



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
BLIDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**
held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts, NG21 0PW
on Thursday 16 January 2025 commencing at 7.00pm

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

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

Item	Business Transacted	Action
24/108	To receive declarations of interest, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary and applications for dispensation on items listed on the agenda Cllr Litchfield declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the Miners Welfare. Cllr Fisher declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Mission Church.	
24/109	To receive apologies for absence as given to the Locum Clerk The council received apologies for absence from Cllrs Smith and Walsh.	
24/110	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 unanimously resolved to exclude public and press from item 126 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.	
24/111	To receive and resolve to sign the minutes of the meeting 21 November 2024 as a true record of that meeting. The council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting 21 November 2024 as a true record of that meeting. Cllr Bates abstained.	Clerk to publish
24/112	To receive representations from 1. VIA East Midlands on the Lengthsman Scheme The Highways Assistant District Manager for Ashfield gave a brief presentation on the lengthsman scheme and answered questions with regards to items listed in Schedule Two of the scheme contract. The VIA officer confirmed that the council would be able to join the scheme from 2025-26, initially for one year. Nottinghamshire County Council and VIA would be reviewing the scheme for the 2026-27 financial year onwards. She confirmed that joining the scheme would not relieve NCC of its statutory duties nor would all things listed under schedule two need to be competed. 2. Members of the public in respect of the business on the agenda (limited to a maximum of 5 minutes per speaker).	Clerk to check for waste transfer licence.

	<p>A member of the public stated that he had logged a Freedom of Information request regarding the S106 monies for Blidworth. He had been informed that applications for these funds far outstripped the money available and Newark and Sherwood district Council would need to consider carefully where best to allocate the funds. It was highly unlikely that any of the money would have to be returned to the developers.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if the council had a waste carrier licence that would allow the grounds maintenance operative to transport waste, usually litter and bin bags from council owned bins. The clerk said she would check.</p> <p>3. District and County Council Representatives on Matters of a direct relevance to Blidworth residents.</p> <p>Local Police reported that there was currently a problem with "boy racers" on the A617.</p> <p>Two people had been charged with theft related offences from a local supermarket.</p> <p>Small motorbikes commonly known as "monkey bikes" were being ridden illegally around the village. The police are aware and taking action where they can.</p> <p>A member reported nearly being knocked over by an e-scooter.</p>	
24/113	To receive and note updates on matters arising from the minutes. The Clerk informed members that the principal authority had informed them that no poll had been called for the recent vacancies and the council was free to coopt.	
24/114	To receive and note updates on the Actions and Decisions log. The council noted the updates and asked for the .gov.uk domain item to be added to the next agenda.	Clerk to add to agenda.
24/115	To receive updates on Highway Issues in the Village if not already covered elsewhere. Cllr Dear reported that he had reported numerous potholes particularly on Haywood Oaks Lane.	
24/116	To consider quotations received for proprietary accountancy software. Duplicate item considered under 24/118-e)	
24/117	To consider quotes received for play area repairs. The council noted the quotes received and asked the clerk to obtain two further quotes to repair the surf swing so the item could be re-installed.	Clerk to obtain further quotes.
24/118	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>a) To receive and note the payments and receipts for November and December 2024. The council noted the payments and receipts for November and December 2024.</p> <p>b) To receive and note the Bank reconciliation to 31 December 2024. (if statements to all accounts available) and note bank balances where available.</p> <p>The council noted the bank balances as follows Unity Trust Current account £25,150.51 on 31 December 2024 Unity Trust Instant Access £ 40,106.75 on 31 December 2024. NatWest Current Account £500.00. on 30 October (auto top up to £500).</p>	Clerk to set up payments for approval Clerk to send precept demand. Clerk to publish Budget.

NatWest Business Reserve £48,646.73 on 31 December 2024. The reconciliation of all accounts would be presented at the next meeting.

c) To **approve** payments made over the Christmas period and the payments schedule for January 2025.

The Council **approved** the payments made over the Christmas period. Of the payments schedule for January, the council approved the following BACS payments:

21/01/25	BACS	Play Inspection Company	Annual Play Inspection	513.00
21/01/25	BACS	NSDC	Monthly Playground Inspection November	90.00
21/01/25	BACS	NSDC	Additional dog bins	720.00
20/01/25	BACS	Inspire	Front Desk Contract and annual office hire	5766.00
20/01/25	BACS	B Boyer	Local Council Professional Services (18/11-03/01/25)	3600.90
28/01/25	BACS	Staffing	All Salaries and wages January (including back paid allowance and pension)	2982.20

Due to a typing error in the circulated papers, the other payments would be approved at the February meeting.

d) To receive and **note** the current year receipts and payments over budget to 31 December 2024.

