
BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

6 Adelaide St, Todmorden, OL14 5HT 01706 815155
blackshawclerk@gmail.com



Draft minutes of the meeting of Blackshaw Parish Council held on Monday 27th July 2015 at Blackshawhead Methodist Church

Present: Cllr. Roger Butterworth (in the Chair), Cllr. Dorothy Sutcliffe, Cllr. Carol King, Cllr Paul Neill, Cllr Anne Geldard, Cllr Donna Goodman, Hannah Dobson (invited speaker) and three members of the public.

In attendance: Catherine Bann (Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absences previously notified to the Clerk – Cllr Davies.**
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Geldard declared an interest in item 6.1 as she does some work for one of the contractors, and accordingly did not take part in discussion and decision on this item
- 3. Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 22nd June - Confirmed**
- 4. Information on matters arising from the meeting on 22nd June**
 - 4.1.** Update on planning application at stables west of Blackshawroyd Farm – this will be going to a full planning committee meeting as requested by BPC and Cllr Battye.
- 5. Invited speaker on Neighbourhood Plan, Hannah Dobson.** Hannah showed a powerpoint presentation which outlined the role of the Neighbourhood Plan, the issues that were being dealt with and the input that the local councils could have in the overall process. This information is also available on display boards, which we will have in the red tent at the Fete. Some salient points to note:
 - Planning applications will be judged according to the policies laid down in the N Plan
 - The N Plan cannot propose less development than the Local Plan (Calderdale-wide), and as a general point, the N Plan has to accept that development will happen, but it aims to positively influence the type of development to suit local needs and concerns.
 - Calderdale is currently not considering planning sites as part of the Local Plan that are less than 0.1 hectares. This has an impact because for example, Blackshawhead couldn't identify several small developments of 2 or 3 properties and have these included in the Local Plan as a contribution to the provision required as part of that development Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is trying to change this to allow small sites to be included.
 - N Plan is also trying to establish the Area of Search, i.e., are Wadsworth, Blackshaw, Erringden etc included in this, and to clarify the 'hard / soft' boundaries of the Green Belt.
 - N Plan can devise a Neighbourhood Development Order for specific sites, which would lay down that only a certain type of development should be allowed, but this has to be agreed with all the parishes. This might be relevant for sites such as Callis Mill for example.
- 6. Matters concerning the Allotments**
 - 6.1.** Tenders for grass cutting contract – agreed to award the contract to Dan's Garden Services as this was the cheaper quote.
 - 6.2.** Site inspections / renewal of agreement and breaches of agreement. Councillor Goodman outlined some issues, reading from the attached document. A member of public felt that Cllr Goodman should have declared an interest in this item on the agenda as a plotholder. She was concerned about idea of multiple inspections, and also had concerns about a conflict of interest on the part of Cllr Goodman, as a plotholder and councillor. A further concern of the member of the public is that she felt the minutes of internal allotment committees don't reflect the concerns of some plotters. Chair explained that Cllr Goodman was not on the Allotment Committee due to this conflict of interest, and Cllr Goodman disagreed with the concerns outlined by the member of the public. Clerk explained that many of these issues were too in-depth to be discussed fully at this meeting, and would be better looked at during the next allotment committee meeting, which is yet to be arranged. Cllr Geldard suggested another inspection by herself and Cllr Davies (as members of the Allotments Committee) in the next short while. Clerk to clarify after looking at the contract about whether plotters need to be informed beforehand about this meeting. Agreed to postpone further discussion of changes to allotment contracts and arrangements to the committee meeting, and agreed that the Clerk would attend in order to alleviate concerns regarding the minutes (see below)

- 6.3. Date of next Allotment Committee meeting – Clerk will arrange with Cllrs Geldard, Davies and the ploholders for sometime in September.
7. Agreed to buy an external hard drive to enable proper back-up and storage of data. Clerk to investigate prices and discuss with Cllr Neil.
8. **Agreed rota for BPC** representatives in the red tent at the Blackshawhead Fete. Agreed to the suggestion that we should email googlegroups in advance to let people know we would be collating data re broadband speeds, including instructions on how to test one's speeds.
9. Correspondence:
- 9.1. Contribution to Chairman's charity from Margaret Morgan – letter of thanks to be written.
- 9.2. Noted letter of thanks from Heptonstall Exhibitions
- 9.3. Notices from CMBC of various committee meetings were shared with councillors. Clerk invited councillors who had an interest in any particular committee to let her know so that they could be kept informed about agendas.
- 9.4. Budget consultations from CMBC – they have offered a speaker at parish council meetings – agreed to invite them to September meeting.

