

Draft Minutes of meeting of Blackshaw Parish Council held on Monday 25 February 2013 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church.

Present: Cllr Carol King (Chair), Cllr Pat Beechill, Cllr Chris Lund, Cllr Steve Hoyle, Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe and two members of the public.

In attendance: Maggie Boyle, Clerk.

- 1. Apologies notified and accepted:** Cllr Tim Coles, Cllr Mick Davies.
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** - none declared.
- 3. Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 January 2013 were agreed.
- 4. Matters arising** from the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 January 2013 –
 - 4.1. Parish Precept** – a letter has been received confirming the Parish will receive £5,550 precept, a grant of £635, and Council Tax Support grant of £275, that is a total of £6,460.
 - 4.2. Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team** sent thanks for the donation of £90 for rucksack covers.
 - 4.3. A646** will be discussed at next Ward Forum on 19 March, the Clerk was asked to brief Cllr Chris Lund who will be attending about the issues and to inform the Erringden Parish Clerk.
 - 4.4. Broadband:** communication about the campaign for faster Broadband had been received from Cllr Janet Batty, Craig Whittaker MP, Dr Trevor Higgins (BT Open Reach), Mary Farrar, Calderdale Council. The issue will be discussed at the summer Ward Forum meeting, the Clerk was asked to invite Marry Farrar to a meeting of the Parish Council.
- 5. Minutes of the WayaHead committee** held on 18 February 2013 – Add: list of those present at the meeting and apology from Finn Jensen; amend: Cllr Tim Cole will bring a recommendation for a mountain bike code to the March meeting not the February meeting. With these amendments the minutes were agreed.
- 6. Matters arising from the WayaHead committee** held on 18 February 2013:-
 - 6.1. Updates to the Emergency Plan:** It was recommended by those at WayaHead that a least 2 councillors should be named as BPC liaison with essential services. The Clerk will ask councillors to put themselves forward for this role and will contact Calderdale Emergency Planning Team to ask for advice about essential services contact numbers. At the WayaHead meeting there had been a feeling that it the Emergency Plan should have been triggered during the disruptions to water service over the Christmas period. The Clerk is to ask the Emergency Planning Team whether they could run a mock emergency exercise with Parish Councillors. Updating the Emergency Plan will be the sole item on the June agenda of the WayaHead meeting; it is still in draft form and will need to be agreed formally. It was reported that unused bottled water was being stored at Mark and Debbie Coup, Long Causeway, tel. 847505.
 - 6.2. Parish picnic at Great Rock:** A date of 22nd of June had been suggested as a date for the Picnic. The Clerk was asked to put the matter of a picnic working group on the agenda of the next PC meeting.
 - 6.3. Parish website:** The Clerk will ask Parish Groups to send details of their activities to Tony Burger for upload to the website. A questionnaire will be included in the annual Parish newsletter about possible website development and the google group will be used to encourage interest in the website. It was suggested that the welcome pack is lodged on the website. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Phil Knowles who has copies of the pack.
- 7. Play Area:** There were no updates at this time. The Clerk was asked contact Mick Wilby again and include the Play area as an item of the agenda of the next meeting.
- 8. Charlestown Allotments:** A verbal update was given by Donna Goodman.
 - 8.1. Lease** - a copy of the Lease signed by Calderdale had been obtained and submitted to CFfC. The Allotments group have now received £5k funding. However, the Clerk notified that the cheque to register the site with the Land Registry had not been presented and was asked to follow up with Claire Hamilton to ensure the Lease is registered with the Land Registry.
 - 8.2. Allotment fencing bordering the Naze** - Cllr Mick Davies is to meet with the residents of the Naze to come to an agreement about the nature of the fencing. This will be done in March and when agreed plot holders can take out individual leases with the Parish Council for plots.

8.3. Connection of water to the site - As the site is now secure Yorkshire Water have been contacted to provide a connection and a Working Group will meet on 9th March to prepare for the water connection.

