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Minutes of a meeting of **Blakeney Parish Council** which was held on **Tuesday 5th August 2025** in **The Parish Office/Parish Room**, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:- Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Nigel Sutcliffe, Jenny Girling, Judy Pegden, Mike Reed, Samantha Arlow & Shirley Everett.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield

Public:- 6

Did not Attend:- Iain Wolfe

1. Apologies for absence were ***approved*** from: Alban Donohoe, Willie Weston & Barry Girling. Also, from County Cllr. Michael Dalby.

2. There were no **Declarations of Interest or requests for dispensations** from members.

3. *Resolved* that the **Minutes** of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 are signed as a true record.

4. Chairman's Announcements – None.

5. Reports from County & District Councillors;

5.1. *County Councillor* – Michael Dalby, no report received in advance.

5.2. *District Councillor* – Victoria Holliday had shared a report with members in advance. In addition;

Agar Farm (field opposite Bliss) Agar Farm (field opposite Bliss) – The application to the Caravan & Motorhome Club (CMC) falls under the remit of being an 'exempted certified site' due to the old 1960's outdated legislation. It is therefore not a normal planning application as such, and therefore there are no statutory consultees, this includes North Norfolk District Council. However, the application to the CMC has caused much upset in the village, and NNDC have submitted a formal response to the CMC objecting, as have the Parish Council and several residents. Issues of concern are real, as tents have already been on site; with those staying in them seen to be urinating in the hedgerow. Concerns include lack of toilet provision and waste disposal, vehicle access, removal of mature hedgerow, landscape protection etc. The applicant has been requested to provide a Habitat Regulation Assessment (Conservation of Habitats and Species) to NNDC and to pay the requisite fees towards recreational impact mitigation.

6. Open Public Session –

- **Agar Farm** – *Is the vehicle access a reasonable ground for objection, as it comes directly onto the very busy A149 Coast Road – VH: yes it is & NNDC have already commented as such.*
- **Agar Farm** – *This land was being used by campers in tents over the weekend, and the males on site were urinating in the hedgerows opposite*

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residential homes with families – VH please forward me details and I will take this matter up with colleagues at NNDC.

- **Agar Farm** – *Lack of consultation over the application is awful. The applicants have not communicated with residents and is there a need for such a site in the village – VH as mentioned, there is no formal application process for this, due to the loopholes derived from old outdated legislation.*

7. Planning Items –

7.1. PM/25/0651 – *Proposal; Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale: matters reserved under outline planning permission PO/24/2084 for erection of detached dwelling (self-build) at, **Land at Rear of Marigold, 61 New Road, Blakeney.***

Resolved; OBJECT as before, as our previous comments still stand.

7.2. PF/25/1346 – *Proposal; Demolition of existing dwelling and development of 2 x two storey dwellings and attached garages at, **The Freshes, Pintail Drive, Blakeney.***

Resolved; OBJECT as this application is not compliant with Policy 8 (Infill Development), we consider this application to be over development of the site, neither is it compliant with Policy 9 (Existing Dwelling Replacement) of the adopted Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan. NNDC to view this application against the adopted BPC NPlan.

7.3. PF/25/1326 – *Proposal; Proposed single storey rear and side extensions and change of external finish at, **Ferrymans, 36 Langham Road, Blakeney.***

Resolved; No objection.

7.4. PF/25/1280 – *Proposal; Full planning application for 8 x residential dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping at, **Land to the East of Langham Road, Blakeney.***

Resolved; Support, it complies with Policy 6 (Design of Development) & Policy 7 (Improving the Design of New and Replacement Homes) of the adopted Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan.

7.5. LA/25/1607 – *Proposal; Replacement window and door at, **17 High Street, Blakeney.***

Resolved; No objection.

