

BLAXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2015 IN BLAXTON VILLAGE HALL AT 19:30

PRESENT: Councillors N C McCarron (Chair), L Hornsby, R Johnson, P Schofield and,
P A Dennis (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Councillor P Oliver

1) APOLOGIES

RESOLVED (1)

That apologies for absence be accepted from Councillor P Oliver.

2) TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING – No Exclusions

3) DECLARATION OF PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS, OTHER INTERESTS, THE RECEIPT OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – None made

4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

5) MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2014

RESOLVED (2)

That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2014 be approved
as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Rail Traffic Volume Changes – Resolution 3

RESOLVED (3)

That it be noted that an increase in traffic of four freight trains per day was expected
from February 2015 and that further changes may occur in late 2015 or early 2016.

7) POLICING ISSUES

a) Airport Villages Reports for November and December 2014 – Noted

b) Car Crime Update

Police Community Support Officers attended the meeting and reported on recent car
related crime in Blaxton, reminding the Council of the importance of car owners
removing valuables from cars, locking their vehicles and checking that the vehicle is
actually locked. Devices are available which can prevent the owner's key from
locking the vehicle or which copy the electronic code when the key is activated,
hence the need to be vigilant.

RESOLVED (4)

That the Officers be thanked for their attendance, information and advice.

8) DMBC AND SOUTH WEST AREA TEAM ISSUES

- a) Neighbourhoods Service Delivery – Resolution 6 – Information about the Lagan System had been provided to the Chair and Councillor Johnson as requested. **Noted**
- b) DMBC Communities Team – Area Service Review

Council discussed this matter at some length and reached the conclusion that Town and Parish Councils do not really feature in this report. They are mentioned but no meaningful attempt seems to have been made to assess their differing needs. The exercise is designed to help DMBC achieve its pre-planned programme of budget cuts resulting in a real loss of presence and engagement of Neighbourhood Officers in the community. This will lead to an increase in the lack of understanding by DMBC of Parish and Town Council needs and a further loss of public confidence in its ability to meet the needs of the communities which fund it.

RESOLVED (5)

That the Parish Council records an objection to the DMBC Communities Team Area Service Review in the strongest possible terms for the following reasons:-

- The service will not represent value for money for Blaxton by comparison with other areas which will receive greater Officer time for smaller populations in areas which contribute less by way of Council Tax. This creates a service delivery inequality.
- As a result, Local Councils will be forced to provide more for their residents resulting in an increase in Precepts and voluntary efforts whilst residents continue to receive increased Council Tax bills. This is 'double taxation' where DMBC continues to increase charges to Council Tax payers whilst reducing services. Parish and Town Councils then have to deliver these services to maintain community standards. This represents a transfer of services 'via the back door'.
- DMBC Neighbourhood staff will require development and training to undertake revised roles as a result of the restructuring. This will result in lost time for service delivery and represent a cost to those communities which should be receiving services.
- Changes in 2013 moved experienced staff away from supporting Parish and Town Councils. The current proposals will virtually **end** the extensive service provided before 2013 and the reduced service since then.

9) WARD MEMBERS REPORT

Councillor Schofield reported on actions being taken by DMBC, the Police and government to prevent nuisance by loose horses.

RESOLVED (6)

That the report be noted with thanks.

10) ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments between the November 2014 and January 2015 Meetings

RESOLVED (7)

That the following payments made between meetings be approved retrospectively:-

<u>Payee/Invoice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Xmas Direct (CCTC Ltd) – XS00155434	60 Metres Xmas Lights (600), 1 x extension leads, 'Y' Splitter	191.23	38.23	229.46
Veolia Environmental Services – OP/I451146	BPF grass cutting 3 and 17/10/14	67.88	13.58	81.46
C J Hampson – Blax02	600 A4 Newsletters single fold	27.00	0.00	27.00
Total:				337.92

b) Payments Due on 15 January 2015

RESOLVED (8)

That the following payments be approved for payment on 16 January 2015:-

<u>Payee/Invoice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Need A Hand Ltd – 1498	Replace three seat slats to seat number 9, Mosham Road	95.00	0.00	95.00
P A Dennis	Salary January 2015	280.18	0.00	280.18
P A Dennis	One Off Pay Award	15.14	0.00	15.14
P A Dennis	Office, Telephone, Broadband Allowance Dec 14 and Jan 15	47.00	0.00	47.00
HMRC	M10 Contributions	76.80	0.00	76.80
Total				514.12

c) Bank Reconciliation 31 December 2015 – **Noted**

d) Balances against the Budget to 9 January 2015 – **Noted**

e) Revised Financial Regulations – Resolution 10

RESOLVED (9)

That the draft Financial Regulations circulated on 11 January 2015 be adopted.

f) Quotations for Planting and Maintaining Planters 2015 – 2018 – Resolution 11 – Due by 3 February 2015 – **Noted**

g) War Memorial – Resolution 13

Reports were presented on maintenance of the War Memorial, wreath retention methods, removal of wreaths and improvements to the surrounding ground. The War Memorials Trust was assessing the condition of the memorial and would make recommendations for renovation and maintenance. Grant support was a possibility. Quotations for ground works would be requested after the report on memorial renovation and maintenance was received.

RESOLVED (10)

That the reports be noted.

