

Draft minutes of the meeting of Blackshaw Parish Council held on Monday 26th January 2015 at Blackshawhead Methodist Church

Present: Cllr. Mick Davies (in the Chair), Cllr. Steve Hoyle, Cllr. Sutcliffe, Cllr Chris Lund, Cllr Pat Beechill, Cllr. Carol King, 4 members of the public, and invited speakers from Superfast West Yorkshire (broadband)

In attendance: Catherine Bann (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Tim Cole
2. **Declarations of interest – None.**
3. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 15th December 2014 –** Agreed as correct record and signed by Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising from PC meeting 24th November 2014 –**
 - 4.1. Change of address at land registry. Solicitor is needed to verify identity of new clerk – agreed to payment of solicitor in principle if this necessary, but to explore CMBC in-house law firm first.
5. **Presentation on Broadband in Blackshawhead.** John Pilkington from Open Reach and Rob McNally from CMBC .

Superfast West Yorkshire is the project to bring fibre broadband to rural areas which would not be commercially viable without working with partners. Funded by Bradford, Calderdale, Leeds, Wakefield BT, and government and European Regional Dev Fund. John Pilkington explained that Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) – green box was installed at Jack Bridge. But the Old Shaw Lane cabinet is a spur from this, on copper. Due to the historic set-up of the infrastructure it is not a primary connection point. This means that speeds would be under 24 megabytes per sec, the further from the cabinet the slower the speed. But still a lot faster than current speeds. It went live on 15th Dec, and is available right now. However, not many people know that you have to opt in to the Fibre service. Lots of people think automatic speed boost, but that is not the case. Individuals have to contact their service provider. The fibre service provides open access for most service providers, who can use the cabinet. Take up has been low in West Yorkshire. Cost will depend on provider, and subscribers are encouraged to shop around to get the best deal.

It was reported that 20-25 mb per sec covers fairly heavy family use (downloading films, playing computer games, running email and music streams. However, in the event, we may not be getting this sort of service throughout the whole village, as the distance from the green boxes to individual premises reduces the band width available. It should still show a considerable improvement on the present state of affairs.

Phase 2 could be important here –It will be looking at all properties with speeds of less than 15 megabytes and then exploring other products to increase speed. It will consider, not just value for money, but also priority areas. It will be at least 18 months before anything starts happening, and our parish is not necessarily in this phase. We would need to lobby for it, register interest etc. through the Superfast West Yorkshire web site. This will give a better picture of demand, so we need to ensure that as many people as possible register to demand improved service. If 20% people in West Yorkshire fail to achieve the regional target then a £2million clawback from BT comes into play and this money would be reinvested in the West Yorkshire project.

CMBC would like a couple of case studies for Superfast West Yorkshire in the area to let others know of their experience. So please contact Rob McNally you would like to be a case study – you'd get a voucher worth £25 for iTunes or googleplay / amazon or similar.
6. **Government Consultation on Parish Council funding/referendums.** The possibility has been raised that central government may impose a referendum on to Parish Councils that increase their precept by more than 2%. Cllr Davies responded on behalf of BPC to say that government doesn't seem to trust local citizens, and these caps may inhibit citizens from standing for local office It would also stop parish councils from taking on bigger role, such as in community assets, neighbourhood planning etc. and that the cost of running a referendum is disproportionate on smaller parishes with very small budgets.
7. **Parish Council newsletter –** agreed to have newsletter in March in order to advertise election. Cllr Chris Lund to request electronic register of electors. Items for inclusion: Broadband. New website/googlegroups. Highways & byways. Wind turbines. Emergency Plan – call for contact from vulnerable people. Flood relief and flood programme. Clerk to send these to Cllr Davies who will send out headings to various people seeking input for a short article. Agreed to put BEAT sheet in newsletter.
8. **Update on website meeting –** new website layout already in progress. Groups to be contacted by Clerk to ask for update, content is being updated, parish council section will be updated soon. Thanks

to Tony Burger and Steve North for past efforts, and gratitude to Grayde and Donna for taking it forward. It was agreed to purchase 3 years domain funding.

