

# BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council held at the Blackwell Community Centre, Woburn Close, Blackwell on Monday 1 March 2010 at 7.00.p.m. on Monday 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

## PRESENT

Councillor D G B Bullock (Chairman)

Councillors: I G Cox: J Lomas: I J A Newham: R J Sainsbury: B Stocks:  
A F Tomlinson: Mrs P R Wilkinson and N J B Willens:

254/2009

## ALSO PRESENT

Ten Parishioners.

255/2009

## OPEN FORUM

**Mrs S Bingham, Newton** advised Council Members that she had still not received a letter of apology from the Secretary of the Newton/Blackwell Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association with regard to Plot 56, Littlemoor Lane Allotments Newton.

Several Members of the Council advised Mrs Bingham that she should pursue her complaint with the Secretary of the Newton/Blackwell Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association instead of continually bringing her complaints to the Council.

Mrs Bingham said that she would not be doing this and would be terminating the tenancy of all Allotment Plots that she and her husband, Mr Andrew Bingham, held at Littlemoor Lane Allotments, Newton.

**Mrs J Smith, Newton** advised Council Members of the copious amounts of dog faeces at the North Street/South Street Play Area, Newton and asked if appropriate Dog Fouling Signs could be erected thereon.

Councillor A F Tomlinson advised Mrs Smith that, whilst the Council would do everything in its power to alleviate the problem that she had outlined, it was essential that public cooperation be given with regard to reporting dog owners who allow their pets to foul in an indiscriminate manner.

It was agreed the Clerk investigate the possibility of providing a Dog Waste Bin at this particular location.

The Chairman of the Council also advised Mrs Smith that an item concerning dog fouling would be included in the Councils latest News Letter.

**Mr B Land, Blackwell** advised Council Members that there was still confusion between the addresses at Woburn House and Woburn Close, Blackwell.

Following a suggestion from Mrs K Childs, Childs Chairman, Blackwell Residents Action Group, it was agreed to ask Bolsover District Council to improve signage at the entrance/exit to Woburn House, Woburn Close indicating each individual location.

Councillor A F Tomlinson, in his capacity as a District Councillor, agreed to raise this particular matter with the Engineering Section, Bolsover District Council.

**256/2009**

**POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk advised Council Members that the Beat Officer, for the area, PC Lorna Evans was not on duty and there would be no Police presence at the Meeting.

The Clerk further advised Council Members that the crime figures for the Parish of Blackwell to 28 February 2010 were

5 reported crimes  
4 nuisance incidents.

A Police Drop-In Surgery had been organised for Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre, Saturday 20 March 2010 - 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and the next Drop-In Surgery at Newton Methodist Church would be on Saturday, 3 April 2010 -10.00. a.m. to 12.00 noon (refreshments and breakfast available at a small charge).

The Clerk also reported that Sergeant Matt Troth had been appointed to look after Neighbourhood Policing in Bolsover and he would be responsible for 3 Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Shirebrook, Glapwell and Tibshelf.

**RESOLVED** the Clerks report be noted.

**257/2009**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR C R MOESBY**

The Clerk reported that due to family commitments County Councillor C R Moesby was unable to be present at the Meeting.

**258/2009**

**BLACKWELL RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP**

Mrs K Childs, Chairman, Blackwell Residents Action Group advised Council Members:

1. Police Community Forum.
2. The re-opening of Blackwell Post Office at Blackwell Community Centre, Woburn Close, Blackwell on 2 February 2010.
3. News Letter.
4. Planters had now been ordered and would be sited at various locations within the village of Blackwell.
5. Mining Memorial.

**RESOLVED** Mrs K Childs, Chairman, Blackwell Residents Action Group be thanked for her report.

**259/2009**

**HILCOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEISURE PROJECT**

Mr M Greenwood, Hilcote Environmental and Leisure Project advised Council Members:

1. Due to the poor weather conditions at the beginning of the year, bulb planting had been delayed.
2. Work on the planters was imminent.
3. The bridge at the South Normanton brook was now in place.

