

Draft Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council meeting held Monday 17 December 2012 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church

Present: Cllr Carol King (Chair), Cllr Pat Beechill, Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe, Cllr Tim Cole, Cllr Chris Lund, Cllr Steve Hoyle, Cllr Mick Davies

In attendance: Maggie Boyle, Clerk

1. Apologies for absences previously notified to the Clerk - none

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda - none

3. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 November 2012.

3.1. Time capsule: This will be buried on Wednesday 16th January 2013 in front of the cenotaph in place of the roots of the dead tree. Steve Hoyle will put a message out on the google group to remind Parish groups to provide items for the capsule. Colden School and Hebden Royd Primary will be providing items. The Clerk will put the Parish Council minutes for 2012 onto a memory stick.

3.2. Marsh Lane: The Clerk reported that a response had been received from Highways to an enquiry about what could be done about the difficulty of pulling out onto Badger Lane because of parked cars. The Clerk was asked to report the problems in detail and ask for a site visit.

4. Update on the campaign for a Play Area: It was reported that an informal meeting of the Parish Council had been held on 5th December which had been attended by Mick Wilby of Calderdale Council. He has put a business case to CMBC AMFM group which is considering the proposal for the Play Area on land adjacent to the New Delight. Parish Councillors asked a number of questions about the proposal. Currently Blackshaw Parish Council are named as tenants on the proposed lease of the land and CMBC would be inspecting and minimally repairing the play equipment, the Play Area group are obliged to raise funds for the purchase and installation of play equipment. After discussion, it was proposed that CMBC might become the tenants of the land making insurance simpler. Claire Hamilton, Solicitor, was asked to amend the lease and send copies to the Parish Council, Mick Wilby at CMBC and the Play Area Group.

5. Update on progress with the Charlestown Allotments: It was reported that fencing had gone up on 3 sides. Mick Davies will meet with the owner of the Naze to discuss the nature of the fencing on the fourth side. The group have still not received the lease for the site from the solicitor and have missed the deadline of 5th December for submitting it to Community Foundation for Calderdale (CFFC) to release funding for the fencing. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of support to CFFC in the hope that they will allow the group extra time to obtain and pass on a copy of the lease.

6. Planning related matters:-

6.1. Information on previous planning applications and enforcement notices.

12/01127/FUL Installation of a single quiet revolution HY5-AD5.6 micro scale wind turbine (14.97m to hub 5.6m diameter blades) Higher Hawkstone Farm Kebs Road, Todmorden Calderdale OL14 8SB –: this application has been refused.

12/01223/HSE Raise height of roof to create additional living space, The Coach House, Stoney Lane, Charlestown, Hebden Bridge, Calderdale HX7 6PE: This application has been approved with conditions.

6.2. New planning applications:-

12/01355/WDF Construction of 5no Wind Turbines of a maximum height of 125m to blade-tip and associated infrastructure, including 85m high meteorological mast, switch gear/control building, crane hardstandings and access tracks extending from Bacup Rd, Todmorden Land South West Of Gorpley Reservoir Bacup Road Todmorden Calderdale

Strongly object

Cumulative impact of several wind farms on the visual amenity of significant landscape areas: It was felt that the cumulative effect of several wind farms in the area around Todmorden (Reaps Moss, Todmorden Moor and Crook Hill) will severely affect the visual amenity of the Calderdale Special

Landscape Area (SLA) and the National Character Area (NCA) 36: Southern Pennines, as defined by Natural England. The view presented in the application that the landscape can accommodate the visual impact of this number of turbines was disputed.

Operational Noise Methodology: Concern was expressed about the noise assessment methodology (ETSU-R-97). Experience of residents in Blackshaw has shown that the geography of the landscape and wind direction can produce noise levels around residential properties that do not accord with claims in planning applications following accepted methodologies for predicting noise levels. In response to the community consultation carried out for this planning application, Blackshaw Parish Council stated: *In view of the low background noise level prevalent in remote rural locations in Western Calderdale the Council was of the opinion that in identifying suitable locations of properties likely to be affected by a noise level in excess of the minimum specified in ETSU-R-97, 35dBA should instead of 35dBA be set at 30dBA.* This comment has not been taken into consideration and no amendments to the methodology (ETSU-R-97) have been made in tests and hence the claims in the planning application of the residential amenity not being affected for properties close by are disputed.

