

Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council Meeting held at Blackshaw Head Methodist Chapel, Blackshaw Head, on Monday 12 December 2011.

Present: Cllrs Dorothy Sutcliffe (Chairman), Chris Lund, Carol King, Mick Davies, Steve Hoyle and 3 members of the public.

In attendance: Lars Hansen, the Clerk, Lauren Clarkson, Calderdale Conservation Officer and 4 members of Charlestown Allotments Group.

- 1. Accepted apologies** – Cllrs Pat Beechill, Tim Cole.
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – Cllr Carol King declared an interest with regard to item 9.2 regarding Strines Clough Farm.
- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 November** – The date of the meeting should have been shown as 28 November rather than 24 October as shown in the minutes. With that amendment the minutes were agreed.
- 4. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 November:**
 - Remembrance Service** – The Clerk was asked to write to the Hebden Bridge junior band to thank them for the wonderful bugler who played at the service.
- 5. Charlestown allotments** – Four members of the Charlestown Allotment group gave a wonderful presentation of their proposals for the allotment site. The intention was to create 8 allotments with an area for chickens, a communal seating area, orchard and fruit bushes. The presentation was so impressive that they were spontaneously applauded and the Chairman offered a financial contribution out of the Chairman's allowance. The group had already agreed a constitution, opened a bank account and elected a Chair, secretary and treasurer as well as doing a magnificent job of clearing the overgrowth from the site. Attracting grant help was becoming a problem because the group did not have a lease for the site although it was expected to be transferred from Calderdale Council to the Parish Council early in 2012. A lot of work was still required.

It was agreed to submit a planning application for the site as soon as possible and pay the £85 fee. Arrangements had been made for Wildlife and tree surveys. It is not known if a bat survey would also be required and consultations are ongoing about parking arrangements.
- 6. Calderdale Council Conservation Strategy as it affects Blackshaw Parish** – Lauren Clarkson, a Calderdale Council Conservation Officer gave a presentation outlining the strategy. Issues of concern were discussed as was the possible involvement of volunteers in surveying. A suggestion was made that issues concerning Jumble Hole Clough could be addressed through the declaration of a conservation area but the survey work would have to be carried out by volunteers. Members took away a pile of reading matter.
- 7. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee** – noted.

8. A draft strategy for the South Pennine Moors – It was agreed to hold a joint meeting with BEAT in January to discuss this major issue.

9. Planning related matters: -

9.1. Feedback on previous planning applications: –

11/01071/FUL for extension to existing kennel accommodation block at Sunny View Kennels, Kebs Road, Todmorden – withdrawn.

11/01283/FUL for proposed separation of existing dwelling to form 2 No dwellings including construction of single storey extension to rear of both dwellings at Rodmer Clough Farm, Dark Lane, Colden - approved.

11/01158/LBC for Solar panels to east elevation at Land Farm, Land Lane, Blackshaw Head – refused.

9.2. New planning applications: -

11/01346/COU for conversion of garage to dwelling at Strines Clough Farm, Brown Hill Lane, Blackshaw Head – no objection.

10. Matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths:-

10.1. Chapel Lane, Blackshaw Head – The Chairman Cllr Sutcliffe and the Clerk reported that they had presented all the relevant documents to the Calderdale Council Rights of Way Officer, who had ensured that all the documents were copied. A formal reply would be made by Calderdale Council when they had had an opportunity to consider the evidence for the maintenance of Chapel Lane at public expense by the Highways Authority.

10.2. Speeding through Blackshaw Head – The Clerk informed members of the results of the latest Speed Indicator readings taken by Calderdale Council.

10.3. Other Matters: - Concern was raised about gritting and the Clerk was asked to write a diplomatic letter to Calderdale Council thanking them for the gritting service and reminding them of its importance to the local community.

Charlestown “Safe route to school” and Ingle Dene exit road – Cllr Mick Davies reported that he was still considering the Calderdale Council proposals.

11. Representative reports and invitations:

- **9 December Hebden Bridge Teenage Cancer Appeal Charity concert** – The Chairman Cllr Sutcliffe and consort Cllr Beechill attended;
- **10 December Charlestown Allotment site Cleanup** – Ten people attended and did a fantastic job of removing the undergrowth.
- **10 December Cllr Battye’s Ward surgery** – Cllr Davies and residents of Ingle Dene attended.
- **15 December Calder Ward Forum and PACT** – Members were urged to attend especially with regard to the problem of vehicles getting stuck

on Mytholm Steeps and matters associated with Blackshaw Neighbourhood Watch.

- **16 December Carol Service at Blackshaw Head Chapel** – Members were reminded about “mince pies”.
- **18 December Carol singing around Blackshaw Head** – noted.

12. Financial matters:

12.1. The draft 2012/2013 budget and precept – The Clerk presented the draft budget with a recommendation that the precept should be kept at the same level for the fourth year. This was discussed and a decision would have to be made at the January meeting

12.2. 2011/2012 budget and balances – The remaining budget for 2011/2012 was reported as approximately £4,383 and the Council balances as approximately £6,602. It was agreed to transfer £450 from the Reserve Account to the Current Account.

12.3. New authorised banking signatures – noted.

12.4. A section 137 application from Blackshaw Neighbourhood Watch – Deferred to the next meeting..

12.5. Society of Local Council Clerks – it was agreed to pay the £72 annual subscription.

12.6. The Clerk’s monthly salary, income tax and computer allowance
– The Clerk’s salary minus tax plus £10 monthly computer allowance were confirmed for payment. It was also agreed to pay HMRC £134.20p.

13. Dates of future meetings:

Parish Council Meeting: - 23 January 2012, 27 February, 26 March, 23 April.

WayHead Meetings: - 20 February 2012 at The New Delight.

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting - 28 May 2012 at Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

Signed