



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
BLIDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**
held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts, NG21 0PW
on Thursday 21 November 2024 commencing at 7.00pm

Councillor present: E Litchfield, K Marlow, C Dear, G Fisher, , T Duffy, C Walsh, T Smith
 Councillors absent: H Catling C Williams, W Bates,
 Also present: B. Boyer, Locum Clerk and two members of the public.
 3 members of the public and PCSO

Glossary: NCC – Nottinghamshire County Council
 NSDC – Newark and Sherwood District Council

Item	Business Transacted	Action
24/88	To receive declarations of interest, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary and applications for dispensation on items listed on the agenda There were none.	
24/89	To receive apologies for absence as given to the Locum Clerk The council received apologies for absence from Cllrs Catling and Bates. The council resolved to approve the apologies given. Mr Hickenbottom had resigned earlier that week. The Clerk informed members that the principle authority had been informed and all necessary steps were being taken.	Clerk
24/90	To determine which items of the agenda, if any, require the exclusion of public and press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 1 (2) because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential business to be transacted and resolve to exclude public and press for these items. The council resolved to exclude public and press for item 24/104 and debate that item at the end.	
24/91	To receive and resolve to sign the minutes of the meeting 17 October 2024 as a true record of that meeting. The council resolved to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting 17 October 2024.	
24/92	To note the draft minutes of the HR and Employment Committee Meeting 12 September 2024. The Council noted draft minutes of the HR and Employment Committee Meeting 12 September 2024.	
24/93	To receive and note updates on matters arising from the minutes. The Clerk informed members that the principal authority will inform the clerk after 11 December 2024 whether or not a poll has been called. For the recent vacancy.	
24/94	To receive and note updates on the Actions and Decisions log. The clerk informed members that The bottom of Sherwood avenue would not be a suitable position for a grit bin. The position did not fulfil Via's yellow bin criteria. The council could opt to install a blue bin at the cost of £150.	
24/95	To receive representations from	

	<p>1. Members of the public in respect of the business on the agenda (limited to a maximum of 5 minutes per speaker). Members of the public spoke of their concerns at the allotments where there had been several break ins and items such as axes and knives taken. Allotment holders were frequently exposed to foul language by local youths who appear to be entering the site via Rockwood Court.</p> <p>2. District and County Council Representatives on Matters of a direct relevance to Blidworth residents. Cllr T Smith talked about information on Gritting routes being available on the NCC website, He stated that the tree outside the postoffice was a NSDC responsibility, rather than NCC, He had reported numerous potholes and encouraged members of the public to do the same. S 106 money's would become available over the coming months. He mentioned upcoming events from the Council of Voluntary Service.</p> <p>3. Local Police The PCSO reported that there is growing concern about the safety of the allotments and neighbouring Rockwood Court and wondered if the council were going to fund security fencing for the site.</p>	
24/96	<p>To receive updates on Highway Issues in the Village if not already covered elsewhere. None not already mentioned elsewhere.</p>	
24/97	<p>To consider quotations received for the installation of existing and purchase of new Christmas lights and approve the expenditure. The council resolved to approve the expenditure of £6,260 for the storage, testing, installation and dismantling of Christmas lights and the purchase of 25 replacement strings, leads and transformers.</p>	
24/98	<p>To note the agreement of the NJC pay scales effective from 01 April 2024 and the contractual obligation to backpay existing and former staff. The council noted the NJC pay scales and the requirement for backdate pay to April 2024.</p>	
24/99	<p>Financial Matters: To receive, note and approve accounts and financial information:</p> <p>a) Analysis of Payments in October 2024 The council noted the payments analysis for October 2024.</p> <p>b) Analysis of Receipts in October 2024 A detailed receipts analysis had not been possible as some bank statements had not been available.</p> <p>c) Bank reconciliation to 30 October 2024 if statements to all accounts available and note bank balances where available. The council noted the bank reconciliations available and the following bank balances: Unity Trust Current account:£56,553.58 on 31 October 2024. Unity Trust Savings account £ 19,968.03 on 30 September 2024. NatWest Current Account was £500.00 on 30 October. A bank statement for the NatWest savings account was not available.</p> <p>d) Virements between account codes. The council approved the virements as presented.</p> <p>e) Payments schedule for November 2024</p>	<p>Clerk to action virements within the accounts.</p>

