



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BLIDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts, NG21 0PW
on Thursday 20 February 2025 commencing at 7.00pm**


Councillor present: E Litchfield (chair), K Marlow, C Dear, T Duffy, T Smith, C Walsh,
Councillors absent: H Catling, G Fisher, W Bates,
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
24/127	To receive declarations of interest, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary and applications for dispensation on items listed on the agenda There were none.	
24/128	To receive apologies for absence as given to the Locum Clerk The Council received and noted apologies for absence from Cllrs Bates, Fisher and Catling.	
24/129	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 clerk explained that she would need to give a verbal update on the payments listings having taken personnel advice from the council's contracted service. This part of the clerk's report would need to be discussed under exclusion of public and press. The council resolved to exclude public and press for the confidential part of the clerk's report 24/137.	
24/130	To receive and resolve to sign the minutes of the meeting 16 January 2025 as a true record of that meeting. Cllr Walsh abstained from voting. The council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting 16 January 2025 as a true record of that meeting.	Clerk to publish
24/131	To receive and note updates on matters arising from the minutes. The clerk informed members that a waste carrier licence was now in place. She reported that the new BT line was now in place.	.
24/132	To note the minutes of the HR Employment Committee Meeting 13 January 2025 (Cllr Catling) Deferred to a future meeting. Cllr Dear expressed an interest in attending employment training offered by NALC. The council authorised the expenditure.	Clerk to book place.
24/133	To consider applications received for cooption to the council's two vacancies and if approved, suspend the meeting to allow for new members to sign their declaration of acceptance of office. The Council resolved to co-opt both candidates. The meeting was briefly adjourned to allow the newly co-opted members J harvey and A Sykes to sign their declaration of acceptance of office before the clerk and be issued with the Members Interests forms.	Clerk to update website and inform NSDC of co-options. .

<p>24/134</p>	<p>To receive representations from</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the public in respect of the business on the agenda (limited to a maximum of 5 minutes per speaker). <p>A member of the public questioned why the council was looking into purchasing proprietary accountancy software when there was free software available. Cllr Duffy informed members that there would be a link group meeting 11 March at 11am at Rockwood Close.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> District and County Council Representatives on Matters of a direct relevance to Blidworth residents. <p>Cllr Smith reported that the District Council was looking at planting wild flower areas on public highway including an area in Blidworth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local Police <p>A member of the neighbourhood policing team reported that there was nothing major going on in Blidworth to report on.</p>	
<p>24/135</p>	<p>To receive and note updates on the Actions and Decisions log.</p> <p>The path going into the Sherwood Avenue Park was being looked into but it required a turn of the weather to take any action.</p> <p>Cllr Duffy reported that she had started looking into the fence ownership between the allotments and the council housing. The query had been passed on to NSDC legal team.</p>	
<p>24/136</p>	<p>To receive updates on Highway Issues in the Village if not already covered elsewhere.</p> <p>Cllr Walsh reported that there were several potholes and similar issues on the NCC website that had been outstanding for many months with no cation being logged. He would write to NCC to receive answers.</p>	<p>Cllr Walsh to write to VIA.</p>
<p>24/137</p>	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive and note the payments and receipts for 31 January 25. The Council received and noted the receipts and payments for January 25. To receive and note the Bank reconciliation to 31 January 25. (if statements to all accounts available) and note bank balances where available. <p>The council received and noted the bank reconciliations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the payments schedules for January (deferred from last meeting) February 2025. <p>The council resolved to approve the payment schedules for January and February 2025.</p> <p>Members are aware that there will be variations to the published schedule following discussions during the closed session which considered at the end of the meeting under exclusion of public and press.</p> <p>The Council resolved an additional one-off bonus which would be subject to PAYE and NI but would not be pensionable pay.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive and note the current year receipts and payments over budget to 31 January 25. <p>The council received and noted the current year receipts and payments over budget to 31 January 25.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To note NatWest Branch closures for Mansfield and Newark and consider taking appropriate action including changing financial institutions. <p>The Council noted the NATWEST branch closures but did not consider any further action.</p>	<p>Clerk to set up payments for approval</p>
<p>24/138</p>	<p>To consider quotes received for waste uploads and resolve to take up a trade waste contract for the 2025-26 financial year.</p>	<p>Clerk to sign</p>

