

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Newton Community Centre, Newton on Monday 2 April 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Clare Munks (Chairman)

Councillors: K W Booth: I G Cox: J Lomas: C R Moesby: I J A Newham: A F Tomlinson and Mrs V Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT

PC D Marrows, Derbyshire Constabulary and 21 Parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Hemingray, E P Newell and Mrs H S Wallis.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Clare Munks, advised residents present she would review each village in turn and commenced with

1. **Blackwell**

a. **Sports Pavilion – Scanderlands Playing Field, Blackwell**

The Chairman advised residents that following further problems with pitch drainage, the Football Pitch was now being used for occasional matches but she had been assured that, with effect from September 2007, the pitch would be in first class condition and would be used on a regular basis.

Council Members were very disappointed to note that during the year vandalism had occurred to the external fittings at the Sports Pavilion and this culminated in the Council making the decision to erect security fencing round the Pavilion at a total cost of £2500.00

b. **Play Equipment Scanderlands Playing Field**

The new Play Equipment at this location had been installed and was extensively used by the younger generation of the village. The Council were extremely grateful to Groundwork Creswell who were the main contractors for the project.

c. **Blackwell Youth Club**

The organisers of the Youth Club had been very successful in their efforts in establishing the venture. Youth Club Meetings are held every Monday evening and there was an average attendance of between 60/70 youngsters.

d. **Blackwell Allotments**

It was encouraging to note that, during the year, there had been a small increase in the number of Allotment Holders at this location.

e. **Blackwell Community Centre**

The Council were pleased to note there had been an increase in the use of this Council owned building and Members were appreciative of the standard of caretaking by Mrs Rita Mann.

HILCOTE

a. **Teen Shelter**

In the Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2005/2006 she had referred to the possible provision in conjunction with Junction Arts of a Teen Shelter and the Council's New Street Playing Field. This had now been installed and was in use on a regular basis by local youngsters.

b. **Mosaic Exterior Wall – Hilcote Methodist Chapel.**

Junction Arts in conjunction with local residents had provided a Mosaic at this location which depicted the life and times of Hilcote.

c. **John Charles Moore**

Council Members were shocked to learn of the sudden passing on 14 February 2007 of a former Councillor, John Charles Moore, who had been a leading force in the provision of a new Hilcote Community Centre in place of the old B Winning Miners Welfare which was badly damaged by fire several years ago.

Former Councillor John Charles Moore was a committed Hilcote man and worked tirelessly on behalf of all its residents and he would be sadly missed.

d. **Hilcote Community Centre**

Whilst this was not owned by the Council, it had had a very successful year and a number of local community groups were now using the facility.

NEWTON

a. **Bamford Street Play Area**

Work has almost been completed on the provision of new Play Equipment at this location. The total cost being £69,000.00 plus VAT.

The Council had been fortunate in securing additional funding of £35,000.00 for the project.

Groundwork Creswell had been the main contractors and an excellent standard of workmanship had been achieved.

It was hoped to have an official opening of the Play Area after Easter 2007.

b. **Newton Community Centre**

This Community Centre, which is owned by the Council has, along with Blackwell Community Centre, been subject to a Feasibility Study by Derbyshire County Council for the establishment of a Children's Centre.

Plans had now been prepared by the County Council for both Community Centres and arrangements were being made by the "County" for consultation events to be held in Newton, Blackwell, Hilcote and Westhouses to enable all parishioners to make their views known. County Councillor Clive Moesby would be giving further details in his report at the monthly Meeting of the Council.

c. **Newton Allotments**

The Council were pleased to note the Allotments at Littlemoor Lane continue to be maintained to a high standard. The local Secretary Sandra Bingham and her committee colleagues had been responsible for securing funding to improve the entrance gate and fencing at Littlemoor Lane. This would provide a quiet area for daytime use by local people. Funding was provided as part of the Local Strategic Partnerships District Wide Grot 2 Green Initiative.

The Allotment Holders Association continues to hold regular meetings and the Chairman is the Councils representative on that committee.

d. **Newton Carnival Team**

2006/2007 had been another successful year for Dexter Bullock and his Newton Carnival Team. As in previous years to supplement their funds they had organised:

1. Newton Carnival 8 July 2006
2. Victorian Street Fayre 24 November 2006.
3. Light of Life Service 7 December 2006.

The Carnival Team were again successful in securing additional funding for extra Christmas Street Lighting which had attracted favourable comments from local residents.

e. **Newton Community Association**

The Council receive quarterly reports from Dot Willens on behalf of Newton Community Association. The Association had a very successful year with planters being put at entrance points to the village. The Association had also successfully applied for funding under the Grot 2 Green Project for two areas.

1. Reinstate the pond of the Five Pits Trail at Alfreton Road.
2. Improve the footpath off Littlemoor Lane behind Newton Primary School.

The Association had also arranged six film nights at Newton Community Centre and audience numbers had steadily increased. A Cinema Club was now proposed.