8.4. Parish Council contribution to the cost of fencing - .an invoice for £300 has been received by the Clerk.

8.5. Plot allocation - a question was raised about whether those living in terraces close to the allotments but not actually in the Parish might be allowed to go on the waiting list for a plot. Cllrs felt that the Allotments group should specify in the constitution from which properties in the immediate vicinity of the allotment site applications would be accepted and that the proportion of plot holders from outside the Parish should not exceed 25%.

9. BEAT: A verbal update was provided by Finn Jensen:

9.1. The BEAT newsletter was about to be published. This year BEAT was concentrating on conservation.

9.2. Visit Your Neighbour events were being organised once a month– the next open house would be on 28th April at 1 to 4pm Dale and Sue's, Davy Hall, Long Causeway, Blackshaw Head talking about biomass log heating system and thermal solar panels

9.3. A public meeting will be held on 13th March, 7.45pm Blackshaw Methodist Church speakers Hugh Firmin, West Yorkshire Bat Group speaking about bats, Sally Jones, speaking about the work at Bradford Council to improve air quality in the area.

9.4. A talk by Matt Bell, at Heptonstall Bowling and Social Club, 10th April, will be about birds seen in spring.

9.5. A new bid for funding was being written to support a list of environmental projects that had been suggested by Colden and Hebden Royd schools, Friends of Colden Clough and the Allotments group.

9.6. A new website is being developed.

9.7. The 6 monthly Village clean-up has been organised for 20th April, 10.30am, meet at the Chapel. Cllrs requested that fluorescent jackets were worn by volunteers.

9.8. A bird watching walk led by Matt Bell had been organised for 27th April, 7.30am, meet and lunch at the New Delight. A future walk might be organised for children.

9.9. Bird boxes, one with a camera, had been put up in Colden School, bat boxes would soon be put up.

9.10. Community Orchards – there are now two community orchards, 100 trees that had been grafted last year were being transferred to a nursery on 9th March at 11am at Frank and Mag's on Long Causeway and some re-grafting would be done by CLOG on 24th March. BEAT are helping Heptonstall village to create a community orchard. The Parish have received an enquiry about whether the community orchards in the Parish could be insured through Parish Council insurance. The Clerk had contacted the Parish insurers who indicated that it was not possible as the Parish Council did not have control over the orchards. The Clerk will pass on the details of the Parish insurers to BEAT for them to make their own arrangements.

10. Applications for Section 137 Grants – the Parish Council do not normally advertise the opportunity as Parish groups are aware they can apply to the Parish Council.

11. Update of Parish mailing list for annual Parish newsletter – The Clerk was asked to see whether an electronic version of the electoral roll was available from Calderdale Council. If not the Clerk would approach Tony Berger who had updated a disc of address labels with new addresses in past years for a fee of £20. It was suggested that local deliveries could be made to save on postage. The details will be discussed at the March meeting of BPC.

12. NALC briefing: Local Councils to receive Community Infrastructure Levy – noted.

13. Planning related matters:-

13.1. To receive information on previous planning applications and enforcement notices – updates had been requested but none had been received this month from Anne Markwell, Planning Enforcement Team Leader, Calderdale Council. The following application decision was noted:-

12/01355/WDF Land South West Of Gorpley Reservoir Bacup Road Todmorden Calderdale –
Application refused

13.2. To consider new planning applications (these can be viewed via Calderdale Council website using the reference number shown):-

13/00122/HSE Conversion of integral garage to living accommodation and construction of detached garage with ancillary living accommodation above. 1 Long Hey Top Winter's Lane Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire HX7 7JT

The Parish Council decision (3 for, 1 against with 1 abstention) was **not to object** to this application.

12/01395/FUL Installation of a single micro scale wind turbine (14.97m to hub, 5.6m diameter blades) Hoarside Rough Hey Lane Colden Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7PG

The Parish Council decision was **to object** to this application on the following grounds:

Impact of a wind turbine on a significant landscape area: It was felt that the wind turbine was sited very close to the edge of South Pennine Moor area (146m) which is a Special Area of Conservation, an Area of Special Scientific Interest, an Important Bird Area and a Special Protection Area. It is felt the turbine will affect the wildlife, in particular rare bird species (the area supports nationally significant numbers of merlin, twite, golden plover and curlew). It was also felt that the turbine will severely affect the visual amenity of this area. The turbine is to be sited within 28m of a footpath, and the Pennine Bridleway passes close by, hence an impact on tourism to the area is to be expected.