**RESOLVED** that Mr M Greenwood, Hilcote Environmental and Leisure Project be thanked for his report.

**260/2009**

**NEWTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Mrs D Willens, Secretary, Newton Community Association advised Council Members:

1. Funding had been received from the National Lottery for Cinema, Newton based in the Councils Newton Community Centre and was state of the art equipment which consisted of film projector, retractable screen, new speakers etc. and the Grand Opening of the Film Equipment and Cinema would be on 25 March 2010.
2. Planters located within the village of Newton were to be upgraded.
3. An item included in the latest Newton Community Association News Letter regarding dog fouling had been sent to all households within the village.
4. A successful Litter Pick had been held on 31 January 2010.

**RESOLVED** Mrs D Willens, Secretary, Newton Community Association be thanked for her report.

**261/2009**

**WESTHOUSES RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP**

The Clerk advised Council Members that Mr D Fowkes, Chairman, Westhouses Residents Action Group was unable to be present due to teaching commitments and had asked the Clerk to read his brief report which stated

“Everything at Westhouses continues to revolve around the Railway Institute Project. Mr Fowkes had been in touch with various commercial concerns about a possible partnership arrangement but so far without success. The pro-help partners had been a great help in identifying contacts.”

**RESOLVED** the report from Mr D Fowkes, Chairman, Westhouses Residents Action Group be noted.

**262/2009**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S A Gray, C R Moesby and S J Thorpe.

**263/2009**

**CODE OF CONDUCT/REGISTER OF MEMBERS  
INTERESTS/HOSPITALITY REGISTER**

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor reminded Council Members of the principals of those holding public office which were selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership and these principles form part of the new ethical framework guidance issued by the Standards Board for England. The Chairman also reminded Council Members that Members must, within twenty-eight days of receiving any gift or hospitality or materials, benefits or advantage over the value of £25.00 relating to or arising out of their position as a Member, provide written notification to the District of Bolsover Monitoring Officer of the existence and nature of that gift or hospitality, material, benefit or advantage.

**264/2009**

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 February 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**265/2009**

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman of the Council reported for information that the official re-opening of Blackwell Post Office at the Blackwell Community Centre had taken place on 12 February 2010. Council Members, representatives of Post Office Limited and local residents were present and the opening was carried out by Dennis Skinner MP who congratulated Blackwell Parish Council and local residents of their efforts to secure the re-opening of the Post Office.

**266/2009**

**ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor N J B Willens, the Councils representative at the Newton/Blackwell Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association advised Council Members that there would be a number of Tenancy Amendments and Guide Lines on Structures of the Councils Allotments and these would be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Association to be held on 13 April 2010. Members also noted that Councillor N J B Willens, whilst being the Councils representative on the Allotment Association, he was a non-voting Member.

The Clerk reported a receipt of a report from John Yates, Chairman, Standards Committee, Bolsover District Council regarding Plot 27 Littlemoor Lane Allotments, Newton.

**RESOLVED** the Council reaffirm its decision taken at the Council

Meeting held on 4 January 2010 (Minute 229/2009 refers).

Councillor N J B Willens declared a personal interest in the foregoing item but remained in the Meeting during the discussion and decision thereon.

**267/2009**

**HIGHWAYS**

Councillor Mrs P R Wilkinson and the Clerk reported on their attendance at a Site Meeting with representatives of Derbyshire County Council

Highways Department at Alfreton Road, Westhouses on 24 February 2010 and it had been agreed that a Speed Activated Sign be located adjacent to the Station Hotel, Alfreton Road, Westhouses and the County Council Highways Department would also provide double yellow lines at the junction of Tibshelf Road/Alfreton Road, Westhouses.

In response to a question from Councillor I G Cox

**RESOLVED** the Clerk contact County Councillor C R Moesby requesting a speed check be carried out at Main Street, Newton.