WESTHOUSES

a. **Tibshelf Road Playing Field**

The Council were pleased to note the new Play Equipment at this location was in regular use but Council Members were also disappointed to note some of the swings had been deliberately broken, glass thrown in the play area and one or two irresponsible dog owners had been allowing their dogs to foul the area.

The Chairman pointed out that all damage etc. had to be paid for out of local residents Council Tax.

The Council were pleased to learn from Paula Wilkinson, Westhouses Residents Action Group that, along with her colleagues, the Group had been successful in securing funding for a Sports Wall which would be installed at Tibshelf Road Playing Field.

b. **Westhouses Residents Action Group**

The Council receive regular quarterly reports from Paula Wilkinson, Secretary, Westhouses Residents Action Group. A successful "Litter Pick" had been held and a planter sponsored by W H Martin Limited had been installed on Alfreton Road.

It was pleasing to note the Group had provided a Christmas Tree suitably decorated and was erected in the Chapel Grounds during the festive period.

The Council are pleased to be associated with the Westhouses Residents Action Group.

GENERAL MATTERS

Precept

The Councils Precept for the year 2007/2008 had been reduced from £100,000.00 to £95,000.00. When the Council reviewed its budget in January 2007 the running costs of the Council are approximately £45,000.00 and the possible appointment of a part-time Parish Handy Person was likely to cost approximately £15,000.00.

The remainder of the money would ensure the Council have a reserve to cover any unforeseen costs.

Part Time Parish Handy Person

The Council have advertised several times for both a full and part time Parish Handy Person but this has met with little success. The Council would, however, continue to actively pursue the appointment of a Part Time Parish Handy Person.

Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership

The Chairman reminded Council Members and Parishioners she was appointed to the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership Board in 2005 and stated that its activities were many and varied. It would, however, be beneficial if more local residents would take an interest.

Police

At the beginning of 2006 the Council had as their local Beat Officer PC Gary Stirland. Unfortunately this Officer was transferred away to other duties in September 2006 and PC Daniel Mee was his replacement. Unfortunately she also has been transferred to other duties.

Currently there was no Beat Officer for the Parish of Blackwell.

The Council have made a number of representations to the local Inspector, Mark Bates, regarding Police presence at Council Meetings but with no success.

Council Members were concerned at the level of crime within the Parish and particularly the number of “walk in crimes” committed against elderly lone females in Blackwell.

Residents can be assured the Council would vigorously campaign for a Beat Officer to be restored to the Parish of Blackwell without delay.

Newsletter/Website

The Council’s quarterly Newsletter and Web Site was running well and if any village organisations had any advertisements to be placed in either the Newsletter or the Web Site to advise the Chairman.

Annual Pantomime

The Council continues to organise the Annual Pantomime at Blackwell/Newton Community Centres for the children from Blackwell, Newton, Westhouses Primary School as well as children from the various pre-school Playgroups.

Councillors Clive Moesby and Alan Tomlinson

The Chairman reminded Council Members and Parishioners that both Clive and Alan were elected Members of Bolsover District Council. Clive was also an elected Member of Derbyshire County Council.

Both Clive and Alan were hardworking conscientious Councillors and have worked tirelessly to improve the Council as a whole. Their contribution whether at District or County level had been 100% and this in turn helped towards the smooth running of the Parish Council.

CONCLUSION

The future bodes well for Blackwell Parish Council, the past twelve months have been good for the Council and the Chairman was grateful for all the support and effort given by her fellow Councillors and the Clerk. The Clerk, incidentally, was only one of two qualified Clerks within the District of Bolsover.

Councillor A F Tomlinson had congratulated the Chairman on an excellent report and reminded both Council Members and parishioners present of the success the Council had achieved over the last four years notably the upgrading of the children’s play area at Tibshelf Road Playing Field, Westhouses – Scanderlands Playing Field, Blackwell and Bamford Street, Newton.

Councillor Tomlinson went on to say considerable success had also been achieved in working in partnership with Newton Community Association, Westhouses Residents Action Group and the Newton and Blackwell Allotment Holders Association.

Council Members unanimously endorsed Councillor Tomlinson's remarks.

OPEN FORUM

Mrs Whittamoor, Newton endorsed Councillor A F Tomlinson's remarks with regard to the standard of workmanship which had been carried out by Groundwork Creswell on the Bamford Street Play Area

Mr J Lander, Newton asked what action could be taken by the Council to alleviate flooding along Footpath 25.

It was agreed the Clerk write to the Footpaths Officer, Derbyshire County Council bringing this matter to her attention.

Mr R Sainsbury, Newton asked if any information could be given with regard to the Public Consultation Evenings with regard to the possible provision of a Children's Centre at either Blackwell or Newton Community Centre.

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Clare Munks, advised Mr Sainsbury that County Councillor Clive Moesby would be giving details of the proposed dates and times in his report at the normal monthly Meeting of the Council which would be held immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.