

Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council on Monday 26 November 2012 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church, Old Shaw Lane, Blackshaw Head, Hebden Bridge, HX7 7JY.

Present: Cllrs Carol King (Chair), Steve Hoyle, Dorothy Sutcliffe, Mick Davies, Chris Lund, Tim Cole and several members of the public.

In attendance: Maggie Boyle (Clerk), Claire Hamilton (on behalf of the Play Group), Finn Jensen (on behalf of the Play Group)

- 1. Apologies for absences previously notified to the Clerk -** Cllr Pat Beechill
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda -** Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe declared an interest in the Planning Application for Far Rawtenstall Farm, Badger Lane.
- 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 October 2012 –** One amendment: Cllr Pat Beechill should have been recorded as present at the meeting of the Parish Council on 26 November. With that amendment the minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.
- 4. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 October 2012.**
 - 4.1. Charlestown allotments –** The erection of fencing will start week beginning 1st December. The 125 year lease is needed so that the Allotments group can access funding. Claire Hamilton has been asked to forward a copy. The Clerk will ensure that the lease is received by the group.
 - 4.2. Clapper Bridge –** Richard Hyde provided a report (excerpts below) of a visit by Jan Gibson, Calderdale Council, to inspect progress of remedial work on the bridge after the damage caused by flooding.

Both Jan and Lauren, Calderdale Council, were very impressed with what we had achieved thus far. Our main intention had been a sympathetic repair to the bridge with a view to restoring it back to something like its former glory. Jim Gault had cut a vertical wedge from the face of the bedrock to give some resistance to the stones on the approach ramp, should they be buffeted by flowing water. Also we were intending and had started to clear rubble/boulders from the immediate approach and area surrounding the bridge, allowing water unrestricted flow under the bridge, especially when there was an increased volume of water in the stream. Jan and Lauren were clearly impressed with not only what we had done but also with the level of interest and support from the local community. They were completely satisfied that the repair was being done sympathetically and in line with their policy. Lauren has said she would be happy with the approach being a gradual ramp or to include a step, whatever suited when we got to that point. The only real concern Lauren had was regarding the handrail. She accepted that it was necessary for it to be cut but asked that it be restored from this point. I mentioned we'd spoken about welding a sleeve onto the cut end, extending the rail to the ramp. She thought this was a good solution and even suggested the down post could be concreted in place and then the concrete hidden from view. Any other significant alteration of the rail would involve some type of order. Lauren agreed to e-mail me with her views and consent for what is being done. They suggested the placement of a sign on each approach, warning of repair work in progress. Jan asked if we had anybody for the handrail repair. He said he'd be happy to fund the weld if we had to pay for an 'outsider' to do the weld.
 - 4.3. Emergency Plan - identification of shelter for use in flooding emergencies –** The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Flight Lieutenant Dennis Price about the possible use of the ATC building on Stony Lane.
- 5. Minutes of the Special Parish Council Meeting held on 5 November 2012–** Accepted as correct record.
- 6. Matter arising from Special Parish Council meeting of 5 November–** Matters arising were taken during relevant items on the agenda
- 7. Play Area adjacent to the New Delight –** Claire Hamilton asked whether it would be possible to sign the agreement for the lease of the land adjacent to the New Delight. It was suggested that the Parish Council should seek legal advice before signing the lease and the Clerk was asked to seek advice via the YLCA. It was agreed that councillors would meet with members of the Play Area Group to discuss issues arising from the lease, in particular the insurance of risk, requirements to carry out checks and any financial implications of the Parish Council being a tenant of the land. The date and time for the meeting was set as 7.30,pm 5th December, Methodist Church, Blackshaw Head. The Clerk was asked to invite Mick Wilby, Calderdale Council
- 8. Update on plans to bury the Time Capsule for the Queens Jubilee year –**The Time Capsule is to be buried in the second week of January; local school children will be present. The children will be deciding what they would like to bury before their Christmas holidays. Other interested groups of the Parish will be asked to contribute to items to be buried via the google group. Finn Jensen, on behalf of BEAT, offered to identify suitable items, SHED are also collecting items. A reminder about the buried capsule

will be kept in the Blackshaw Methodist Church, school records and the archive area of the Parish Council website.

9. Update on the campaign for faster Broadband in the Parish – A letter to Dr Higgins at BT Openreach, written by Cllr Chris Lund which put the case for faster broadband in the Parish and asked that the Parish Council be informed of BT plans for broadband roll out in the area, was tabled for the record. The letter had been sent by email and the Clerk was asked to find the postal address for Dr Higgins. The Clerk was asked to invite Craig Whittaker MP and the Ward Councillors to provide support on this issue and to request that faster broadband in rural areas is made an item on the agenda of a future Ward Forum meeting, someone from Calderdale should be invited to speak about the issue as it was clearly a matter linked to the Local Plan.

