

Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council Meeting held at Blackshaw Head Methodist Chapel, Blackshaw Head, on Monday 23 January 2012.

Present: Cllrs Dorothy Sutcliffe (Chairman), Chris Lund, Carol King, Mick Davies, Steve Hoyle, Pat Beechill, Tim Cole and 4 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** – everyone was in attendance.
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – The Clerk and Cllrs Cole, Hoyle, King and Sutcliffe declared a personal but not a pecuniary interest in item 10.2. Cllr King also declared an interest in item 14.5 because some of the work that BEAT was doing will take place on her land. Cllrs Davies and Hoyle declared an interest in item 14.5 regarding Blackshaw Neighbourhood Watch.
- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 December** – Cllrs Beechill and Sutcliffe were not able to attend the Teenage Cancer appeal Charity concert. With that amendment the minutes were approved
- 4. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 December:**
 - Members mentioned that in future it would be useful if Clerks to neighbouring Parishes notified one another of Planning Applications which may be of interest. The Clerk was asked to write to the neighbouring Parishes.
- 5. The purchase and future management of Great Rock** – It was agreed to employ a local solicitor “pro bono” for the conveyance of the freehold of the site at nil consideration from Calderdale Council to the Parish Council. Registration of the new ownership with the Land Registry would carry a small fee. It was also agreed to have a “Picnic at Great Rock” on 30 June 2012 to which local residents living across the border in the Todmorden area would also be invited. Initial consultations indicated that local residents wanted the site preserved as it was.
- 6. Progress and arrangements for the lease and sub leasing of the Charlestown allotments site** – It was agreed to accept the offer of a 125 year lease for the Charlestown Allotment site from Calderdale Council at nil consideration and to employ a local solicitor “pro bono” for the conveyance of the site. This would also have to be registered with the Land Registry. It was further agreed to sub-lease the site to the Charlestown Allotment Group to enable them to apply for external funding to pay for the setting up of the site. A sub group of Cllrs Davies, Hoyle and the Clerk would research and agree a sub-lease which could be recommended for agreement by the Parish Council.
- 7. Closure of Charlestown Historical Society** – This has now been formally wound up. In future their website will be hosted by the Hebden Bridge Local History Society and will be permanently archived by the British Library as part of their national archiving scheme. Enough money has been provided to host the site for the next two years but the group hopes

that the Parish Council will look favourably on any future requests for funding.

- 8. The proposed new central library and archive for Calderdale:** - It was agreed to complete the questionnaires as individuals and to bring them to the next meeting.
- 9. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee** – The main celebration will be on 4 June at Dorothy Sutcliffe's field and there will be a public meeting on 15 February to discuss the details. The celebrations will start at 2pm and it is expected that the event will finish with the lighting of the beacon at 10pm and low impact rockets at 10.30pm. There will be children's activities in the afternoon followed by a tea party and a Hog Roast at 7.30pm. The organising committee is borrowing equipment from the Fete and it is hoped to apply for a grant to help with funding from the Community Foundation.

Cllrs Sutcliffe, Cole and Hoyle will also be visiting Colden and Hebden Royd Schools to discuss with the children how they can be involved in a "Time capsule" project.

SHED were doing an exhibition in the Chapel on the Fifties. A large screen would also be provided for residents to watch the events happening nationally.

10. Planning related matters: -

10.1. Feedback on previous planning applications: –

11/01201/CON for conversion of 2/3rds of existing garage/stable to form 2 bed dwelling at West Gable, The Long Causeway, Blackshaw Head - refused.

11/01367/HSE for first floor extension above existing porch, two storey and single storey extension to rear and new porch to front elevation at 4 Pennine View, Blackshaw Head – approved.

11/01346/COU for conversion of garage to dwelling at Strines Clough Farm, Brown Hill Lane, Blackshaw Head – approved.

10.2. New planning applications: -

12/00005/LBC for the installation of solar panels to south elevation at 3 Davy Cottages, Blackshaw Head, HX7 7JE - supported.

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

11.1. Charlestown Safe Route to School and Ingle Dene Exit Road: -

These problems had been raised at the Ward Forum and would be further discussed at the next meeting of the Forum.

11.2. Chapel Lane, Blackshaw Head – The Lane had now been resurfaced after a 30 year campaign. The Chairman Cllr Sutcliffe would officially reopen the Lane on Friday 27 January.

11.3. Other Matters: - Concern was raised about the deteriorating condition of Old Shaw Lane bridleway. The Clerk was asked to write.

12. Nominating someone to Serve on the Calderdale Council Small Grants panel: - Cllr Mick Davies was nominated.

13. Representative reports and invitations:

- **15 December Calder Ward Forum and PACT** – Issues concerning Charlestown and Mytholm Steeps were raised and will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- **24 January, 6, 23 February, 7, 19, and 27 March Members development programme** – The Clerk was asked to get an electronic version of the programme for Members to consider.
- **20 March Town and Parish Council Liaison Group at Hebden Bridge Town Hall** – Cllr Lund to attend.

14. Financial matters:

14.1. The draft 2012/2013 budget and precept – The Clerk presented the revised draft budget with a recommendation that the precept should be kept at £5,500, the same level for the fourth year. This was discussed and agreed.

14.2. 2011/2012 budget and balances – The remaining budget for 2011/2012 was reported as approximately £3,903.48 and the Council balances as approximately £6,118.11. It was agreed to transfer £1,000 from the Reserve Account to the Current Account.

14.3. New authorised banking signatures – The Clerk would submit the authorisation to the bank.

14.4. To consider a section 137 application from Blackshaw Neighbourhood Watch – It was agreed to pay £40 in the name of Patsey Reilly as the group did not have a bank account.

14.5. To consider a section 137 grant application from Blackshaw Environmental Action Team – It was agreed to pay £40 to BEAT in the name of Finn Jensen so that it could be recycled through the Local Giving system.

14.6. Christmas Hampers for the elderly and housebound – it was agreed to pay the £270.

14.7. Charlestown allotments wildlife survey – It was agreed to pay £35.

14.8. Charlestown allotments tree survey – It was agreed to pay £300.

14.9. Repair to the Parish Council Notice Board at Blackshaw Head – It was agreed to pay £30.

14.10. Stamps – It was agreed to reimburse the Clerk £36 for 100 2nd class stamps.

14.11. Christmas Tree lights – It was agreed to reimburse the Clerk £34.95 for a replacement set of Christmas Tree lights.

14.12. Parish Council website – It was agreed to reimburse the Clerk £26.96 for renewing the hosting of the Council website for 3 years.

14.13. Arrangements for the Clerk's pension gratuity – On 14 December 2011 the Government published the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) (Injury Allowances) Regulations 2011: Statutory Instrument 2011/2954 which revoked Part V1 of the Local Government

(Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996 SI 1680 with effect from 16 January. Consequently following advice from NALC and YLCA which was received at 17.04 hours on Wednesday 11 January that a pension gratuity could no longer be payable unless the arrangement was confirmed as being contractual before 16 January. The Chairman had written to the Clerk confirming the arrangement and this was confirmed by Members. It was also confirmed that different arrangements would have to be made for future Clerks.

The Clerk's current contract of employment states that a gratuity can be paid and following changes to the nationally agreed terms of conditions the Council agreed to pay a gratuity to the Clerk if he remained in post prior to retirement for more than five years based on an accumulating lump sum of 3.5% of the annual salary per year.

14.14. 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.

15. Dates of future meetings:

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

WayAhead 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