Following a suggestion from Councillor A F Tomlinson

**RESOLVED** the Clerk write to Derbyshire County Council Highways Department regarding the large number of pot holes on all roads within the Parish of Blackwell and the poor state of a section of Fordbridge Lane, Blackwell.

**268/2009**

**PLAYING FIELDS**

The Clerk reported for information the Loss Adjusters Report had been received with regard to the Sports Pavilion, Scanderlands Playing Field, Blackwell and work was currently in progress to complete outstanding repairs.

The Clerk further reported he was still awaiting estimates for replacement windows etc. at the Sports Pavilion, Charnwood Crescent Playing Field, Newton.

**269/2009**

**FOOTPATHS**

The Clerk reported for information receipt of a letter from the Environmental Services Department, Derbyshire County Council advising of the temporary closure of Public Footpath 5 within the Blackwell Parish and this was to facilitate public safety during the construction of a new sewage rising main.

The work was likely to be completed by 12 April 2010.

**270/2009**

**ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk submitted a list of accounts for payment totaling £6835.22 and it was agreed these be paid. The Clerk also furnished for Members information:

1. Copy of the Council's Bank Reconciliation Statement.
2. Copy of the Council's Audit Form confirming the Councils current financial position.
3. Copy of the Council's Bank Statement.

The foregoing documents conform to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI No. 553).

**271/2009**

**BOLSOVER LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor N J B Willens advised Council Members of the Parish Council Liaison Group Communications Project which had been awarded £20,000.00 to assist in the improvement of communication and understanding between all Local Parish and Town Councils and their ability to engage with the Local Strategic Partnership for the Bolsover district.

A Steering Group had been set up and it proposed to focus on:

1. Web-site provision.
2. Communications within the parishes eg. News Letters etc. Training.

Councillor Willens also advised Council Members that due to other commitments he was unable to attend the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership/Parish Councils Liaison Meeting to be held on 4 March 2010 and Councillor A F Tomlinson agreed to deputise for Councillor Willens.

**272/2009**

**DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

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

1. 09/2010 – Clerk vacancy Stoney Middleton Parish Council.
2. 10/2010 – Standing Orders
3. 11/2010 - NALC Leadership Academy Programme
4. 12/2010 – NALC Development Strategy and Business Plane.
5. 13/2010 – HM Revenue and Customs.
6. 14/2010 – Department of Communities and Local Government – Anti-Social Behaviour Event.

**273/2009**

**QUALITY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME**

The Chairman of the Council reported for information it was anticipated the Council News Letter would be available for distribution mid-March 2010.

**274/2009**

**PLANS**

The following Plans were submitted and determined as indicated:

1. 09/00650/CON Mr E Franklin, 3 Lane Ends Farm, Huthwaite Lane, Old Blackwell – demolition of agricultural building – **approved**.
2. 00/00657/FUL – Mr E Franklin, 3 Lane Ends Farm, Huthwaite Lane, Old Blackwell – demolition of existing agricultural building for storage of livestock and the creation of a new access – **no objections**.

The Clerk reported for information that following the Old Blackwell/Newton Conservation Area Meetings, a report had now been prepared and would be submitted to the Planning Committee, Bolsover District Council on 3 March 2010.

Councillor Mrs P R Wilkinson reported for information that following an inspection from Engineers from Bolsover District Council a Dangerous Structure Notice had been served on the owner of outbuildings at 57 Alfreton Road, Westhouses in compliance with the Building Act 1984 Section 77.

**275/2009**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported receipt of the following letters:

1. Planning Policy Manager, Bolsover District Council regarding a Strategic Land Availability Assessment.

Following a number of questions from Councillor N J B Willens, Councillor A F Tomlinson, in his capacity as Deputy Leader of Bolsover District Council, agreed to make further enquires with regard to the Land Availability Assessment.

2. Derby and Derbyshire Waste Course Strategy Development Plan – Big Choices Report. This was now available and could be inspected on [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/big choices](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/big_choices).
3. Bolsover District Council Sports Development Outreach Programme.

