

**Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council Meeting held at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church, Old Shaw Lane, Blackshaw Head on Monday 28 March 2011.**

**Present:** Cllrs Dorothy Sutcliffe, Pat Beechill (Chairman), Carol King, and Frank McLaughlan.

**In attendance:** The Clerk.

1. **Accepted apologies** – Cllrs Michelle Dargan Cole, Sally Jones.
2. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – none were declared.
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 February** – agreed.
4. **Information on matters arising from the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 February:** - Any matters were included on the agenda.
5. **Minutes of the WayaHead Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2011** – with the addition of Tim Cole as having attended the minutes were agreed.
6. **Information on matters arising from the minutes of the WayaHead Committee Meeting held on 14 March at Stubbings Wharf** – This was a well attended meeting as recorded in the minutes.
7. **Transferring the land at Great Rock and between The Woodland Inn and Ingle Dene on Burnley Road, Charlestown, to the Parish Council** – It was reported that a meeting had been arranged with Officers of Calderdale Council at 3pm on 30 March. Local residents at the WayaHead Meeting were really enthusiastic about the possibility of allotments and a small community garden for the land at Charlestown although concern was expressed about the lack of a water supply and car parking facilities. The Clerk was studying the Calderdale Council framework for the transfer of assets.
8. **Review of Polling Districts and Polling stations** – It was agreed that the existing arrangements should be continued.
9. **Planning related matters**
  - 9.1. **Comments on Spatial Plan core Framework refined issues and options** – The deadline for comments was 25 March and therefore following the briefing seminar in Hebden Bridge and after consulting the Chairman the Clerk had submitted preliminary comments on behalf of the Parish Council. These were that: -

“Much greater emphasis should be made of expanding the Broadband Network for the benefit of Homeworkers and Businesses. According to the Blackshaw 2010 Parish Plan and household survey 20% of local residents currently work from home and that needs to be increased. At the moment there appears to be a good fibre optic connection to Mytholmroyd, possibly to supply Sweet and Maxwell, but there appears to be no plans declared for extending it through to Hebden Bridge, Todmorden and the hilltop settlements. The economic benefits of expanding the fibre optic broadband network are the 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalent of extending the canal, rail and

roads in the past. It will take pressure off the overloaded road system by enabling more people to work from home either for their existing employers or by running and expanding local businesses. Curiously all local schools are connected to a fibre optic network linked back to Wakefield. At the moment this is exclusive to schools but it should be possible for Calderdale Council to negotiate access for other users.

The other big issue for Blackshaw is the public transport network. Over 53% of local residents as identified in the Parish Plan and household survey work over 10 miles from home. Currently a massive 70% use a car or van to travel to work, training or study. Only 12.4% use the train and 9.5% use the bus. More people need to be encouraged to use public transport to reduce the pressure on the overloaded A646 in the valley bottom. The rapidly increasing cost of fuel will encourage more use of public transport but the infrastructure needs improving by increased parking facilities at Hebden Bridge and Todmorden Railway Stations and the existing subsidy to the bus service for the hilltops needs preserving as a priority." These comments were confirmed.

**9.2. Information on previous planning applications – none.**

**9.3. New Planning applications:-**

**11/00223/FUL conversion of farmhouse to dwelling at Higher Heath, Moor Lane, Blackshaw Head** – the application was supported as being a worthwhile renovation of an old dwelling with reasonable means of access.

**10. Matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths:** - Comments were made about the poor finish to the work on Higher Back Lane. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Rights of Way Team who had promised to revisit the site in the next few months when the weather was more amenable. Work had also started on Old Shaw Lane but it was not complete.

**11. Charlestown flooding issues and the draft local emergency plan** –Cllr Sutcliffe and the Clerk visited properties backing on to the River Calder to discuss flooding issues on 12 March. It was very useful and the Clerk will now proceed to prepare the draft Parish Emergency Plan.

**12. Representative reports and invitations:**

- **3 March Public Meeting about Hebden Bridge Picture House** – the Clerk attended an interesting meeting.
- **8 March consultations on the refined issues and options of the core strategy of the Local Development strategy at Hebden Bridge Town Hall** – Several Blackshaw Councillors, the Clerk and 4 prospective Councillors attended a useful meeting.
- **16 March Picture House Meeting** – the Clerk attended.
- **22 March Launch of Diamond Jubilee celebrations** – Coun Sutcliffe, Tim Cole and Steve Hoyle attended.
- **24 March Town Hall User Group Meeting** – postponed.

- **3pm 30 March meeting with Calderdale Council to discuss land transfers** – The Clerk to attend.
- **9.15pm 4 April Picture House Meeting at the Town Hall** – Coun Sutcliffe to attend.
- **2pm 14 April Launch of the “Together for Looked after Children” at Eureka** – Coun McLaughlan to attend.
- **29 April Big Party!** – noted.
- **7.30pm 19 May launch of Friends of Hebden Bridge Picture House at Riverside School** – everyone was urged to attend.
- **10, 11, 12 June Great Poppy Party Weekend** – noted.

### **13. Financial matters:**

- 13.1. 2010/2011 budget and balances** – the remaining budget for 2010/2011 was reported as £1,921.96 and the Council balances as £5,280.76. It was agreed to transfer £5,750 to the Reserve Account from the Current Account after the Annual Precept was paid.
- 13.2. The establishment of the Parish Council as an employer with HMRC and the changed employment status of the Clerk** – Following advice from YLCA the Clerk can no longer be self-employed. It was therefore agreed for the Parish Council to register as an employer with HMRC, employ the Clerk directly and review the consequences at a future meeting.
- 13.3. Cancellation of cheque to Hebden Bridge Community Association and reissuing it to Hebden Royd Town Council** – It was agreed to cancel the cheque to Hebden Bridge Community Association and reissue it to Hebden Royd Town Council.
- 13.4. Computer use for January, February and March** – The payment of £30 to the Clerk for computer use was confirmed.
- 13.5. Clerk’s Travelling expenses for 2010/2011** – The payment of travelling costs of £183.61 for 301 miles at 60.1p per mile and £3.70 for car parking were confirmed for payment.
- 13.6. Clerk’s fee** – The Clerk’s fee was confirmed for payment.
- 13.7. The Clerk’s 2010/2011 retirement allowance** – The Clerk’s retirement allowance for 2010/2011 based on 3.5% of his fee was agreed as £93.95 which when added together with allowances for previous years would now be a total of £525.14.

### **14. Dates of future meetings:**

**Parish Council Meeting** – 18 April.

**WayHead Committee Meetings** – 20 June at The New Delight, 17 October at the Sportsman and 8 February 2012 at Stubbings Wharf.

**Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting** – 9 May 2011 at Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

**Signed**