



## **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Monday 25th January 2016 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church**

**Present: Cllrs Davies (in the chair), Sutcliffe, Butterworth, Goodman, King, Geldard. Emma from Hebden Royd Council, three members of the public – Matt Baker, Grayde Bowen and**

1. Apologies for absences. Cllr Neill
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None
3. Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Agreed.
4. Matters arising from the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December
5. Discussion of Boxing Day floods in the parish. MD had to report to CMBC Flood Steering group on behalf of the community flood resilience board on progress, but the floods had happened so much of reporting was about that experience. Spoke about issues – communications was a big problem, mobile networks and landline networks were down and there was no local radio system available. Couldn't communicate from one end of Hebden to the other. Lack of blue light services for a long time so no fire and no police. Groups of volunteers just acting independently. Had to consider the prospect of taking steps to evacuate Mytholm meadows when the river burst its banks onto the A646 but fortunately the waters subsided. Extending and repeating the sirens needs to happen. Need local emergency hubs for services. Flood stores – equipment, numbers and siting needs to be reviewed. People waiting for experts to come to their aid, but they didn't/couldn't get there. Need to understand/change expectations. Ferocity of water was frightening – need to spread understanding of what is involved in flood and what to expect. Lack of resilience on power supply was frightening – substations might need to be re-sited? Recommendation to test their emergency plan! Statutory review of their emergency procedures will be happening. Reprioritisation of the EA hard and soft engineering works – lots of small things failed that had bigger knock on impacts causing problems elsewhere. Need to reduce reliance on very few volunteers / key people. Better quality warning information. Insurance issues – need to make the property more flood resilient included on insurance. Bid to improve quality of Neighbourhood and Local Plans – flood management needs to be at the front of those documents.

Interest on tops as to what we can do up here to prevent flooding in bottoms. Trees responsibility and Source have lots of activity going on, identifying landslips, planting trees, slowing flow naturally. Clerk to publicise this on goolegroup and website.

Wall at Wood Villas needed strengthening. EA have been taking height measurements in that area, so we'll try to find out what the upshot of this was.

In relation to the Sandbeds Rec land sale. Concern that the area proposed for the new substation is very prone to flooding, and MD has double-checked with neighbours there and confirmed that in recent floods, site was definitely under water. This is not very forward thinking to site substation there, may mean more power cuts in future. Agreed to write to person who put the notice in paper and copy in Mark Thompson. Moy Cash is doing some work on Colden Clough slowing flow – agreed to invite her to March meeting. Also issue about drains – agreed to write to CMBC clarifying policy. Cobble gulleys, turn-bys at top of Mytholm Steeps blocked in.

DS asked about residents in Wood View, Wood Villas area, and MD said most residents are being taken care of in some way, either still living there, or moved out, Much work being carried out there. Also confirmed that the 'silversmiths' at entrance to Underbank was also flooded.

6. New arrangements for external audit. Agreed to opt-in to new Sector Led Body.
7. Re-siting of the Charlestown parish noticeboard and the maintenance required for both. As near to bus stop as possible. Agreed to get quotes from contractors.
8. Draft Neighbourhood Plan – DG: Impact on traffic wasn't emphasised enough in the development aspect. Housing Section 3.2 – why preference to development in valley bottom. MD explained this was general policy drive for our NP to avoid lots of development on the hilltops, except for small developments as identified by individual parishes. Need to design development for flood resilience in the valley bottoms rather than building on hill tops. DG: Rail and bus emphasis – developments relying solely on own vehicle access would be discouraged – this would mean rural areas are unlikely to fit this criteria for development. The proposed walking & cycling evaluation of pedestrian crossing points will help us on Church lane, likewise the traffic and parking evaluations. RB disappointed with NP because it was unspecific; lots of good intentions, but no actual parameters identified thereby allowing CMBC to do what they wished claiming it was within NP. Enhanced and faster broadband must be provided – needs

to be more specific as to what the parameters are. '3/4 of population were concerned about environment' – greenbelt needs to be more specific, outlined and protected. Very wishy washy on the issue on wind turbines – didn't mention any other technical issues. Noise, insurance, etc etc – need something in there like “no turbines 500m from village envelope”. Land around Todmorden needs to be treated as greenbelt. MD asked should wind turbine policy be Blackshaw specific? Needs to be in NP because this is a legal ratified document. DG mentioned that there are lots of factors involved in wind turbines, including things like the type of turbine, the insurance etc.

