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# BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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**Draft Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council meeting 7.30pm on Monday 23 March 2020 on Zoom online due to Covid 19 restrictions.**

**Present: Cllrs Bowen, Butterworth, King, Lacey, Lomax, Patterson, and Tiler-Ansell**

1. Apologies for absences previously notified to the Clerk.
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None.
3. Confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020
4. Information on matters arising from the meetings on 24<sup>th</sup> February. None
5. Flooding at Charlestown and potential to improve the situation – with contribution from local resident. Item postponed to a future meeting as not possible to enable public participation.
6. Problems with the bridge at Lane Farm. Cllr Lomax reported that nothing was urgent on this matter, and it will be discussed further at a future meeting
7. Plans for the Tour De Yorkshire – event cancelled due to Covid 19
8. Discussed the parish newsletter – Clerk to work on this, with contributions requested from Cllr Lacey on roads, Cllr Lomax on the Climate Summit, and the Chair's report from Cllr Bowen. Need to include item on floods. Agreed to include the usual item on the Community Award, but noted that a longer lead time would be better, as the award will not be able to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Hope that it can be presented at Fete instead.
9. Discussed the potential impact of COVID-19 on parish council work. Between meetings it was agreed by email that this meeting should happen online as meeting in person is not sensible/possible at the current time. The Clerk has purchased a paid-for Zoom account, an online meeting tool on behalf of the parish Council at a cost of £11.99 +VAT monthly. This meeting is the first occasion that the Parish Council has used the online meeting tool Zoom, and as such it was felt that we couldn't include public contributions until councillors themselves had some familiarity with the technology. Clerk explained that public could be included in future meetings if this one was felt to work smoothly. Clerk explained that legislation was being brought forward regarding the functioning of Parish Councils during this period to ensure that business conducted in these unusual ways would not contravene the regulations. There was a discussion about the suggestion by YLCA / NALC to pass a resolution to give the Clerk powers to make decisions on behalf of the council (reported by email and minuted). It was felt that as this online system seems to work sufficiently for our small council, this wasn't necessary at this time. It was felt that essential business can still be conducted involving all the councillors in a meeting, the only difference being it was online rather than in person. Further discussion had regarding how the council could help parishioners, noting that councillors can support the existing local initiatives.  
Cllr King pointed out that lots of people using the parish for walking, locals and further afield. People may not be aware of the contamination dangers posed by handling gates & stiles. Agreed that Clerk should make a notice that can be printed off and put up.  
Also agreed that Clerk should put together a notice of all local support groups in the area, and other useful information and have it posted in our noticeboards as well as online.
10. Proposals emerging from the informal working group on climate change. Cllr Lomax reported that work on this had ground to a halt due to COVID 19 but that prior to this, it was agreed to only have three hubs, there not being sufficient interest in a separate transport hub.
11. To discuss the issue around fuel, coal and wet wood – postponed as non-urgent
12. To discuss revisions to the Emergency Plan – Clerk has sent copy of current plan to all councillors, but it was felt that this work can happen at a future date when a working group can convene to move things forward.
13. Discussed the work needed on the trees at the allotment site. Clerk had got three quotes for the work, and two were in a similar price bracket, so agreed to go with the more local company, Bells. Allotment Committee had a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March, minutes circulated, nothing needing a parish council discussion or decision. Reported that some plotters had been flooded, and had been granted special leave regarding the amount of planting this year.
14. **To consider planning related matters: -**
  - 14.1. To receive information on previous planning applications: None

**14.2.** Update on Enforcement and other planning issues.

**14.2.1.** Any update on development on Long Causeway. Continues to be controversial. Cllr Butterworth suggested that after the development is finished, we put together a list of the issues and take it up with planning then, as at this point, most neighbours just want the building works completed.

**14.3.** To consider new planning applications: None

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

**15.1.** Report from CROWS - Clerk reported that CROWS had sent an update on their recent works in the area, mending bridges (with CMBC funding) One out the back of Daisy Bank (new bridge required), stone one over Hippins Clough - we are recommending a contractor does this and one below Winters - just a repair.

**15.2.** Cllr Lacey asked if there were any comments or feedback councillors wished to make to Peter Stubbs recent correspondence, but all was felt to be fine. She reported that he has said that the 20mph zone ought to be in place by the end of the year (this may now be pushed back due to covid situation). Our request for double-yellows at the junction of Davey Lane and Long Causeway has been noted. No word on the timeline for reinstating the white lines.

**16. To consider the following financial matters:**

**16.1.** The bank balances stand at £7859 and budget remaining for 2019/20 is £3158. It was noted that under the current situation it is impossible to get the cheques signed, so for the foreseeable future, all payments will be made electronically. Clerk noted that this has previously been agreed some years ago, but never actioned as some councillors at the time felt it should only be a last resort. It was asked whether the online system could be dual signatory, and Clerk felt that when she previously asked about this, it wasn't possible, but will ask again.

**16.2.** Confirmed payment of the grant of £250 to the Old People's Welfare Committee, S137

**16.3.** Confirmed payment to Viking for new printer ink

**16.4.** Confirmed payment to Business Stream for allotments water bill

**16.5.** Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary and expenses, including postage stamps at £314 (for newsletter and general admin).

**17. To consider representative reports and invitations**

**17.1.** Previous Events

Safer, Cleaner, Greener meeting – Cllr Lacey attended. It was reported that there has been a lot of fly-tipping on Widdop Rd, specifically cannabis waste/spoil, and authorities keen to find some CCTV evidence. Cllr Lacey asked if the data from the Chapel CCTV could be of use? Cllr Butterworth said this may be possible if dates and times provided, which Cllr Lacey will look into.

YLCA meeting – Cllr Butterworth attended, main point to note is that a representative from Friends of the Earth was present, and had a report detailing 20 actions that town and parish councils can take to help prevent the climate emergency. This could be of use to us.

Upcoming Events

Ward Forum – 6<sup>th</sup> April, 6.15pm, Town Hall (cancelled)

Tour De Yorkshire (cancelled)

**Items for next meeting** - agreed to meet via Zoom again – was felt that it functioned okay in the circumstances. Not sure how to do the annual meeting, but hopefully there will be advice provided by YLCA

**Parish Council Meetings:** - 27<sup>th</sup> April Annual Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> May

**Allotment Committee Meeting** - October 2020

**Signed Catherine Bann Clerk to the Parish Council**