

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Hilcote Community Centre, New Street, Hilcote on Monday 6 April 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D G B Bullock (Chairman)

Councillors C R Moesby: I j A Newham: R J Sainsbury: S J Thorpe: A F Tomlinson: Mrs P R Wilkinson and N J B Willens.

ALSO PRESENT

Pc Lorna Evans, Derbyshire Constabulary and 18 Parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I G Cox, Mrs S A Gray and J Lomas.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7 April 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Dexter Bullock advised residents present that he would review each village in turn

BLACKWELL

a. Blackwell Community Centre.

The Centre had now been fitted with new UPVC double glazed windows, completely redecorated internally, new curtains and vertical blinds fitted. Very favourable comments have been received from all users of the centre.

One unexpected item of expense during the year was the need to replace the existing gas boiler at a cost of £7,500.00. This meant that other plans for the Centre had to be placed on hold until the financial year 2009/2010.

b. Blackwell Post Office

Local residents were concerned at the sudden closure of the Blackwell Post Office, Alfreton Road, Blackwell.

The Council had been in contact on a regular basis with Dennis Skinner MP in an effort to secure the re-opening of the Post Office.

c. Blackwell Youth Club

The Council were pleased to note that the Youth Club continued to be very successful. At the session on 23 March 2009 73 youngsters attended –

the first session of the Club is for 5/11 year olds – 40 attended – the second session for 12/16 year olds – 33 attended (more adult volunteers are required). 46 youngsters and 8 volunteers would be attending the

Kingswood Education and Activity Centre, Staffordshire – 24/27 May 2009 and this had been funded by the Derbyshire County Council Community Leadership Scheme.

d. Blackwell Residents Action Group

The Group continues to be energetically led by their Chairman, Katharine Childs – a number of projects have been carried out in the past 12 months, Litter Picks, Local History Evening, Bulb Planting – the grass island, Deamon Street and the Pathway between Alfreton Road/Victoria Drive.

e. Blackwell Primary School.

Council Members noted that in October 2008 the Blackwell Children's Centre was officially opened and provides activities for 0/11 year olds.

The Centre also provides facilities for one to one interviews for adults with e.g. Health Visitors.

There is also a Baby Clinic held each month on 2/4 Monday afternoons.

HILCOTE

a. Councillor Ted Newell

At the Council Meeting held on 9 February 2009 Council Members received the resignation, for personal reasons, of Councillor Ted Newell.

Ted was very sincere in his efforts to enhance the well being of the residents of Hilcote.

Ten Electors from Hilcote have requested an Election and this would be held on 30 April 2009. It was noted that the likely cost to the Council would be £1,400.00 and there was no budget for this in the 2009/2010 Precept.

b. Hilcote Environmental and Leisure Group

The Group led by Mick Davies and Molly Helm had an extremely busy twelve months. Projects had involved Litter Picks, Family Fun Day, stone to reinforce the bank of the Normanton Brook, provision of Display Boards, Open Day held in September 2008 to celebrate the completion of Stage One of the Community Garden, Pergola and path along the Normanton Brook, Woodland Path created with the assistance of Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service.

The Group had a number of projects in hand for the next 12 months – the Council wishes them every success in their endeavours.

c. Hilcote Mining Memorial.

A group of local residents 2/3 years ago formed a Steering Group to provide a Mining Memorial within the village – this eventually took the form of two half

winding wheels mounted on a plinth at the Junction of New Lane/Hilcote Lane, Hilcote.

The Memorial will be unveiled 9 May 2009 at 12 noon, followed by a reception in the community centre in the evening.

NEWTON

a. Newton Community Centre

The Centre had been completely redecorated, curtains and vertical blinds fitted and, like Blackwell Community Centre, very favourable comments have been received from Centre users.

b. Newton Community Association

The association had been very active in promoting a number of Litter Picks, provision of Planters within the village and a number of successful Film Nights at the Community Centre.

Perhaps during the last 12 months the single most important objective achieved by the Association was raising funding of approximately £60,000.00 for the provision and installation of the Multi-User Sports Unit at the Councils Charnwood Crescent Playing Field – Council Members have acknowledged the hard work done by the team and the support given by Derbyshire Youth Service in getting the funding put in place.

c. Newton Allotments

Following a request from the Newton/Blackwell Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association the vacant allotment plots at North Street/South Street had been cleared and graded.

It was interesting to note that there had been a slight increase in the number of local residents wanting to rent allotments at the Councils 3 sites.

d. Newton Carnival Team

2008/2009 had been another successful year for the Team. As in previous years to supplement their funds they had organised:

1. Carnival Queen Disco
2. Plant Fair
3. Newton Carnival
4. Halloween Disco
5. Victorian Street Fair
6. Light of Life Service

e. Newton Carnival Juniors

Newton Carnival Team junior section had been organising fundraising activities to enable them to launch a youth club. They had a planned launch date of 23rd April 2009

WESTHOUSES

a. Tibshelf Road Playing Field

In his last years Report he referred to the sudden passing on 12 January 2008 of former Councillor Derek Hemingray. Following consultation with Derek's family and Council approval a wooden seat had been purchased and erected on the Playing Field.

b. Westhouses Locomotive Depot (Engine Reclamation Site)

Local residents were aware that Open Cast Coal Mining was imminent at the former Locomotive Depot Site. A Liaison Committee had been set up by the Contractors and the Councils Representative on that Committee, Councillor Paula Wilkinson – as and when Liaison Meetings are held she reports back to the Council.

c. Westhouses Residents Action Group

The Council continues to receive quarterly reports from Dudley Fowkes, Chairman of the Group.

