

Blackawton Parish Council
Established 1894

DRAFT Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council
held on Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall

Present: Parish & South Hams District Cllr Rake (Chair), Parish Cllrs Haddow, Luckens, Mardon, Oughton (Vice-Chair) and Thomas (acting Clerk) were present. There were no members of the public present.

Absent: DCC Cllr Brazil, Parish Cllr Coe and Clerk A Thom.

a. Open Forum

There were no questions from parishioners.

b. Councillors Forum

Cllr Luckens raised the matter of the new footpath from Greenslade Road. Cllr Rake stated that, under the S106 agreement, the responsibility for the path down to the bottom of the bonfire field is the responsibility of the developer and that the S106 provides no provision for crossing the stream at the bottom. DCC is responsible for maintaining public footpaths. *It was agreed to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.*

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from DCC Cllr Brazil, Parish Cllr Coe and Clerk A Thom.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2024.

4. Report from South Hams District Council Councillor

SHDC Cllr Rake highlighted the request from the 2025 South Hams Festival for a sponsorship donation of £500. *It was agreed to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.* Cllr Rake also remarked that land for sale in the village might be eligible for DEFRA grant funding for qualifying uses.

5. Report from Devon County Council Councillor

On behalf of DCC Cllr Brazil, Cllr Rake reported that DCC are in the early stages of a new tendering process for the road maintenance contract.

6. Changes to cemetery charges

It was resolved to adopt the proposed new schedule of cemetery charges with immediate effect, excluding any current ongoing applications. It was noted that there remain other outstanding cemetery issues highlighted in the Clerk's earlier report which still need to be addressed – primarily who qualifies to be buried in the cemetery and at what fee level (single or double).

7. Yellow rattle sowing in the Churchyard & general management approach

It was resolved to approve the proposal to purchase and sow yellow rattle seed in the Churchyard up to a value of £350. Discussion highlighted difficulties in getting the seeds to germinate: the need for cold weather and good ground preparation – either closely cutting the grass and scarifying or lifting turf to lay seed on bare earth but not dug in. Cllrs Haddow and Rake will coordinate this process.

8. Planning

2798/24/HHO: Householder application for proposed off road parking including external works, Penlows, Park Lane, Blackawton TQ9 7BD. It was resolved to support this application.

9. Finance

9.1 Financial report

No detailed financial report was presented. We have received the second precept payment and have a “healthy” bank balance.

9.2 Payments and receipts

It was resolved to authorise the following payments:

Arccas:

O/D invoice 15303437	Cemetery Green Zone	£108.00
Invoice 15303478	Cemetery topping	£ 42.00
Invoice 15303653	Cemetery cuts 5&19 Aug	£204.00
Invoice 15303652	Cemetery Green Zone 5&19 Aug	£216.00

Gardentime

InvoiceV37K351	Bulbs pursuant to grant	£ 55.86
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Payment of the following invoice by delegated authority under S6.8 III of the Financial Regulations was noted:

SCTM Inv 5167	Traffic management	£1,236.00
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10. Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

11. Closure of the meeting

In accordance with the 1960 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, it was resolved to exclude the public and press during consideration of the following item because the business relates to consideration of employment and personnel matters.

12. Provision of cover for Clerk during possible leave of absence

It was resolved to establish a Personnel Sub-Committee comprising Cllrs Rake, Oughton and Haddow/Mardon (alternating). Their initial priority will be to review, in conjunction the Clerk, the Clerk’s workload and hours. It was also resolved to appoint Cllr Luckens to be a Proper Officer of the Council pre tem.

The meeting closed at 8:18 p.m.