Callis Mill – agreed to still support development here despite floods. Design could include flood water storage tanks underneath. Flats / housing over.

How the floods have impacted on NP – main issue is the brownfield sites on valley bottom are a flood risk, but NP group is taking the line that still preferable to build here than on green hill top sites, but any development would need better flood mitigation.

**9.** Report from Wayahead meeting and any steps to be taken as a result of discussion there. Broadband RB said main issue is getting fibre to village from Jack Bridge. Trench being dug up the road, that could take all the services. Matt Baker explained that if they bring a fibre cabinet in, they may have certain number of terminations – 100-150 or thereabouts? So that will limit the number of take-ups. Commercial viability is important as this is very small area. MD to have a word with Andrew Pitts regarding getting hold of Mary Farrar to answer our questions. Might be worth checking that it is copper, not aluminium. How much would it cost to extend from Jack Bridge, what speed would it provide and how many connections for people wanting fibre to the home? Report from Matt – need pressure – linking with other areas locally would make us stronger. Possibly link to flooding – could enable a community wi-fi? Hill Top parishes also keen on pushing broadband up agenda. MB suggested doing a survey on wifi – could get this paid for by Big Lottery. To be discussed at the next meeting. Could also contact MP - to be discussed again at next meeting.

## **10. To consider planning related matters: -**

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

**10.1.1.** 15/01427/HSE | Extension to north elevation to form garden room | Higher Murgatshaw Farm New Shaw Lane Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7HZ - **Permit**

**10.2. Update from Anne Markwell, Enforcement Team Leader.** Both land at Green Barn Dark Lane, and High House Farm Lane – Dukes Cut under review. Named officers supplied, and Clerk to contact them before next meeting for an update. CK to provide Clerk with history of High House /Dukes Cut

**10.3. To consider new planning applications: NONE**

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

**11.1.** Proposals from CMBC Highways for consideration. Agreed to ask for 'Blackshawhead village only' at end of Church Lane. Investigate possibility of having a No U-Turns sign. Emma Green from Hebden Royd council was present and said that Hebden Royd likely to be very supportive of the change in signage in their part of parish. Also could investigate possibility of warning triangles for the school. A number of other issues outstanding, including signage at top of Marsh Lane, no through road to A646. Proposed signage at the top in village was agreed. Discussion about signage, and the impact of restricting parking in some areas and not others. Agreed to invite Peter Stubbs to next meeting to discuss signage further. Asked Emma to take these issues to Hebden Royd also.

## **12. To consider the following financial matters:**

**12.1.** The budget remaining is 4968 and the balance of accounts is 7989.

**12.2.** Budget calculations for 16/17 and confirmation of annual precept request. Some discussion about whether to slightly increase but agreed an effective freeze on amount demanded from council tax payers, which would be £5965.

**12.3.** Confirmed payment of the water bill for allotments

**12.4.** Agreed the purchase of a new laptop for BPC, with upper limit of £400 excluding vat. Agreed to try purchase from local computer shop as flood solidarity, even if slightly more expensive.

**12.5.** Application for a grant from Blackshaw Gaming Club. Grayde explained the gaming club and how it works, and explained that Roger Munday had suggested public liability insurance, the cheapest way of which was to join gaming club. So applying for a grant of £150. Agreed.

**12.6.** Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary.

**12.7.** Confirmed the payment of £45 to YLCA for training course for Cllr Butterworth.

## **13. To consider representative reports and invitations:**

**13.1.** Reports from previous events

National Flood event, London 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Ward Forum Hebden 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Neighbourhood Plan Meetings 14<sup>th</sup> December, 11<sup>th</sup> January (see discussion above)

Community Flood Resilience Board - 17<sup>th</sup> December postponed

Flood Recovery Programme Board – 6<sup>th</sup> January (see above)

**13.2 Upcoming Events and invitations**

Town & Parish Council Liaison Group - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

Community Flood Resilience Board – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

**Parish Council Meetings:** - 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 21<sup>st</sup> March at Blackshawhead Methodist Church.

**Wayhead Meeting** – tbc

**Signed *Catherine Bann***

**Clerk to the Parish Council**