

BLAXTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2025
AT 19:00 IN BLAXTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors R Johnson (Chair), P Raybould, J Hill, J Steventon and I Collett

APOLOGIES: None

IN ATTENDANCE: E Lear- Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Two

1) APOLOGIES – None

2) MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2024

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 April 2024 were agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 29 May 2024. – **Noted**

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

4) CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2024/25

The Chair read his report which was received and noted and is appended to these minutes.

5) BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/26 – Noted

The Chair confirmed a budget of £29,477 and a Precept of £25,080.

6) ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH – None

Meeting closed at 19:10

Chair: _____

Date: _____

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING APRIL 2025

CHAIRS REPORT

I began last year's report with the statement "the year has presented some challenges, not least the difficulties we have experienced in trying to resolve issues relating to the Joint Playing Field with our neighbours Finningley Parish Council". Despite our many attempts over the past year to engage on this matter, the situation has not changed. We have also tried to resolve the issues via our Ward Councillors, who have made a number of offers to help, none of which have yet materialised.

We have serious concern that the pavilion is to be re-purposed without the approval of Blaxton Parish Council and the community we serve. We will continue to try and ensure that the Joint Playing Fields, including the pavilion, continue to be managed for the benefit of both of our communities and for their designated purpose of sport and recreation.

We welcomed our new Clerk Emma Lear in May 2024. Our thanks to our former Clerk Pamela Reeves who stayed in post to make a seamless handover, and to Philip Dennis who has remained as Joint Clerk to provide some support for Emma. Emma has settled in well and we are grateful to them all.

We conducted a survey in January 2024 which told us that your preferred improvement to the Blaxton Playing Field would be a nature trail. We have applied to City of Doncaster Council (CDC) for release of the 106 Money to fund the project, which is currently in progress. To supplement the project, we recently planted 10 fruit trees and 2 fruit bushes along the footprint of the trail so that, when they start to bear fruit, residents will be able to visit our community orchard and help themselves. Thanks to the children and adults who supported the planting event organised jointly with "Kids Plant trees". We have also applied for Lottery Funding to add interest to the trail. Hopefully, we will make progress in the next few months.

You will be aware that there will be Elections on May 1st, including Parish Councils. I am pleased to report that four of the existing five members will continue as Councillors and there will not be an election. The member who will be leaving us is Paul Raybould who is moving away from the area. Paul's move has been planned for some months, but he very kindly offered to stay on the Council until the election. Paul joined the Council in February 2022 and we are grateful to him for over three years of service. We wish him and his family well for the future.

With four members we are able to co-opt a fifth member after the election. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Councillor, please let us know. I am happy to talk through the role and responsibilities without the person being obligated. Contact details are on our (recently updated) Website.

Following attendance at Carbon Literacy Training by three members of the Council we have tried over the past months to give more consideration in our decision making to the carbon footprint of the village. Planting and preserving trees has helped. In addition we are in the process of providing a cycle repair station to encourage more use of cycles, and a sharing

station so that residents can re-cycle rather than dispose of books, toys, plants and spare produce. Both should be in place over the next few months. We are also grateful to the Village Hall Committee who have indicated that they will include consideration of the Hall's carbon footprint into their management of this important village facility.

My thanks to my colleagues, Jacob Hill, Janet Steventon, Ian Collett and Paul Raybould and to our Joint Clerks Emma Lear and Philip Dennis for their support over the past year.

Finally, a word about the Precept. This year, for the third consecutive year, we have set a precept that results in a zero-percentage increase in the Parish Council element of your Council Tax.

If you want to know what we are doing on your behalf you are welcome to attend our meetings, check up on our website, notice board, or on our social media pages. You can raise issues or ask questions by contacting our Clerk; we will do our best to get a resolution to your problem or an answer to your question.

Richard Johnson.

16th April 2025.