

BLAXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024 AT 19:00 IN BLAXTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Councillors R Johnson, I Collett, P Raybould and J Steventon

APOLOGIES: J Hill

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Three

IN ATTENDANCE: E Lear (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

- a) To receive and note apologies from councillors who are unable to attend the meeting
- b) To consider reasons for absence provided by councillors who cannot attend and resolve the council's acceptance of these if felt relevant.

RESOLVED (1)

- a) That apologies are received from Councillor Hill
- b) That the reason for absence is accepted from Councillor Hill.

2. TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC WERE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING Not required

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

RESOLVED (2)

That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 September 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – A resident attended to discuss agenda item 10 g)

1. Memorial Stone Cleaning, stating that the memorial stone had already been cleaned by sandblasting which had resulted in damage to the stone including the removal of a shiny layer. It was ascertained that this was prior to any existing members sitting on the council.

The Council clarified that the stone had recently been cleaned by a reputable charity who clean it using techniques which are suitable for its listed status. The charity advised that the lead lettering was fading naturally and that no additional works could be undertaken to improve the clarity of the lettering due to the stone's

listed status. The Parish Council shared concerns about the previous cleaning techniques but offered reassurance that it had been cleaned correctly this time.

Three residents attended to raise concerns that they were hearing rumours relating to the situation on the Joint Playing Field and that management had been taken over by Finningley Parish Council. It was ascertained that a resident had read the Chairman's annual report which was located on the Blaxton Parish Council noticeboard.

The Chairman gave an overview of the history of the Joint Playing Field including how it was originally gifted to Blaxton and Finningley Parish Councils for the purpose of 'Sports and Recreation' and expressed concern about the current situation which remains unresolved.

The Joint Playing Field was managed by a separate organisation – the Playing Fields Association which had representatives from both parish councils. The operation of the PFA was questioned in 2022 by Finningley Parish Council questioning the 2003 constitution.

Prior to this, in 2018/19 BPC had taken responsibility for s106 funds for the development of the JPF as FPC were receiving separate s106 funds for another project at this time. Doncaster Council would not award the money to the PFA.

In July 2023, concerns were raised about BPC's administration of the s106 funds and an investigation was launched. The result was that nothing was found and the parish council complemented on its management. During this investigation it was decided that the BPC representatives would not attend the PFA meetings and at a meeting of the PFA on the 5th of September 2023, where no representatives of BPC were present, the PFA was disbanded, with effectively Finningley Parish Council taking control of the JPF at this time, as they took on the responsibility of the bank account.

Due to disagreements about the employment of a contractor and therefore the proposed way the s106 funds would be used, BPC submitted final accounts for the s106 money and £26,000 of unspent funds were returned to Doncaster Council.

FPC offered BPC 3 options for the future management of the JPF and BPC accepted option 2 as this was seen in the best interest of the community but requested to see the accounts and the proposal for the agreement.

When this agreement was not received, BPC offered an outline agreement which was rejected and all options withdrawn, with the result being that each parish council would manage the land within their own parish, except FPC would continue to arrange for the grass to be cut on the whole site.

Following the meeting of Wednesday 17 July, BPC requested that the funds of the account be split equally and stated they will be asking for an independent asset review.

The Chair reminded the meeting that BPC had repeatedly offered to sit down and discuss the situation with FPC.

6. WARD MEMBERS REPORT – None received.

7. CDC AND SOUTH AREA COMMUNITIES TEAM ISSUES- None

8. POLICING ISSUES

Encampments

A response had been received from the local inspector stating not to rely on police involvement in all encampment situations and that Doncaster Council should be used to remove encampments.

Regarding the Summerfields Green Space unresolved ownership, an option for the council to apply for Village Green status was discussed. It would require Doncaster Council's support and would bring responsibility.

RESOLVED (3)

That the Clerk research information on the application for Village Green status.

RESOLVED (4)

That the Clerk send a chaser to CDC Democratic Services after a request was made after the September meeting to resolve the ownership of the Summerfields Green Space and no response was received.

9. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

a) PROW Forum – Meeting 16/10/24 – Apologies to be sent as same night as the Parish Council meeting (tonight).

b) South Yorkshire Branch of the YLCA- Next Meeting 23/10/24

No feedback to the questions provided via the last meeting had been received and the agenda is now available. Councillor Johnson may attend.

10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) Payments considered for approval on 16 October 2024

RESOLVED (5)

That the following payments be approved:-

<u>Voucher No</u>	<u>Payee/Invoice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
71	P Dennis	Salary October 2024	103.77	0.00	103.77
72	E Lear	Salary October 2024	545.63	0.00	545.63
72	E Lear	Office, Telephone, Broadband Allowance October 2024	20.00	0.00	20.00
73 - DD 31/10/24	Nest	Clerk's pension 01/10/24 – 31/10/24	11.81	0.00	11.81
74	HMRC	HMRC M7	162.20	0.00	162.20
75 – DD 31/10/24	Ionos 203044433491	1&1 Website Hosting costs 08/10/24- 08/11/24	23.00	4.60	27.60
76	Glendale Countryside GC446-0628	Playing Field Car Park, Play Area Grass Cutting 3 & 24 September 2024	98.32	19.66	117.98
77 – DD 31/10/24	Unity Bank	Account fee 04/09/24- 30/09/24	5.40	0.00	5.40