9. Agreed to invite Helen Doodson of Hebden Bridge Community Assoc to speak on Staying Well project at the next meeting, with proviso that Cllrs wondered whether meeting was best place for this.

10. To consider planning related matters:-

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

Update on the Planning Inspectorate visit for appeal by Lifelong Energy for turbine at Barley Croft. 15 residents including the applicants. Not allowed to engage in conversation and he didn't ask any questions of people. Visited various properties.

- 10.1.1. **Update from Anne Markwell, Enforcement Team Leader** – Land adjacent to Green Dark Lane – CMBC in discussion with applicant regarding start of permission. They have been advised to pursue a formal interview and this will be progressed. Cllrs asked for further progress on High House.

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

10.2.1 Extension at Lower Badger Cottage Lane Head Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7JP Ref. No: 14/01490/HSE **NO OBJECTION (UNANIMOUS)**

10.2.2 Extension at Delmont Under Cragg Charlestown Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 6NX Ref. No: 14/01501/HSE – **NO OBJECTION (UNANIMOUS)**

10.2.3 Summer house at Rawtonstall House Dark Lane Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire HX7 7JR Ref. No: 14/01507/192 – **NO OBJECTION (UNANIMOUS)**

11. To consider matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths

11.1. Update from Underbank – Now tarmaced under the bridge – not sure who did it.

11.2. Update from the Steeps Campaign – no update from Donna Goodman this month.

11.3. Land Bridge – update from CMBC. Letter also from Dave Smalley with update from residents, thanking the Parish Council for progressing this. Residents will delve further into ownership and will keep us in the picture. Request for BPC to be part of a partnership, and was agreed (and could liaise with Heptonstall PC) with proviso that this was not a financial input.

12. To consider the following financial matters:

12.1. The budget left for 2014/15 was £1762.40 the balance of accounts was £6950.93 which reconciled to the cashbook and it was agreed to transfer £ 1762.40 from reserve to current account (all the remaining budget for 2014/5 due to bank branch closure)

12.2. Discussed Budget calculations for 15/16 and Budget agreed as amended. Agreed to request a precept of £5775 for 15/16.

12.3. Discussed establishment of internet banking for BPC with the current bank – request for further info as to how exactly it works – would a card be needed for larger sums? Would there be record of all transactions done on internet? Clerk to report to next meeting.

12.4. Confirmed payment of £8.27 to Yorkshire Water for allotments water bill

12.5. Agreed to pay registration of Blackshaw internet domain, 3 years at £11.99 per year.

12.6. Agreed payment of SLCC training course on storing paperwork for new Clerk

12.7. Confirmed payment of Clerk's monthly salary.

13. Representative reports and invitations

Calder Ward Forum - 21st January – postponed because of bad weather - Cllr Davies to attend rescheduled meeting on 3rd February.

Role of Responding Agencies during Flooding - 20th January – Cllr Hoyle attended. Info provided on fire brigade and search & rescue, how to get hold of military etc.

Community Project Board - 22nd January – Cllr Davies attended - working on an Eye on Calderdale website – will be something for flood groups to look at some time in early March. Pressure on flood groups to spend some money.

Public B.E.A.T. Meeting - 27th January

Town & Parish Liaison Group - 3rd Feb 6.30pm at Todmorden Town Hall – Cllr Hoyle to attend.

Neighbourhood Planning meetings: Cllr Davies reported to meeting the view of BPC that work should continue on this, as per minutes of last meeting. It was agreed to budget for £408 in 15-16 budget which was the amount requested by the Neighbourhood plan group as Blackshaw's contribution

(based on Council Tax Base) Calderdale Local plan is looking at land use, and looking for consultation in next few weeks. Next meeting - Monday 9th February 2015 Cllr Davies to attend, then Monday 30th March 2015

Dates of future meetings:-

Parish Council Meetings: - 23 February, 23 March, 27 April, Blackshaw Head Methodist Church.

WayAhead meetings – 16 February 2015, Council Chamber, Hebden Bridge Town Hall .

Allotment Committee – 16 March 2015, Council Chamber Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting – 18th May 2015 at Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

Signed *Catherine Bann*
Clerk to the Parish Council