10. Planning related matters:-

10.1. Information on previous planning applications and enforcement notices Anne Markwell, Planning Services, Calderdale Council, sent an update (13/11/12) as follows:

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

The Enforcement Officer is looking to serve a Planning Contravention Notice. We will keep you informed of progress

10.1.2. Sportsman Inn, Kebcote, Todmorden

Our view is that there has not been a breach; however we are considering serving a Planning Contravention Notice. We will keep you informed of progress.

10.1.3. High House Farm, Moorcock Road, Blackshaw Head

We are still awaiting a response. We will invite them to a formal interview under the Police and Criminal Evidence. If we do not receive a response we will have to consider a prosecution.

10.1.4. Land adjacent to Green Dark Lane, Blackshaw Head

We are awaiting the site visit date by the Inspectorate. We will keep you informed of progress.

11. To consider new planning applications:-

11.1. 12/01198/FUL Installation of two quiet revolution HY5-AD5.6 micro scale wind turbines (14.97m to hub, 5.6m diameter blades) Hill Top Farm New Road Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge HX7 7HR;

Object (1 Abstention: Carol King)

Blackshaw Parish Council asks that the application be considered by the full planning committee.

A similar planning application (Field Head Farm 08/01191) for a turbine in the vicinity was refused by CMBC.

At the meeting of the Parish Council concerns were raised that the noise levels from the two turbine system would adversely affect residents living nearby.

1. Experience of other turbines located in the Parish (15 are already located in the vicinity of the village) is that the immitance of the turbines is not as presented in the methodology used in the application to show that noise levels will be within acceptable levels. Several residents provided examples of being disturbed by noise from existing turbines which is well above the background level (e.g. wind turbines can be heard from within houses above the noise of heavy rain).

2. Residents described the 'channelling' effect of houses and landscape. The level of noise from existing turbines in certain areas in the village is increased to unacceptable levels. The shape of the surrounding terrain (forming an amphitheatre) may make the noise disturbance greater than that predicted by the methodology used.

3. As a result of the experiences of residents of the noise a turbine creates and local knowledge of the terrain, it was suggested that a site specific noise assessment would need to be done before this application could be granted.

Concerns were raised about the visual impact of the proposed turbines.

1. Concerns were raised that the cumulative effect of 2 more turbines, added to the 15 that are already in place, will have a highly adverse visual impact on a special landscape area. They are sited on high ground and few views will be unaffected. The CMBC Local Plan, currently out for consultation, indicates that this area (Area around Todmorden), being a highly significant natural habitat, will not be developed except for appropriate tourism. The visual aspect needs to be preserved for tourists to wish to come into the area.

2. Concerns were raised that although 12 listed buildings were identified in the application, there are in fact 29 listed buildings in the vicinity of the turbines. The application claims that views will not be adversely affected from properties identified. This claim is disputed by residents living nearby who believe that views will be affected from 28 of the 29 properties identified by residents.

Concerns were raised that the experience of flicker is not as predicted by the methodology used in the application. It is the experience of residents that flicker and stroboscopic effects are seen within houses and in gardens even though turbines have been sited using the accepted methodology, also used in the application. One resident described her health being severely affected as a result of flicker.

The above analysis, based on experience of turbines already sited in the vicinity of the village, suggests that the claims made within the application relating to the potential harmful effects on health, quality of life and on the visual landscape are over optimistic. It is the experience of residents that turbines already in place in the village have affected both health and quality of life adversely, and have had adverse visual impact on the landscape beyond claims made by accepted methodologies used to calculate these.

11.2. 12/01129/FUL Conversion of barn and outbuildings to 2 No dwellings Far Rawtonstall Farm Badger Lane Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge HX7 7JR;

No objection

12. Calderdale's Local Plan Core Strategy Preferred Options –Councillors identified the following issues that related to the Local Plan Core strategy:

12.1. The currently unused sites of Callis Mill and The Woodman Pub – the view was that these might be identified as providing land for development; they fitted criteria of being close to public transport routes, were brownfield sites and currently were dilapidated.

12.2. A646 pedestrian access - Developers should contribute through the Community Infrastructure Levy to the provision of a proper pedestrian access along the A646, where the pavement currently disappears, to ease the problems for families with small children walking into Hebden Bridge from Charlestown

12.3. Faster Broadband - The parish Council has identified the current slow speeds of Broadband in the Parish as being a block to the further development of home working and small businesses in the area of the Parish

The items 12.1-3 are to be raised during the Ward Forum on 4th December and the Clerk has been asked to submit them formally as comments on the consultation.