<u>Voucher No</u>	<u>Payee/Invoice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
78	Play Inspection Co. 72321	JPF Skatepark	90.25	18.05	108.30
79	Play Inspection Co. 72322	Blaxton Recreation Ground	115.00	23.00	138.00
80 – DD 15/11/24	ICO 00017919668	Data Protection fee	35.00	0.00	35.00
					£1275.69

Note: DD above indicates payment taken or to be taken by Direct Debit on the date shown

- b) Bank Reconciliations at 30 September 2024 – **Noted**
- c) Net Position 7 October 2024 – **Noted**
- d) YLCA Training Programme (within Weekly News & Notifications)- Circulated 16/09/24, 24/09/24, 30/09/24 and 10/10/24- **Noted**
Councillor Steventon will be attending the YLCA's Off to a Flying Start Parts 1 and 2 in November- **Noted**
- e) Climate Change & Sustainability-
- Update on Cycle Repair Station including consideration of concrete base quotes
The Clerk outlined the three quotes (two private companies and Doncaster Council) and the additional costs associated with using a private company over using Doncaster Council (Highways Act Section 171 Licence). It was explained that a requirement for the licence under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act, was the undertaking of statutory undertaker plans which would be provided as part of the quote from Doncaster Council. Discussions took place about the speed which the project could be delivered in.
RESOLVED (6)

That the order for the concrete base is placed with Doncaster Council at a cost of £2530 subject to all requirements for the licences being delivered within this price.

RESOLVED (7)

That the Clerk consult with the Blue Bell regarding the proposed location.

RESOLVED (8)

That consultation is added to Facebook and the website following discussion with Councillor Hill.
- f) Blaxton Roundabout

The Clerk reported that Doncaster Council had indicated that sponsorship of roundabouts was no longer available.

RESOLVED (9)

That the roundabout remains the responsibility of Doncaster Council for maintenance.

RESOLVED (10)

That the company offering the service be updated and thanked for their offer.

g) Remembrance Service –

1. Memorial Stone Cleaning

Following the cleaning of the memorial stone, a donation was considered.

RESOLVED (11)

That a donation of £300 be made to the Victoria Cross Trust who cleaned the memorial stone.

2. Update on Arrangements

The resin surface around the memorial had now been cleaned.

All forms had been completed for the event except a form discussing first aid provision which was causing confusion.

RESOLVED (12)

That the Clerk contact CDC to enquire about completing the form and to ask if professional provision was compulsory.

Arrangements for the pub car park were complete.

Arrangements had been made for the use of the Hill House School car park on Station road with times to be confirmed for opening

RESOLVED (13)

That a request is made to open the car park from 10.15am to 12.00pm.

All members will be available to distribute orders of service.

Councillor Collett will lay the wreath and a member of the public asked to operate the flag.

Councillor Steventon will sweep the area around the memorial.

Doncaster Council will mow the verges in the area in the week proceeding the service.

h) Christmas Lights

Following advice from contractor that all trees contained lights and that a crown lift was advised for one of the trees

RESOLVED (14)

That no additional lighting is provided this year.

- i) Purchasing of tools/equipment for use on land
No response received from Ward Councillors to request for assistance.
- j) Cycle Path Proposal
Auckley Parish Council have responded that they will support the Parish Council's request and write to Doncaster Council requesting the section from Gatehouse Lane to Hurst Lane is also considered.
- k) Need for New Parish Council Website
The aim of the project is to:
 - Create a new website
 - Obtain a .gov.uk domain
 - Comply with accessibility requirements for the website (WCAG 2.2)The Council already have software provided by Office 365.
Following discussion about the quotes and the technical support provided

RESOLVED (15)

That the Council place a order with Parish Online to provide a new website at a projected total cost of £350 in the first year.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Consideration of any Planning Applications received between the issue of the Agenda and the Meeting- **None received.**

24/00257/FUL- Demolition of existing dwelling & erection of 2no. 2.5 storey dwellings with 1 no. detached garage- Land Adj To Post Office Station Road, Blaxton- **application refused- Noted.**

12. BLAXTON PLAYING FIELD

- a) Improvements to Blaxton Playing Field – Section 106 Funding (18/02593/FULM)- No Update
- b) Annual Play Inspection
Report received with recommendations

RESOLVED (16)

That a site meeting is arranged to discuss.

13. JOINT PLAYING FIELD

- a) Future Management of the Blaxton and Finningley Joint Playing Field

No response to the last email.

RESOLVED (17)

That the email is resent to Finningley Parish Council and that a response is requested.

b) Annual Play Inspection-

Report received with recommendations.

RESOLVED (18)

That a site meeting is arranged to discuss.

c) Signage for Skate Park

Two alternative signs had been produced. One with information advised by the Play Inspection Company and the insurer and a simpler, alternative version. The first sign was felt to contain information not relevant to the site.

RESOLVED (19)

That the simpler sign be ordered.

Standing Order 3(w) – at 21:15 – RESOLVED (20) That the meeting be extended by up to five minutes to enable the remaining business to be concluded.

14. BLAXTON VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Committee – Meeting 25/09/24

It was reported that:

as there is a healthy bank balance Knit & Natter will no longer pay for room hire as it supports vulnerable people.

Discussions were also taking place for offering reduced room hire rates to residents of the village (e.g. the table tennis club).

They are in talks with an internet provider about the provision of free wi-fi.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 in Blaxton Village Hall at 19:00.

Meeting closed at 21.25

Chair: _____

Date: _____