It was noted that in the financial year 2010/2011 Bolsover District Council had taken the decision to no longer request financial contributions from Parish/Town Councils on an annual basis and would be looking more to approaching the respective Councils as a partner as and when programmes and interventions developed in the Councils particular area.

4. Bolsover Apprenticeship Programme – this Programme was now in progress and it had so far offered 29 residents of the district employment.
5. Derbyshire County Council – invitation to Parish and Town Council Liaison Meeting to be held on 22 April 2010 – Members Room, County Hall, Matlock.

It was agreed that Councilor N J B Willens attend

this Meeting.

6. Newton Carnival Team for permission to use the
7. Councils Charnwood Crescent Playing Field on 10 July 2010 - Newton Carnival, 7 August 2010 - Party in the Park, 5 November 2010 – Community Bonfire and Firework Display.

**RESOLVED** subject to the usual insurance indemnity being in place, no objections be raised to the request.

It was further reported in an effort to create less traffic problems, the switching on of the Christmas Lights would take place on Sunday 28 November 2010.

Councillor D G B Bullock declared a personal interest in the foregoing letter but remained in the Meeting whilst the discussion and decision was taken thereon.

**276/2009**

**ENGINE RECLAMATION SITE**

There were no reports with regard to the Engine Reclamation Site.

**277/2009**

**BLACKWELL/NEWTON COMMUNITY CENTRES**

The Clerk reported for information that whilst he had made enquiries with regard for alternative suppliers for gas and electric supplies at Blackwell/Newton Community Centres, he had to point out to Members that currently the Council was locked in to a year contract with Eon for the appropriate supplies.

Councillor A F Tomlinson, in his capacity as Deputy Leader, Bolsover District Council, said that he would be speaking with the Procurement Officer, Bolsover District Council regarding the District Councils efforts to find an alternative supplier for gas and electricity which would hopefully embody all Parish and Town Councils within the Bolsover District.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**278/2009**

**MEETING**

**RESOLVED** the next Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting and be held at Newton Community Centre, Newton on Monday 12 April 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

**ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

**279/2009**

**HILCOTE MINERS WELFARE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Clerk gave a comprehensive report with regard to the request for financial assistance towards heating and lighting costs at the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre.

The Clerk further advised Council Members that following comments made by Council Members at its Meeting of the Council on 1 February 2010, he had been in contact with the Secretary/Treasurer, Derbyshire Association of Local Councils, requesting that the legal advice that he had been given be referred to the Legal Department, National Association of Local Councils for further investigation. In addition to this the Clerk had also spoken to the Councils Internal Auditor, District Auditor, Financial Advisor to the Society of Local Council Clerks and a former Chief Executive Officer who is a fully qualified Solicitor in Local Government Law.

The legal advice which was subsequently received from the Head of Legal Services, National Association of Local Councils was "assuming the Charity provides recreational facilities inside the Blackwell Parish Councils area (for example by providing premises for Clubs or Societies with social or recreational objects) then under Section 19 Sub-Section 3 of the Local Government Act Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, a Local Authority, which includes a Parish Council may contribute by way of a Grant or Loan towards the expenses incurred or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation in providing any recreational facilities which the Authority has power to provide by virtue of Sub-Section 1 of this particular section".

**RESOLVED** that subject to the following provisions:

1. The latest audited accounts for the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre be forwarded to the Clerk for onward transmission to the Councils Internal Auditor for inspection and comment.
2. The quarterly gas and electric bills to be for the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre be submitted to the Council for scrutiny.
3. The constitution of the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre be amended to ensure that all users of the Community Centre pay an appropriate hire fee.
4. Any payment to Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre to be on a quarterly basis.
5. Letter from the Trustees at the conclusion of the Financial Year 2010/2011 confirming how the money has been spent.

It was further **RESOLVED** that subject to the foregoing provisions being adhered to a one-off grant of £4,000.00 payable in four equal installments be made to the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre.

Councillor B Stocks declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the foregoing item and vacated the room during the discussion and decision thereon

The Meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.