Noise: 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 and hence the claims in the planning application of the residential amenity not being affected for properties close by are disputed. It is also felt that the noise in this significant landscape area will affect those visiting as well as those living in the area.

Destruction of Blanket Bog: Concerns were expressed that the landscape topology of the area in which the turbine is sited is blanket bog which constitutes the main dunlin and golden plover breeding grounds.

Water courses: Concerns were expressed about the proximity of the proposed site to springs.

14. Highways, bridleways and footpaths.

14.1. Mountain bike code: Cllr Tim Coles will bring a recommendation for a code of conduct to the March meeting of the Council.

14.2. Himalayan Balsam: Phil Knowles will liaise with Dave Wilson, Calderdale Council about eradication in Colden Clough.

14.3. Problems on footpaths reported to the PC (a new form has been developed by Cllr Lund) will be passed on to Calderdale Council, minor problems (excluding repairs to stiles) may be tackled by volunteers from the Parish. The Clerk was asked to look into insurance implications.

15. Representative reports and invitations:-

Calderdale Local Access forum – an invitation for members was received. The Clerk was asked to circulate the invitation to all Cllrs.

5 February PACT Hebden Bridge Town Hall – no-one could attend.

5 February TPC Liaison Group – Cllr Chris Lund attended. Merrin McRae, Chief Executive of Calderdale would be invited to attend that TPC annual meeting on October 5th. (Clerk was asked to check the date.) The community Right to bid had been discussed, the Clerk was asked to obtain leaflets and circulate to cllrs. It was noted that Heptonstall Parish were disappointed about enforcement work by Calderdale Council in their Parish.

18th February meeting with Chief Superintendent Chris Hardern, Inspector Dave Browning and Sergeants from the Upper Valley Neighbourhood Police team. Cllr Sutcliffe will give the report at the March meeting of the PC.

4th March Upper Valley Community Subgroup – Flood Resilience, Greenwood Room, Hebden Bridge Town Hall – Cllr Davies and Hoyle will attend.

7th March Flood meeting Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

13th March, 7.30pm South Pennine Branch Meeting, Mirfield Town Council – Cllr King, Sutcliffe and Hoyle will attend.

19th March, Calder Ward Forum Hebden Bridge Town Hall – the PC Allotment sub- group meeting will be taking place at the same time. Cllr Chris Lund will be attending the Ward forum and asked to be briefed about A646 issues.

7th May 6.30pm TPC Liaison Group Todmorden Town Hall, Room C.

6th August 6.30pm TPC Liaison Group Ripponden.

12th November 6.30pm TPC Liaison Group Hebden Bridge Town Hall, Greenwood Room.
5th October 10.00am - 1.00pm Town and Parish Council Annual Conference.

16. Financial matters:-

16.1. 2012/13 budget, variances and balances: The bank statement for the reserve account had not been received, the Clerk was asked to request it. The Clerk notified that the bank had sent two notices of an unpaid cheque, there were not sufficient funds in the current account to cover the cheque as the Clerk had not presented the letter of transfer between accounts to the bank before the cheque was presented. The Clerk apologised for the delay and undertook to ensure that the transfer letter was presented to the bank before cheques were mailed out in future. The balance of accounts was £4568, the remaining budget for the year was £1904.21 and it was agreed to transfer £350 from the reserve to the current account.

16.2. To reimburse Clerk for stamps (18 1st class, £10.80) – agreed.

16.3. To confirm payment of the Clerk's monthly salary – agreed.

17. Dates of future meetings:-

Parish Council Meetings: - 25 March, 22 April Blackshaw Head Methodist Church.

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

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

Signed *Maggie Boyle*

Clerk to the Parish Council