	<p>The council unanimously approved the payments schedule for November and as well as the December salary payments and any out of pocket expenses over the Christmas holidays.</p> <p>f) To receive and note the current year receipts and payments to 30 September 2024</p> <p>The Council noted the current year receipts and payments to 30 September 2024.</p> <p>g) To receive and note a first draft budget proposal for 2025-26 financial year as a basis for further discussion.</p> <p>The Council noted the first draft Budget proposal.</p>	
<p>24/100</p>	<p>To consider and decide the following business:</p> <p>a) To consider appointing the council’s Internal Auditor for the 2024-25 Financial year and agree the scope of the internal audit.</p> <p>The Council unanimously resolved to reappoint the council’s Internal Auditor</p> <p>b) To consider improving fencing at the allotments as a measure to reduce anti social behaviour. (Cllr Marlow).</p> <p>Having received representations from allotment holders and the PCSO in the public session, the council resolved to obtain quotes to install 55m of fencing and look into external funding.</p> <p>c) To discuss and agree final arrangements for the Christmas Lights event and authorise related expenditure. (Cllr Marlow)</p> <p>The council discussed the Christmas lights event and authorised proven expenditure resulting from it to be re-imbursed.</p> <p>d) . To consider the feedback received from VIA EM with regards to installation of Christmas lights on lampposts and agree alternative positions.</p> <p>The council resolved to stay with the Christmas lights as installed and arrange a walkabout with the installers to find alternative solutions for the next festive season.</p> <p>e) To discuss and agree final arrangements for the Pensioners Party event and authorise related expenditure. (Cllr Marlow)</p> <p>The council discussed arrangements for the Pensioner’s Party and authorised proven expenditure resulting from it (for crackers, selection boxes etc.) to be re-imbursed and the catering invoice to be paid prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>f) To consider reviewing an Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy based on the latest NALC model template for consultation with staff.</p> <p>The council resolved to share the policy with the employee for consultation and refer it to the HR committee for adoption.</p> <p>g) To receive the October playground inspection reports and consider any action that may be required and authorise relevant expenditure.</p> <p>The Council resolved to share the report with the groundsman so he would be able to take appropriate action such as graffiti removal and identify issues that cannot be rectified internally. The council authorised the expenditure required.</p>	<p>Clerk to write letter of appointment to Internal Auditor.</p> <p>Clerk to obtain quotes for fencing and identify fund opportunities.</p> <p>Clerk to arrange walkabout for Christmas lights.</p> <p>Clerk to process payments as required.</p> <p>Cllrs Dear and Fisher to coordinate joining forces with Mission Hall.</p>

	<p>h) To consider the formation of a village clean-up task force (Cllr C Dear)</p> <p>The Council agreed that Cllrs Dear and Fisher would coordinate the efforts with Mission Hall volunteers and report back to council.</p> <p>i) To consider authorising a further verge cut.</p> <p>The council concluded, there was no need to commission a further cut by a third party.</p> <p>j) To consider transferring the council's accounting system from the current spreadsheet-based system to proprietary software to improve efficiency.</p> <p>Deferred to a future meeting pending quotes.</p>	
24/101	<p>To receive updates from working parties. (for notification only)</p> <p>a) Communications/Marketing/Events - Working Party See above for Christmas Events. A provisional Date of 20 July was agreed for the Summer Fete.</p> <p>b) Summer Planting/War Memorial Planting- Working Party Planting planned for January.</p> <p>c) Parks and Open Spaces – Working Party No report.</p> <p>d) Finance Working Party To meet early January.</p> <p>e) Planning Working Party No report.</p>	
24/102	<p>To consider commenting on the following planning applications: 24/01780/LDCP Lawful Development Certificate for the siting of mobile field shelter and caravan for equestrian use/storage. Field Ref No 6446 Plot 3 New Lane Blidworth</p> <p>No comment.</p>	
24/103	<p>To note the following planning decisions made by Newark and Sherwood District Council: NONE</p>	
24/104	<p>To receive a update from the HR and Employment Committee and consider</p> <p>a) HR committee's recommendation for extension of your position as locum clerk to council (Cllr Catling to report)</p> <p>b) HR matter request for authority to incur expenditure in addition to budgeted expenditure. (Cllr Catling to report)</p> <p>Exclusion of Public and Press recommended because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential business to be transacted.</p> <p>The council resolved to to exclude public and press for this item only, because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential business to be transacted and moved this item to the end of actual proceedings.</p> <p>a) The Council resolved to extend the position of locum clerk to the end of the financial year, March 2025.</p>	

	b) The council learned that there would now be no need to incur additional expenditure.	
24/105	To note correspondence received and circulated by email.	
24/106	To confirm the date and place of the next Parish Councillor surgery.	
24/107	To consider if a meeting will be required in December note the date of the next Blidworth Parish Council Meeting as either 19 December 2024 or 16 January 2025 to be held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts,NG21 0PW	

Signed by presiding chairman of approving meeting

Date