The Council **noted** the current year's receipts and payments over budget to 31 December 2024.

e) To consider purchasing propriatry council software to allow for more time-effective management of council finances.

The council deferred this for further in depths discussion to a Finance Working Party consisting of Cllrs Litchfield and Bates to bring to the next meeting.

f) To receive and note a second draft budget proposal and **agree** the budget for the 2025-26 financial year.

The Council considered the budget proposal as presented and resolved to adopt the 2025-26 budget.

g) To **agree** the precept as informed by the approved budget.

The Council unanimously agreed the precept as informed by the approved budget. The 2025-26 precept was agreed at £98,051 equivalent to a 3% rise in the funds raised and an increase of approximately £1.90 per year/16 pence per month over the 2024-25 financial year for a Band D household.

Cllrs Litchfield and Bates to look at propriatry software and recommend to council.

24/119 To **consider and decide** the following **business**:

a) To receive first quotes for security fencing (to be tabled) and identify possible funding streams.

The council looked at a first quote received for the fencing. The clerk would endeavour to obtain further quotes and present to council at a later stage. Cllr Duffy agreed to look into the ownership of the fence between the allotments site and the flats and report back.

b) To consider subscribing to [Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire](#) for a trial period.

The council resolved to join RCAN for a trial period until the end of the financial year and to then review the membership.

Clerk to obtain further quotes. Cllr Duffy to obtain definitive information on fence ownership.

	<p>c) To receive the November and Annual playground inspection reports and consider any action that may be required and authorise relevant expenditure.</p> <p>See item 24/117 above.</p> <p>d) To consider dates for the council's 2025 events, in particular the Summer Fete.</p> <p>Cllr Litchfield refrained from this item and did not participate in the vote. The council resolved to hold the summer fete at the Miners Welfare on 20 July 2025.</p> <p>The council further set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting to 26 April 2025.</p> <p>e) To consider quotes received to improve the council's phone system ahead of the switch from analogue to digital phone lines.</p> <p>The council resolved to go with option B and transfer the phone line to a digital one.</p> <p>f) To consider a recruitment campaign to the two parish council vacancies.</p> <p>The council resolved to try and recruit additional members to the two vacancies.</p> <p>g) To consider joining the Lengthsman Scheme from April 2025.</p> <p>Deferred to next month's meeting.</p>	
24/120	<p>To receive updates from working parties. (for notification only)</p> <p>a) Communications/Marketing/Events - Working Party</p> <p>It was reported that the council's Christmas events had been a great success and thanks were given to all those involved to make things happen.</p> <p>b) Summer Planting/War Memorial Planting- Working Party</p> <p>The Working Party would be meeting within the following week to discuss summer planting.</p> <p>c) Parks and Open Spaces – Working Party</p> <p>d) Finance Working Party</p> <p>The working party would meet to discuss the finance software.</p> <p>e) Planning Working Party</p>	
24/121	<p>To consider commenting on the following planning applications:</p> <p>a) 24/01478/FUL Change of use barn to granny house Beecholme Croft Main Street Blidworth NG21 0QH</p> <p>The council resolved not to object.</p>	Clerk to comment
24/122	<p>To note the following planning decisions made by Newark and Sherwood District Council:</p> <p>a) 24/02010/TELNOT Notification of the intention to install electronic communications apparatus. T-Mobile Mast 99489 Mansfield Road Blidworth – LAWFUL</p> <p>24/00889/FUL Proposed dropped kerb 22 Main Street Blidworth NG21 0PZ – Permission Granted</p> <p>The council noted the above decisions.</p>	
24/123	<p>To note correspondence received and circulated by email</p> <p>The council noted the previously circulated correspondence.</p>	

24/124	To confirm the date and place of the next Parish Councillor surgery. The council confirmed the date and time of the next councillor surgery as 25 January 2025 at the Mission Hall.	
24/125	To note the date of the next Blidworth Parish Council Meeting as 20 February 2025 to be held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts,NG21 0PW. The council noted the date of the next scheduled meeting as 20 February 2025. Cllrs Bates and Fisher gave their apologies.	
24/126	<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>To receive a update from the HR and Employment Committee and consider any recommendations resulting from the committee’s meeting Monday 13th January.</p> <p>Folowing the exclusion of public and press, Cllr Catling, chair of the HR and Employment Committee updated members on HR issues.</p> <p>Members noted that Groundstaff had returned to work. The committee would now pursue the purchase of a suitable vehicle to transport mowers and strimmers around the village. Cllr Catlin confirmed that the committee had agreed the the advert for the Parish Clerk/RFO vacancy which would be advertised shortly for 24 hours per week with a salary range of Spinal Column Point 25-34.</p>	Cllr Catlin