

Minutes of WayaHead meeting on Monday 15 October 2012 at the New Delight

Present: Cllr Mick Davies (Chair), Cllr Steve Hoyle, Cllr Chris Lund, Cllr Tim Coles, Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe; Eileen Stewart, Richard Hyde, Phil Knowles.

In attendance: Lars Hansen, Maggie Boyle.

1 Apologies for absence - None.

2 Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda - None declared

3 Minutes of WayaHead Group held on Monday 18 June - Agreed

4 Matters arising -

4.1 Code of conduct for Mountain bikes - Rachel Finney, Rights of Way Officer, Calderdale Council, is to send to the code of conduct that has been adopted and a 10 point summary. When received, the Parish Council will be able to publicise it more widely.

4.2 Charlestown allotments - The Allotments Committee will use the funding it has raised on works required for the allotments including a connection to mains water and fencing. Plans for one side of the fencing are still under discussion, the committee is awaiting advice from Calderdale Council.

4.3 Great Rock – Unfortunately the weather meant the planned picnic did not go ahead. The Parish Council hope to hold a picnic around the 1st anniversary of the acquisition of the site.

4.4 Play area – Funding is being sought for equipment. The lease for the site will be held in the Parish Council's name for insurance purposes. Calderdale Council will be responsible for inspecting the site once a week to ensure it is safe.

4.5 Campaign for broadband for Blackshaw – some Broadband speeds for residents are very low (less than 0.5 Mbytes for some farms). Farmers need to be able to submit DEFRA forms online and need a good speed of connection as do small businesses in the area. It was agreed that Cllr. Chris Lund will draft a letter to BT to try to encourage them to consider improving broadband connection speeds for Blackshaw in tandem with the BT Infinity roll out in Hebden Bridge on behalf of the Parish Council, the letter to be brought to the next Parish Council meeting.

4.6 Promotion and use of Parish website – A recently held meeting about the google group, which is very vibrant, agreed new managers for it (Roger Mundy and Tony Burger); however a meeting is still to take place to discuss improvements to and community engagement with the website. Interest in the website continuing has been expressed, however Parish community groups need to be encouraged to send more information/news for uploading to the website to Tony Berger (the manager of the website). Cllr Mick Davies will arrange a meeting to discuss how to grow use of the website in the near future.

5 Footpaths and Bridleways in the Parish – The poor state of the footpaths and bridleways was discussed (overgrowth by weeds, broken stiles and bridleways washed away by flooding) and it was proposed that residents of the Parish should be encouraged to note any problems they encounter when walking footpaths and bridleway and to record and to send the information to Calderdale Council (for the attention of Rachel Finney and Jan Gibson) for action and to the Parish Clerk, Maggie Boyle to note and follow up. Cllr Mick Davies agreed to send out a message on the google group to ask for the help of residents in reporting problems. To assist this process Chris Lund agreed to draft a form for residents to use for such reports which he will bring to the next Parish Council meeting. It was also proposed that the Parish Council organise regular walks along footpaths in the Parish (with secateurs) to do a bit of clearing where possible and to pass on details to Calderdale Council about required maintenance. Phil Knowles undertook to organise some walks in spring and summer. The Clerk was asked to contact Jan Gibson, Rights of Way Officer, Calderdale Council to ask for an updated list of pathways and bridleways to help with identification.

6 Himalayan Balsam in the Parish – The problem of increasing overgrowth of Himalayan balsam was discussed. It was considered too difficult to eradicate completely however it was proposed that attempts to curb its deleterious consequences on indigenous flora and soil erosion should be made. It was proposed to set up a working party and priorities were discussed. It was suggested that the working party start in the village and at a site on the Steeps. The Clerk was asked to write to Hugh Firman, Conservation Officer, Calderdale Council, to discover whether the Council may have plans to tackle Himalayan Balsam in Colden Clough.

7 work to repair the Jumble Hole Clapper Bridge – 5 people met and cleared the debris brought down by the flood from around the bridge and repaired the handrail somewhat. There is still work to do and the working group have agreed to continue to meet every Sunday 1-3pm until the work is finished. The risk assessment concluded that no-one should work alone at the site. Richard Hyde agreed to invite Jan Gibson, Rights of Way Officer, Calderdale Council, to inspect the work when it was completed. The WayaHead group thanked the working group for their effort. It was also noted that the small bridge just behind Cow Bridge had been badly damaged by the flood water and Richard agreed to mention this to Jan Gibson. The Clerk will attend the Flood meeting in Hebden Bridge at end of October and report that the reservoir above Cow Bridge was breached during the flood.

8 Report back from BEAT – BEAT is supporting the development of the play area. It was also reported that a plan for more bird and bat boxes is being put together.

9 Dates and venue of future meetings - 15 February at Stubbing Wharf.

Maggie Boyle
Clerk, Blackshaw Parish Council