During 2008/2009 further Litter Picks have been carried out, Planters established and a Carol Concert was organised at Westhouses Chapel on 11 December 2008.

The Group had also part funded the provision of two heavy duty litter bins at Tibshelf Road Playing Field.

GENERAL MATTERS

Precept

The Council recognised the current economic climate when setting the Precept for 2009/2010 firmly rejected any increase and the Precept remained the same as 2008/2009 £105,000.00.

When the Council reviewed its budget in January the running cost of the Council is approximately £70,000.00. When the Precept was set it was agreed to prioritise the following items:

1. UPVC soffits/fascias to Blackwell/Newton Community Centres.
2. New lounge carpet, Blackwell Community Centre.
3. Purchase of second hand van for use by the Parish Caretaker.
4. Storage container to be located at the rear of Newton Community Centre and to be used by the Parish Caretaker.
5. Clear, grade and seed vacant allotment plots at North Street/South Street, Newton.
6. Provision and installation of Speed Activated Signs at Hilcote/Westhouses.
7. Completion of the footpath at Tibshelf Road Playing Field, Westhouses.
8. Grants to St. Werburghs PCC – Churchyard maintenance £800.00 and Bolsover District Council Sports Outreach Programme £630.00.

Parish Caretaker

In his report last year the Council had, on a part-time basis, employed Richard Walker, South Normanton as the Councils Parish Caretaker.

Richard is a conscientious, hardworking individual and a number of residents of the Parish have commented on his commitment and dedication.

To facilitate Richard in his duties the Council had purchased a heavy duty mower and strimmer for use on the outer areas of the Council's Playing Fields

Prudent management of the Councils finances during 2008/2009 had allowed the Council to terminate its lease of a van and purchase a second hand one.

Residents who may have seen it would have noted that it is embellished with a picture of St Werburghs Church and the slogan "Blackwell Parish Council – Caring for the Community"

The contact details of the Clerk had also been included.

The Council had also been able to purchase for the Caretakers use a 20ft x 8ft container and it had been satisfactorily sited at the rear of Newton Community Centre.

Police

After much pressure from Bolsover District Council, particularly District Councillor Alan Tomlinson, the villages of Blackwell, Newton and Hilcote have been transferred on 1 October 2008 from the Clay Cross Police Division to Bolsover Police Division – and effective from 1 April 2009, the village of Westhouses would also be covered by the Bolsover Police Division.

The Council had been fortunate to have a committed Police Team for the Parish of Blackwell who regularly attend Council Meetings namely PC Lorna Evans, PCSO's Paul Brownlee and Fearn Barnett and the Council looked forward to strong working relationship with the Team.

Dog Waste Bins

To try and eliminate an ongoing problem the Council have, in the past year, provided Dog Waste Bins at:

- a. Gloves Lane, Blackwell.
- b. New Street, Hilcote (pathway adjacent to Hilcote Community Centre).
- c. Town Lane, Newton.
- d. Junction of Park Mill Drive/Alfreton Road, Westhouses.
(The dog waste bin that was on Tibshelf Road Playing Field had been relocated to Tibshelf Road.

Local residents who are dog owners should note that "Poop Scoop" bags are available free of charge from the Councils Parish Caretaker.

The Council had provided facilities for dog owners to eliminate dog fouling, the Council expect owners to play their part.

Annual Pantomime

The Council continued to fund the Annual Pantomime at Blackwell/Newton Community Centres for the children from Blackwell/Newton/Westhouses Primary Schools and also the local Mother and Toddler Groups.

Floral Displays

Residents would have noted the 40 floral displays within the Parish area and very favourable comments were received.

Similar displays would be in place when the risk of frosts are past.

Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme

The Council are actively seeking "Quality Status" and part of the requirement is to provide a web-site, publish a newsletter 4 times per year and have a qualified Clerk. These had all been achieved and the Council would be submitting its application to the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils for "Quality Status" by August of this year.

Councillors Alan Tomlinson and Sally Gray

Most residents are aware that both Alan and Sally are elected Members of Bolsover District Council. Alan, who was now celebrating his 30th year as a District Councillor has ensured good working relationships with the District Council, plus working on behalf of local residents.

Sally, equally, had sought to ensure a good working relationship with all local residents.

County Councillor Clive Moesby

On behalf of the Council, Clive had worked extremely hard at County level to improve the Parish as a whole – the Chairman was aware that through Clive a significant number of local Voluntary Groups had benefited from the Derbyshire County Council Community Leadership Scheme.

Conclusion

The Council would continue to move forward and, as its slogan says "Caring for the Community".

The Chairman was grateful for the support given to him by his fellow Councillors, the Clerk and Staff.