Destruction of Peat: Concerns were expressed about the amount of peat disturbance that is proposed for the construction of the wind farm and the consequent release of CO₂ and permanent loss of approximately 2.49 ha of habitat.

- 7. Highways, bridleways and footpaths:** Chris Lund has created a form for reporting problems with footpaths. It was agreed that this should now be sent to Jan Gibson, Rights of Way Officer, Calderdale Council for comment after which it should be turned into an online form, posted on Parish Notice Boards, sent out on the google group and placed on the Parish website. Enquiries should be made at the New Delight to see whether they could display copies.

The Clerk was asked to report the following problems to highways:

Steeps, lower hairpin: hole in road on bend and setts disturbed at the edge of the road.

Davy Lane to Staups Lane (including Hippins Bridge): there are many potholes and road has been undercut at the side in several places by recent floods. The Clerk was asked to monitor the time of response.

8. Representative reports and invitations:-

28th November Hebden Bridge Flood Action group: was a well-attended inaugural meeting. Nominations for the chair have been sought; Soo Nevison will bring a constitution to the next meeting which is needed so the group can apply for funding from the Environment Agency. It was reported that three people have volunteered to be Flood Wardens.

4th December, Calder Ward Forum: Councillors are concerned that the A646 pedestrian access issues between Ingle Dene and Hebden Bridge need to be put back on the agenda in the New Year and someone from CMBC needs to be invited to speak and hear about the concerns. The Clerk reported that Cllr Janet Battye has been asked to put slow broadband speeds in the Parish on the agenda for the New Year.

11 December Town and Parish Council Liaison group: Chris Lund reported that discussion had taken place about how to ensure that neighbouring Parishes were made aware of planning applications that may have impact in their area. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the appropriate Clerk was made aware of any such applications. The Clerk was going for training on the online consultee comment process on 18 December and was asked to find out what the best way of eliciting which applications may impact Blackshaw Parish. Chris Lund also reported on the 'gritting question' i.e. what information was available to residents to help them decide which road was safest to take on icy mornings. He was told that all 3 routes to Todmorden from Blackshaw were priority routes and would be gritted but it seems that at present it is not possible to find out which route has been completed first. The Clerk was asked to thank Calderdale for the gritting this year as it was felt that a good job had been done.

18th December at Hebden Bridge Flood Resilience Group, Town Hall (Greenwood Room);

21 December 7pm Village Carol Service Blackshaw Methodist Church: Councillors were advised that it was traditional for them to provide the mince pies after the singing to go with the tea for the singers.

16th January Flood Action group Council Chamber, Town Hall

9. Financial matters:-

9.1. Draft budget and precept for 2013/14: This was discussed. It was noted that information from Calderdale needed to calculate the impact of Localisation of Council Tax would be received in late January. It may be necessary to call a special meeting of the Parish Council on 4th of February to set the precept. The Clerk was asked to find out how much notice was needed to do this. The Clerk was asked to calculate the effect of changing the spend on a couple of items on the final balance in year 15/16

9.2. 2012/13 budget, variances and balances: The balance of accounts was £5750.32, the remaining budget for the year was £2,9453.18 and it was agreed to transfer £572 from the reserve to the current account

9.3. Payment of £80 annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks - Agreed

9.4. Payment of £225 rent to the Black Shaw Head Methodist Church for use of the Church by the Parish Council in 2012/13 – It was reported that this had already been paid for the year.

9.5. Application for funding by the Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team: It was agreed to donate £90 from section 137 funding to fund waterproof rucksack covers for volunteers.

9.6. Payment of £18 for the Remembrance Service wreath: Agreed (Section 137 funding)

9.7. Payment of the Clerk's monthly salary: Agreed

9.8. To reimburse Clerk £11.15 for stamps and photocopying: Agreed

9.9. Payment to HMRC of tax on salary for Old Clerk: Agreed

10. Dates of future meetings:-

Parish Council Meetings: - 28 January 2013, 25 February, 26 March, 22 April Blackshaw Head Methodist Church.

Allotment Committee – 19 March 2013 at Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

WayAhead Committee: - 18 February 2013 at Stubbing Wharf.

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

Signed *Maggie Boyle*

Clerk to the Parish Council