8. FINANCE

8.1. Resolved that the **Accounts** totalling £19,305.93 are to be paid.

8.2. *To receive* **Clerk/RFO Report –**

- **Threshold Sport** have confirmed that they would like to provisionally book the parish playing field and overflow car park field for the MacMillan Mighty Hike on Sat 9th & Sun 10th May 2026, with the period from Fri 8th to Sun 10th and will not proceed any further with a September date.
 - **Local Government Pay Scales 2025 – 26** have been awarded and backdated to 1st April 2025 with immediate effect.
 - **Big Belly Litter Bin** – Members hereby **approve** funding for a concrete base (approx. £100–£200) to support the installation of a fully NNDC-funded Big Belly bin near the ladies’ toilets on the quay. This forms part of a wider review of bin provision and aims to improve waste capacity in a high-traffic area over the busy summer months, with the old bin being placed along the quayside adding to the current provision. ***(To be ratified at the Sept meeting.)***
 - **Future of annual end of season Bonfire & Fireworks Event** – Following a formal report from the Parish Clerk, Blakeney Parish Council has agreed to **cancel the 2025 Bonfire & Fireworks event**. The decision reflects the growing complexity and compliance demands of delivering the event, including anticipated requirements under Martyn’s Law, staffing limitations, finding volunteers to fulfil a number of roles and the Clerk’s increasing workload and study commitments. While a provisional date had been advertised and a fireworks provider pencilled in, no financial commitments or contracts had been entered into. Going forward, BPC will reach out to the wider community to gauge interest in taking on responsibility for organising the event from 2026 onwards. Any future delivery will be conditional on full compliance with legal and safety requirements and will require a named lead person to oversee all aspects of planning, delivery, and governance. The Council will make existing planning documentation available to support any prospective organisers, when appropriate. ***(To be ratified at the Sept meeting.)***
- 8.3. Members **resolved** that they confirm their compliance with the **UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act** as per Assertion 10 in the 2025-26 AGAR & that they have hereby adopted an associated **IT Policy**.
- 8.4. **Resolved** to accept the quote for internal decoration of the **Scout/Parish Room** from ‘Secret Gardens’.
- 8.5. **Resolved** to defer the consideration of other work/items needed to refurbish the **Scout/Parish Room**.

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- 8.6. **Resolved** to accept the quote from 'Nationwide Data Collection' for the installation of **Traffic Count Strips** at the entrance to the village hall car park.

9. Reports from Representatives on Other Committees/Groups which had met recently;

Blakeney Village Hall Trust – Minutes dated 22nd July 2025; matters raised;

- i) The Clerk had confirmed arrangements for use of their toilets, during Party on The Pastures with their 'Bookings Secretary & the Hire Group; The Crafters'.
- ii) The statement made by the BVHT in their minutes, is factually incorrect in relation to the village hall car park based upon the legal advice that BPC & the BVHT have received.
- iii) Asked if we could firm up a meeting with the members of the BVHT.

Finance Committee – 29th July 2025 – RT; Quarter 1 of 2025/26 completed.

10. COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS – None.

11. CORRESPONDENCE –

- 11.1. **Resolved** that subject to a minor change in wording on the 'Blakeney Remembrance Day (Events) Parade Actions' sheet, that BPC formally agree to take on the responsibility for the **Armistice Day & Remembrance Day Events 2025 & allocate a budget of £500.**
- 11.2. **Resolved** to defer this item, until both the author of the proposal and Cllr. Donohoe are present, ie. a proposal regarding the future use of the **Blakeney Duck Pond.**
- 11.3. Having worked through the updated **Operational Project Plan** with minor amendments made, members **resolved** to approve the document.
- 11.4. **Resolved** that we look into **EV Charging Points** in conjunction with the Norfolk County Council **Parish Partnership Scheme** for 2026/27 and our previously agreed **Bus shelter provision/enhancements.**
- 11.5. **Resolved** that we amalgamate the Finance Committee with the Personnel Committee, and moving forward, call it the '**H.R.& Finance Committee**' with immediate effect.
- 11.6. **Resolved** that we note the **Operational Play Inspection Report** dated 23rd July 2025.

- 11.7. **Resolved** that out of the 4 nominations much deserved nominations received, the award for the 'Outstanding Contribution to the **Community Award 2025** is given to 'Alison Jewell'.

Resolved; Confidential Business – Exclusion of the Press & Public - Due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (Personnel contract matters), on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose discussion on the items below relating to contracts and staffing matters, it is proposed that the press and public are now excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. (Admission to Meeting Act (Public Bodies) 1960.

11.8. **Outside/Personnel Contract** matters.

- i) Parish Council Toilet Block servicing – **resolved** that Trevor Leach will undertake this work. (See *confidential report*.)
- ii) Carnser Car Park Attendant – One employee currently on sick leave. (See *confidential report*.)

For information only; NNDC Planning Decisions or Updates, or any Planning Inspectorate Appeals since our last meeting; most available on NNDC website.

RV/25/0895 – Removal/variation of condition at, Fairland, Morston Road, Blakeney - APPROVED.

Meeting closed at 9:02pm

Chairman _____