award.

It was explained to Sarah that the Community Council were not refusing her grant but they wished to find out some further information regarding what provision was currently out there.

108/17. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 July 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

109/17. Matters Arising

Debbie Playford confirmed that Jean McCartney had been missed off the attendees. The Clerk apologised and confirmed she would update the records.

110/17. Update from Blakelaw Ward Councillors

Newcastle City Council Ward Councillors Nora Casey and Oskar Avery updated the meeting on a number of issues that had been raised over the past few meetings. Councillors had met with Newcastle Council to discuss the ongoing issues with the very large overgrown trees in the area. Residents have made a number of complaints following branches banging against windows and houses, as well as roots pushing up footpaths and leaves making it impossible to walk on paths due to them being slippery.

Ward Cllrs Casey and Avery had put all these concerns to Newcastle Council who stated that they unfortunately were unable to do anything more than cut branches that were head height or against buildings. The residents are not happy with this as they are concerned about accidents happening with the leaves being wet and the damage that could potentially be caused to their homes. There was a large amount of discussion around this subject and the Ward Councillors confirmed that they would continue to do what they could to try and rectify the situation.

Councillors confirmed that they were having their annual Ward event on the 19th October 2017 and everyone was welcome.

Cllr Nora Casey confirmed that she was now the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Police had also met with Ward Cllrs to discuss the anti-social behaviour of youths in the area.

111/17. Consultation re Ponteland Road Health Centre

In the absence of Community Councillor Violet Rooke, Ward Cllr Oskar Avery updated the meeting in relation to the consultation around the Ponteland Road Health Centre. It was confirmed that the consultation had closed and there had been an excellent response. Representations had been submitted by residents, Newcastle City Council and Health Scrutiny. Cllr Avery also confirmed that the walk-in centre would stay but that it was the GP surgery that was under threat.

It was recognised that Community Councillor Rooke had worked tirelessly during the consultation.

112/17. Update from Community Councillor Rooke re events and training attended

In the absence of Councillor Rooke this item was rolled over to a future meeting.

113/17. Sub Committee Memberships

Employment Group – The Employment Group had met recently. As this is a closed group should anyone wish to have further details they should contact John Wears.

Communications Group – The newsletter was now printed and ready to go. The Community Council wished to use the company that delivers the City Council Life magazine. The Clerk confirmed she would contact them.

There is still no Environmental Group and the Clerk again asked the Community Council to consider how they wished to move forward with this.

114/17. To Receive Correspondence and Communications

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a number of emails and communications that were full of information that could be passed throughout the community.

115/17. To Consider Planning Applications

The meeting discussed the planned building works on the site of the old Red Hut. This will be sheltered housing.

116/17. Financial Matters

Bank reconciliation:

As per transactions relating to 14 July 2017 – 21 September 2017

Per Bank:

Account 1	£500.00
Account 2	£40,597.23
Total	£41,097.23

Less: Payments:

Helen Richardson – August 2017 Salary(100488)	£444.00
Helen Richardson – September 2017 Salary(100493)	£444.00
Helen Richardson – Laptop Cover(100493)	£5.00
Helen Richardson – Laptop Cover(100488)	£5.00
HMRC – August 2017(100489)	£88.80
Blakelaw Social Juniors Football Club(100490)	£2000.00
Blakelaw Ward Community Partnership(100491)	£36.00
Zurich Municipal(100492)	£406.40
HMRC – September 2017 (100494)	£88.80
Total	£3518.00

Closing balance as at 21 September 2017 (account 2) £37,079.20

Closing balance as at 21 September 2017 (account 1) £500.00

117/17. Any Other Business

KF confirmed that she had attended the first Board meeting of the Blakelaw Club Juniors Football Club. KF stated that there was over 40 people in attendance and that the Club was being ran very professionally. The club also had a child welfare officer involved with the Club.

KF had been impressed by the professionalism of all involved. The next Board meeting will be held on the 7 November 2017.

Resident Debbie Playford also confirmed that YHN had confirmed that all fire safety tests had been concluded and it had been confirmed that all 3 tower blocks were safe.

118/17. Date and time of the next meeting

The date and time of the next meeting is 12 October 2017 at 6pm.