

Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council meeting on Monday 22 October 2012 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church

Present: Cllrs. Carol King(Chair), Mick Davies, Steve Hoyle, Chris Lund, Dorothy Sutcliffe, Pat Beechill and 2 members of the public

In attendance: Anne Markwell, Planning Enforcement Team Leader and Bob Pulford, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Calderdale Council, Lars Hansen, Maggie Boyle

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Tim Coles

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

3. Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 24 September 2012 – Agreed

4. Matters arising –

- 4.1. Allotments Committee will meet on 27 or 28 October to clear parts of the allotment site in preparation for the erection of 3 sides of the boundary fence in mid November a bench will also be resited. The risk assessment has been done.
- 4.2. Remedial work has been undertaken by a group of Parish residents to the Clapper Bridge because it was damaged during recent floods. Some boulders blocking the watercourse have been removed and more will be removed over the coming weeks. Jan Gibson, Conservation Officer, Calderdale Council, will visit the site on 29th October, he will be met by Richard Hyde.

5. Minutes of WayaHead Committee held on 15 October 2012 – Agreed

6. Matters arising from WayaHead Committee –

- 6.1. As a result of discussions about the very slow speed of Broadband service that some residents in Blackshaw experience, Chris Lund presented a draft letter, to be sent to BT from the Parish Council, expressing the desire and need for improved speeds in the Parish.

7. Planning Enforcement Issues (Anne Markwell, Enforcement Team Leader and Bob Pulford, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Calderdale Council, in attendance)

Anne Markwell made a short presentation about the actions that the Planning Office can take when breaches of planning regulations are suspected. During discussions it was agreed that the Enforcement Team will alert the Parish Council when enforcement orders are served via the Clerk. The Clerk will ask for monthly updates to progress on planning issues pertaining to the Parish. When planning applications local to the Parish were being considered the Parish Council was asked to provide information such as location and comments about potential 'harm' to the Planning Service. Anne Markwell also reported on actions taken by Planning Officers with respect to the planning issues below.

7.1. 'The Shed', New Road, nr. Jack Bridge, Blackshaw Head

The property is now unoccupied and it is possible the land has recently been sold. Planning Enforcement Officers are to investigate the current ownership of the property before the end of November. If they proceed to serve a notice they will let the Parish Council know. Bob Pulford, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Calderdale Council, has been to visit and has served a prohibition order (this will stay with the building under change of ownership). As the property was judged not fit to live in the PC was asked to let Planning Officers know if anyone moves in again.

7.2. Sportsman Inn, Kebcote, Todmorden

The Sportsman is no longer being used as a public house. Officers from the Planning Service have been to visit the property and believe that there has not been a breach of planning control as there does not seem to have been a change of use. If the property were to be sold and residential use required, planning consent would be needed.

7.3. High House Farm, Moorcock Road, Blackshaw Head

An enforcement notice has been served, it is an offence not to comply with an enforcement notice. As yet the Planning Service have not had a response to the notice from the owner.

7.4. Land adjacent to Green Dark Lane, Blackshaw Head

An enforcement notice has been served on this property and is currently being appealed by the owner. There will be a site visit by the inspector and the Parish Council will be notified of the date. Anne Markwell will send a copy of the notice to the Parish Council.

The Councillors thanked Anne Markwell and Bob Pulford for attending.

7.5. Other matters

Since the distribution of the agenda for the Parish Council meeting 3 new planning applications had been received. A special meeting of the Parish Council will be convened on 5 November to consider and comment on the applications.

8. Code of Conduct and Register for Members' interests form and its impact on the Parish Council Standing Orders

Forms for Councillors to register their interests had arrived and Councillors asked to complete them. The issue of whether the Parish Council Standing orders needed amending as a result of the new code was discussed. It was agreed to wait and see how the meetings ran as a result of the new code before deciding what amendments were needed.

9. Joint working with Erringden Parish Council on emergency planning

It was suggested that in the event of an emergency in the area (most likely a flood) that the ATC building would make a better emergency shelter than St James Church as it would be nearer and easier to reach for residents at Thistle Bottom and nearby properties. The Clerk was asked to contact David Sheard, Emergency Planning Officer, Calderdale Council to discuss whether this was a feasible proposition.

10. Information on previous planning applications

None was received.

11. Highways, Bridleways and Footpaths

After discussion at WayaHead meeting 15 /10/12 it was proposed that residents of the Parish should be reminded to report any problems they encountered while walking along footpaths and bridleways in the Parish to Calderdale Council and send a copy to the Parish Clerk. Chris Lund agreed to develop a form that helped make this reporting easy and make sure all relevant details were included. The Clerk was asked to contact Calderdale Council about maps showing up to date routes of footpaths.

A resident of the Parish reported problems with the speed that cars were travelling along Mytholm Steeps, there had been crashes recently. Councillors advised residents to attend the coming Ward Forum on 4th December, 6.15pm, at the Town Hall and raise the issue with Police Officers who attend Ward Forum meetings

12. Litter Bins

Councillors noted recent posts on google group and discussed current provision of bins in Blackshaw Head Village.

13. Representatives reports

2 October Ward Forum - Police had indicated their recent increased vigilance after reports of sheds being broken into and vehicles being stolen.

6 October Town and Parish Council annual Conference attended by Councillors

29 October Flood Resilience Group meeting at 12.30 in Hebden Bridge Town Hall, Parish Council representatives: Cllrs Mick Davies and Steve Hoyle

29 October Flood drop in event 3-8pm in Hebden Bridge Town hall

14 November YCLA, South Pennine Branch meeting, representatives Cllrs Carol King and Steve Hoyle, Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe will also attend

Heptonstall exhibition, 6 residents of the Parish had received bursaries this year.

14. Financial matters

14.1. Contract of employment for new Clerk– agreed

14.2. Pension arrangements for new Clerk – it was proposed and agreed that the Clerk would not be paid a pension. Cllr Steve Hoyle wished it to be recorded that he voted against the proposal.

14.3. 2012/2013 Budget, Variance and balances – agreed

14.4. Old Clerk's mileage allowance for April – October 2012– agreed

14.5. Old Clerk's gratuity for previous years and April – October 2012 – agreed

14.6. Old Clerks monthly salary and computer allowance – agreed

14.7. New Clerks monthly salary – agreed

15. Dates of future meetings

Parish Council Meetings – 26 November, 17 December, 28 January 2013, 25th February, 26 March, 22 April, Blackshaw Head Methodist Church

WayaHead Committee 18 February 2013 Stubbing Wharf

Allotment committee – 19 March 2012 Hebden Bridge Town hall

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting 20 May 2013 Hebden Bridge Town Hall

Signed Maggie Boyle

Clerk to the Parish Council