13. Highways, bridleways and footpaths - Jan Gibson, Rights of Way Officer, Calderdale Council, replied to a query from the Parish Council asking for the current list of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish. Calderdale Council hold a copy of the Definitive Map and statement in the Northgate House Office which can be inspected during normal working hours. Alternatively you can search the Calderdale Internet site online. A map should appear and you should be able to zoom in on specific areas. http://map.calderdale.gov.uk/connect/?mapcfg=Transport_Network

Cllr Chris Lund has created a form (tabled) for residents to use when reporting an obstruction, need for maintenance or other issue involving a right of way. He reported that it would be helpful to be able to identify the landowner when reporting issues. It was agreed that when Cllr Lund had received feedback and the form had been amended it would be publicised using the google group. Residents would be asked to return the form to the Clerk who would send it on to the Rights of Way Team in Calderdale Council. The Clerk was asked to post a copy of the form on the Parish noticeboards and ask for it to be posted on the Parish website.

Marsh Lane: It was reported that it was now very difficult to exit from Marsh Lane because of the many parked cars obscuring the view of traffic along Badger Lane. The Clerk was asked to enquire what measures could be taken to ameliorate the situation.

Himalayan Balsam in Colden Clough: In response to a query from the Parish Council about Himalayan Balsam removal in this sensitive habitat, information was received from Dave Wilson, Countryside Officer for the Upper Valley, Calderdale Council, based in Mytholmroyd. He has been engaged in Himalayan Balsam removal at Colden over the past few years mostly through pulling and strimming. Sadly due to this year's flooding events he hasn't been able to do as much as he would have liked. He doesn't know of any plans to spray the balsam at this time, however together with a colleague, Matt Taylor, they are applying for a woodland improvement grant to pay to remove this species using a variety of methods which may include spraying, together with other manual and mechanical means. Ideally the plants need to be removed from the top of the valley and then further down. He will let the Parish Council know of any further developments.

14. The Emergency Plan – It was agreed to update the Emergency Plan in light of recent flooding events. The representatives of the Parish Council on the Flooding Resilience Group will ensure that the new Plan contains relevant information. The Emergency Plan will be discussed at the next WayaHead Committee meeting. The Clerk was asked to update the Emergency Contact leaflet with her contact details and put the sheet on the Parish Council Notice Boards.

15. Representative reports and invitations:-

29 October, Hebden Bridge Flood Event and Flood Resilience meeting: 19th November at Todmorden College – there have been two Flood Resilience group meetings (this group is dealing with the aftermath of recent floods and putting together policies for the future) and a flood event drop in at the Town Hall (residents were asked to bring their flood stories). Representatives reported that a policy of support for residents and businesses was being discussed and funding for its implementation was being sought. The main thrust was to identify sites along the valley where containers holding essential items such as sand bags could be installed so that these would be accessible to local flood wardens supported by local flood groups and could be distributed to households and businesses rapidly in flood emergencies. The donations collected after the floods were being held by Calderdale Community Foundation. Some of the money was available as small grants to help households carry out flood resilience surveys which were now needed by some to secure insurance but are costly to carry out.

14 November, South Pennine Branch meeting, YCLA – One representative to this group reported being proud of Blackshaw Parish Council as it was the only one said to have an emergency plan. The Clerk was asked to attend the June meeting which will be hosted by Blackshaw Parish Council.

26th November Bus Review meeting- It was reported that a review had taken place and the proposals were that Banksfield, Nest, Fairfield and Eaves will be served by a 'little' bus. This will take the pressure off Blackshaw and Old Town which can be served by a larger bus. There will therefore be four buses available for three routes which means one bus will be available to fill in in case of breakdown (the lack of a spare bus has been the major cause of disruptions to services). The Cragg Vale bus will cease (the 900 and 901 run along the route). The Flexibus, (late night bus) will continue to operate. The outcome was considered to be good however the proposals won't be put in place until April.

Flood Resilience meeting, 11.00am, 18th December at Hebden Bridge Town Hall (Greenwood Room); Cllr Mick Davies will be able to attend

28th November 2pm Hebden Bridge Flood Action group Greenwood Room Town Hall – this group is looking at recruiting flood wardens and flood groups to minimise effects of floods as they happen.

4th December, 5-6.45pm Calder Ward Forum – It was agreed that the views of the Parish Council on the Calderdale Local Plan consultation would be communicated. A request would be made for a discussion about achieving faster broadband in rural areas to be put on a future forum agenda.

16. Financial matters:-

16.1. 2012/2013 budget, variances and balances – Agreed, the balance of accounts was £6030.28 and the budget remaining for the year was £3,425.94. It was agreed to transfer £200 from the reserves to the current account.

16.2. To confirm payment of the Clerk's monthly salary - Agreed

17. Dates of future meetings:-

Parish Council Meetings: - 17 December, 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