10. Planning related matters:-

10.1. To receive information on previous planning applications and enforcement notices:

15/00545/LBC | Demolition of lean-to at rear of property and replace with a conservatory, change window into door opening and block up doorway (Listed Building Consent) | High Gate Farm Badger Lane Blackshaw Head HX7 7JP - Granted

10.2. Update from Anne Markwell, Enforcement Team Leader - Roy Rizvi is the case officer dealing with the shed near Jack Bridge, and this matter is still under investigation. We will be updated when there is any significant progress. On the issue of High House Farm - the majority of the documents have now been prepared for the legal officer, and Anne will let us know when these have been forwarded to the legal officer. It may take some time before the matter is pursued through the court, but we will be kept updated. In relation to Green Dark Lane, the Highways Officer has been dealing with the footpath issues in relation to the new extension. However, concerns raised regarding the footpath diversion from local residents may have an effect of delaying the process. Regardless of this, the owner will be invited for a formal interview under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

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

10.3.1. 15/00725/FUL | Agricultural barn for storing feed and equipment | Burnt Edge Farm Higher Back Lane Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7JA Agreed unanimously to support.

10.3.2. 15/00844/FUL | Change of use of agricultural land to touring caravan site (30 pitches) including facilities building | Land Off Smithwell Lane Heptonstall Hebden Bridge Calderdale Concerned about impact on traffic through parish. A huge amount of top soil would be removed involving large lorries. Also nothing in the planning application about traffic approaching from the north. The site would be visually obtrusive. Councillors felt there was not a strong enough case to change the use of green belt land. Access via Lee Wood Road felt to be problematic due to the difficulties on this road – down to one lane and this hasn't solved the subsidence issue entirely. Lots of large lorries may affect this, and there's a possibility this traffic would be re-routed through Blackshawhead. The access this way has it's own problems due to the tight area around Colden School with 2 blind bends. This would be problematic not just for construction traffic but for caravan traffic. Unanimously voted to object.

11. Matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths

11.1. Unfenced access to river from A646 near Fern Villas – update. Highways has responded to say that it is not their responsibility as the access would be across private land. Now plan to write to landowner direct from Erringden and Blackshaw Parish Councils to appeal to them to resolve the issue.

11.2. Meeting with Calderdale about road safety/speed limit issues. Draft agenda should be circulated to all councillors in advance for comments. Cllr Goodman to do this.

11.3. Land Bridge at Colden – some discussion about this, and whether we ought to be involved in putting pressure on Calderdale to take responsibility. However some people considered that as the bridge was fit for purpose as a bridleway, it was up to the residents to strengthen it if they wanted to drive their tractors/trailers and heavier vehicles across it. Agreed to write to Dave and say thanks for keeping us in touch, and we look forward to following progress.

11.4. Diversion of footpath Blackshaw 38 at Green Barn – No further comment

12. To consider the following financial matters:

- 12.1.** The budget remaining for 2015/16 is £7343 the balance of accounts is £10,769, which reconciles with the bank balance.
- 12.2.** Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary for this month and August.
- 12.3.** Discuss the appointment of a new internal auditor for 2015/6 – Margaret Morgan doesn't wish to do this again, so we do need to find someone else. Agreed to circulate on googlegroups, and to contact the former auditor regarding next year.
- 12.4.** Change of signatories on bank account. Agreed to add Cllrs Butterworth, Geldard, Neil and Goodman (forms provided) and remove former councillors.

13. Appointed Cllrs Geldard and Butterworth as the Parish Council representatives for 2015/6 to the Hebden Bridge Partnership.

14. Representative reports and invitations:

14.1. Reports from previous events

Blackshaw Methodist 200th Anniversary Photograph – fantastic event, well attended with brilliant photograph produced.

Calder Ward Forum 30th June - three councillors attended. Discussed flood defences, and discussion about banners on the turning circle, police update.

14.2 Upcoming Events and invitations

Blackshawhead Fete - 5th September

Calderdale's Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel - 13th August at 6pm MD to attend and provide update on flood work.

Town & Parish Liaison Group – 11th August MD to attend

Hebden Bridge Partnership - Mon Sep 7th, 7.30pm, Greenwood Room, Town Hall – Cllrs Butterworth and Geldard to attend.

Community Flood Resilience Board - 17th September, 15th December MD to chair

Village clean-up. Cllr Geldard updated us on this. Still no date as yet, but she has confirmed that CMBC picks up the rubbish on this day, and will also send a waste recycling advisor on the day. Trying to organise a meeting with someone to try to add a streetsweeper. Will contact neighbourhood warden.

Dates of future meetings:-

Parish Council Meetings: - No meeting in August unless an important planning application needs to be discussed, 28th September, 26th October, 23rd November at Blackshawhead Methodist Church.

Allotment committee meeting – autumn, tbc

Wayahead Meeting – tbc after the meeting on road safety with Highways

Signed *Catherine Bann*
Clerk to the Parish Council