RESOLVED (11)

That tributes placed during the Armistice commemorations be removed no later than 31 January each year, subject to a report on how other organisations manage this matter at the next meeting and, that the final decision be included in the Armistice Protocol.

h) Periodic Audit by Members to 31 October 2014 – Completion Certificate signed by Councillor L Hornsby

i) Parish Council Website

RESOLVED (12)

That it be noted that there had been around 600 visits to the Parish Council Website since early December 2014 although no requests for information on site updates or offers to provide historical information and pictures had been received.

j) Parish Council Notice Board (Resolution 16)

RESOLVED (13)

That the further report on the purchase of an external notice board be received and that the Clerk be requested to order model AXS21 from Greenbarnes at a cost of about £985 subject to agreement about the installation site and confirmation of the price and specification.

k) Pay Award for Clerks 2014 - 2016 – YLCA advice

RESOLVED (14)

That the report on the Pay Award for the Clerk be received and noted.

l) DMBC and Government Advice on Parish Precept 2015/16 – **Noted**

m) Local Government Financial Settlement - Government Consultation/Referendum Requirements – **Noted**

n) Draft Budget 2015/16

The Draft Budget for 2015/16 was considered in detail.

RESOLVED (15)

That the draft budget for the provision of new equipment and furniture on Blaxton Playing Field be reduced to £2,000 and the War Memorial Maintenance budget be increased to £5,000 for 2015/16.

RESOLVED (16)

That budget expenditure of £23,162 be approved for the 2015/16 financial year.

- o) Precept 2015/16

RESOLVED (17)

That a Precept of £21,641 be set for 2015/16 to enable the Council to meet its budget plans.

11) PLANNING

- a) Planning Applications – **None**
- b) Summerfields Estate Green Space – Resolution 21

RESOLVED (18)

That the submission of a Call for Sites form in respect of an area of open space on the Summerfields estate be noted.

RESOLVED (19)

That Councillor Johnson and the Clerk be requested to provide a report at the next meeting to enable the Council to consider possible changes to the questionnaire and the actions needed to help residents to complete it in support of an application for the designation of an area of common land on the Summerfield estate.

12) CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on a number of items including issues with vehicles, lighting and dog waste on Park Lane, the Airport Consultative Committee meeting held earlier in the day and the improved condition of hedges in the area.

RESOLVED (20)

That the Council records its appreciation to residents for cutting back various hedges in the area over the past few months and to the Chair for her efforts in finally getting the Airport to accept that it is responsible for hedge maintenance along its Station Road boundary in Blaxton.

RESOLVED (21)

That the Clerk be requested to contact DMBC about issues relating to lighting, vehicle turning, passing points and road signage on Park Lane.

RESOLVED (22)

That Members be requested to consider possible additional locations for the display of 'pick up or pay up' signs relating to dog waste.

13) BLAXTON PLAYING FIELD

- a) New Play Equipment for Toddlers Resolution 24 – **Installations expected during February 2015**

14) BLAXTON VILLAGE HALL – Next Meeting 22 January 2015

15) JOINT PLAYING FIELD

- a) Minutes 26 November 2014 – **Noted**
- b) Pavilion Project – Resolution 25

It was reported that Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) had confirmed that either Blaxton or Finningley Parish Council had the power to provide a Pavilion on the proposed location under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19.

The Clerk reported that, following guidance from HMRC and discussion with the DMBC VAT Accountant, it appeared that VAT on the costs of building the proposed pavilion using Section 106 funding via DMBC could be recovered in accordance with HMRC VAT Notice 749. This advice is based on the Parish Council not using the building for 'non business purposes' which is the case, since the building will be totally managed by the Playing Field Association for use by the community and will not be used by the Parish Councils for 'business activities'. However the advice has no legal standing and could be challenged by HMRC. This could result in financial penalties for the Council(s) although this is thought to be unlikely.

RESOLVED (23)

That it be noted that confirmation had been received from YLCA that either Blaxton or Finningley Parish Council has the power to provide the pavilion under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19, which states that a council can, by itself or with others, provide such recreational facilities as it thinks fit and either inside or outside its area.

RESOLVED (24)

That it be noted that it was likely that provision of the pavilion would be accepted by HMRC as a non-business activity and that VAT could be recovered, although there was no guarantee that this would be the case.

RESOLVED (25)

That it be noted that a joint meeting of the Parish Councils and the Joint Playing Field Association would need to be arranged.

16) CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED (26)

That the following correspondence be noted:-

- a) Electoral Review of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council: Final Recommendations
- b) DMBC Third Sector Strategy
- c) DMBC Draft Revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- d) DMBC Community Safety Strategy Review
- e) Draft Minutes of Parish Councils' Joint Consultative Committee 4 November 2014
- f) SY Fire and Rescue Authority – Member Briefing December 2014
- g) SY Fire and Rescue Authority – Member Briefing January 2015
- h) SY Fire and Rescue – Ethanol burners prompt safety warning

- i) SYPTE Energy/Cost Saving Initiative – Installation of Timer Switches on Bus Shelters
- j) SYPTE – Have Your Say! Consultation Response
- k) SYPTE – Christmas Public Transport Services - Press Release
- l) SYPTE – Changes to local bus service – 24 - 26 January 2015
- m) SYPTE – Stakeholder E-Newsletter - December 2014
- n) SYPTE Budget 2015/2016
- o) Open Spaces Society eNews
- p) White Rose Update December 2014
- q) E.news from Caroline Flint MP
- r) Clerk and Councils Direct November 2014 and January 2015 issues

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED (27)

That it be noted that the next Meeting of the Blaxton Parish Council would take place on Thursday 19 February 2015 in Blaxton Community Hall at 19:30.

Meeting Closed at 22:09

Chair: _____

Date: _____