	<p>Cllr Lichfield queried why there was suddenly a charge for the waste collection. The clerk explained that the collection should always have been a paid service. The council resolved to appoint NSDC to collect the council's waste generated in the open spaces.</p> <p>Cllr Tom Smith left the meeting at 19.30.</p>	<p>relevant contracts and paperwork.</p>
<p>24/139</p>	<p>To consider quotes received for electricity supply and agree a new supplier from March.</p> <p>Deferred to a future meeting. Members would prefer to stay with current provider rather than move.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to ring the current provider, to see if a better deal was available.</p>	
<p>24/140</p>	<p>To consider and decide the following business:</p> <p>a) To agree the dates and location for the year's events other than the Annual Parish Meeting and the Summer Fayre especially the Christmas Light Switch on and Pensioners' Party (Cllr Marlow)</p> <p>The council agreed the following dates and locations for events: Christmas Lights Switch On: 22 November 2025 at Blidworth Library with a possible road closure to facilitate the event. Pensioner's Party: 09 December 2025 at the Miners Welfare with a buffet lunch.</p> <p>b) To note the Council's insurers' event planning guide.</p> <p>The council noted the guide circulated to all members.</p> <p>c) To consider holding a community CPR & defibrillator training session (Cllr Marlow)</p> <p>Cllr Dear agreed to obtain quotations from suitable providers and bring these back to the next meeting.</p> <p>d) To note feedback from the Armed Forces Networking Event attended by Cllrs Marlowe, Duffy and Dear.</p> <p>Cllrs Marlow, Duffy and Dear reported back from the Armed Forces Networking Event. They reported that many councils set their events timetable for the following financial year a year in advance. Council agreed to finalise an events schedule for 2026-27 at the June Full Council meeting.</p> <p>They reported that NSDC would have funding available for some events.</p> <p>e) To consider an idea suggested by members of the public regarding graffiti at council premises. (Cllr Marlow)</p> <p>A member of the public had suggested to provide a "graffiti wall" or similar that would allow young people to express themselves. Members felt this should be part of an event. Members would do more research into the matter and bring back to full council.</p> <p>f) To consider purchasing a streetwise portable pressure washer at approximately £30.</p> <p>The council resolved to allocate £50 for the purchase of suitable equipment by the grounds staff.</p> <p>g) To consider training requests from members and authorise the relevant expenditure.</p> <p>The council authorised the necessary expenditure for councillor training for Cllr Dear to attend employment training and New Councillor training for newly co-opted members.</p> <p>h) To consider and confirm the contractual annual rent increase for the Forest Folk Allotment site in line with the Retail Price Index plus 0.5%.</p>	<p>Cllr Dear to obtain quotes for CPR training.</p> <p>Clerk to add Events schedule to June agenda.</p> <p>Members to look into "graffiti wall" and obtain costings.</p> <p>Grounds staff to purchase suitable equipment. Clerk to write to allotments association.</p>

	Members were informed that the most recent available figures showed a year-on-year RPI increase of 3.6%. The Council resolved to confirm the annual increase as per contract by 4.1%.	
24/141	To receive updates from working parties. (for notification only) a) Communications/Marketing/Events - Working Party – No update b) Summer Planting/War Memorial Planting- Working Party – All bulbs had now been planted c) Parks and Open Spaces – Working Party – Sherwood park path to be looked at once weather more favourable. d) Finance Working Party – No update e) Planning Working Party – No update	
24/142	To consider commenting on the following planning applications : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of single-storey side extension and outbuilding, proposed single-storey extension to front, side and rear  Norwood Hill Farm New Lane Blidworth NG21 0PW Ref. No: 24/02202/HOUSE Received: Thu 19 Dec 2024 Validated: Thu 06 Feb 2025 Status: Registered Council resolved not to comment.	
24/143	To note the following planning decisions made by Newark and Sherwood District Council: a) Removal of Beech tree in rear garden. - 49 Main Street Blidworth NG21 0PX, Ref. No: 25/00042/TWCA Received: Mon 13 Jan 2025 Validated: Mon 13 Jan 2025 Status: NO OBJECTION Council noted the decision.	
24/144	To note correspondence received and circulated by email. Council noted the correspondence received and circulated by email.	
24/145	To confirm the date and place of the next Parish Councillor surgery. The next surgery would be 1 st March at the Library from 10.00-12.00.	
24/146	To note the date of the next Blidworth Parish Council Meeting as 20 March 2025 to be held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts,NG21 0PW The council noted the date for the next meeting as 20 March 2025 to be held at Blidworth Library, New Lane, Blidworth, Notts,NG21 0PW.	

Signed by the presiding Chair of approving meeting

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Date