
BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2020 on Zoom online.

Present: Cllrs Bowen, Butterworth, King, Lacey, Lomax, Patterson and Tiler-Ansell and five members of the public.

1. Apologies for absences previously notified to the Clerk. none
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. none
3. Confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 23rd March 2020
4. Information on matters arising from the meetings on 23rd March. Clerk reported that Highways had investigated the drainage issues at Dry Soil – gullies cleared, but further investigation needed due to an issue with the outlet which runs onto private land. The flooding problem at Davey Cottages is with the Land Drainage team who are looking into the issue.
5. Issues relating to COVID-19. Parish Council produced poster, displayed in noticeboards, with details about local support groups and other info. Also produced poster about dangers of stiles, and councillors have been placing these on footpaths. Councillors worked with members of community to produce a leaflet and system for Blackshaw Mutual Aid. This was distributed in parish newsletter along with other COVID19 info. Cllr Butterworth noted that the newsletter was excellent. Clerk also noted that new regulations now in place legalising online meetings for councils during COVID crisis. Clerk had noted the briefing on internet safety, and in line with other councils, had not published the direct link to the meeting but details of how to obtain the link/phone details. Noted that it is possible we should be publishing our meetings on CMBC website (in the new regulations), but YLCA has contacted authorities asking for info on this and CMBC yet to respond. Clerk felt that as we published notices on our website, email groups and on our boards, that this was fine.
6. **To consider planning related matters: -**
 - 6.1. To receive information on previous planning applications: 20/00088/FUL | Conversion and extension of existing dwelling to form three dwellings | Lower Earnshaw Water Farm The Long Causeway Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7JB - **Permitted**
 - 6.2. Update on Enforcement and other planning issues.
 - 6.2.1. Discussed at length the issue regarding plastic and metal waste spread on land around Hippines Clough / Staups Moor. Cllr Butterworth began by giving some background on the nature of the waste, i.e. composted waste via contract to CMBC. Landowner (Holroyds) has said they are operating within the current regulations and licenses. Notwithstanding this, in response to a query raised by the Environment Agency (EA), they had agreed that they need to use a finer screen in the future as the bits of plastic etc are larger than they should be. Landowner has said they would do a litter pick, and RB suggests we could offer to help with this as a community. Main point is that if it is true that landowner operating within regulations, then there is a problem with regulations. Cllr Lomax was shocked by size / range of the objects present on the land. Agreed that if it does conform to specifications, there is problem with regulations as no way should this end up on fields. Cllr Lacey noted that she has had some correspondence with the EA (clerk to forward to googlegroup), but disappointed by the response, as failed to pick up on just how much and how large the waste was. Some litter picking had happened, but impossible now as fields have been limed. She noted that other fields in area are limed, and this was not unusual practice. Member of the public said need more information on the contract with CMBC. He has had contact with Calderdale councillors Dave Young and Scott Patient, but they have referred it to planning. Craig Whittaker MP also informed, and response received from his office, also quoting response from Christine Sheasby from Planning. However this is not about land use, but about environmental regulations. He felt that the liming had not been done in a responsible way. Too close to sensitive habitats during very windy days creating huge plumes down the valley that would contaminate water course. Cllr Butterworth added that CMBC do bear some responsibility as Holroyds are processing their waste under contract, and checks should be made as to whether the waste fits the regulations. Another member of the public also offered evidence of the sorts of waste that he had found on the field – he felt Holroyds were the main culpable party here, but agreed with the idea of a litter pick. He had been there today and there was noticeably less litter, certainly along line of footpath.
Moving forward, the proposal to approach landowner with offer to help litter pick was not supported. However the following measures were agreed:

- 1) Write officially from the Parish Council to the landowner detailing all the concerns, and making clear that any future action along these lines will be dealt with seriously.
- 2) Write to the EA expressing disappointment with their response, include some more photos, and offer to send some examples of the items found there, and ask how we should approach this in any future similar issue.
- 3) Need to chase up with CMBC. Clerk will chase the letter to Christine Sheasby of Planning department as no response received, in particular with reference to breach of planning condition for new track. Also, as this spans several departments, agreed need to get a councillor on board. Agreed to invite Cllr Patient to an (online) meeting where we can outline all the issues, show photos and physical evidence, and request that he follows this up.

6.3. To consider new planning applications:

6.3.1. 20/00243/HSE | Two storey side extension | The Stable The Long Causeway Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7JB . Agreed No Objection.

6.3.2. 20/00337/FUL | Construction of seven dwellings | Barns South Of Davey Hall Davey Lane Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale. A lengthy discussion was held. Cllr Butterworth began by outlining some of history. There was initial support for the outline application of 5 low density low rise buildings. We had identified need in parish for smaller homes for people wanting to downsize but remain in parish, or starter homes – this helps with sustaining village life, such as bus service, school etc. However the initial full planning application was for 7 much larger, executive style homes which didn't fulfil any of the criteria above, and crowded in Davey Hall. He concluded that although the houses in the revised application were now smaller and low rise, and this was a positive change, still felt 7 was too many on that plot, and doesn't really count as low density. Cllr Lacey also noted that although original outline planning didn't specify materials to be used, it did say they would be in keeping with village. The materials in this application (cedar) would only match the poultry sheds, and would end up looking like sheds. Not in keeping with surrounding area. Also nothing but lip-service paid to environmental sustainability. Talk of 'solar gain' was not about solar panels, but sun through windows which is hugely disappointing. Cllr Lomax also highlighted this aspect, saying that we can't just gloss over the need for increased sustainability in new buildings: development on this scale that doesn't take this into account should not be supported. Also felt that increased density was inappropriate. Noted that the increased density of the other new development, from 5 (supported by the council) to 7 at the full planning application, has created issues, not least for the setting of the listed Davy Hall. This current application is now using this other development as a benchmark for acceptable density, but PC strongly opposed this development on that basis. Member of the public said that although density of a development was not a problem per se, it certainly was an issue on this particular site. He said there has been no material change in new application vis a vis the reasons the planning officers refused it originally (including density and proximity to Davy Hall). One of reasons given for favouring this particular iteration was due to environmental and sustainability objectives, but these are, in his opinion, very lacking. Another member of the public pointed out that no notices have been issued to neighbours nor posted up publicly, and this is a breach of the regulations. He noted that this new development, if permitted, would mean 14 new houses in this small corner of the village, which would box in heritage buildings. Would impact on the visual and rural amenity. It is a 'suburbanisation' outside village envelope. It was noted that number of cars would have impact on highways as Davey Lane is single track. The 'Nordic' design is not in keeping with Blackshawhead's mainly Yorkshire stone / slate. High density impacts on heritage of village. It was also noted that the plans were incomplete vis a vis the drainage issue, which was felt to be very significant.

Clerk checked that all councillors had read letter from applicant, and summarised the contents for others in meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to object, however it was noted that most councillors remain open to some development on that site, and that this was an objection to the density and the design (the reduction in size of houses was noted and welcomed) rather than to the idea of providing some small houses in the village.

6.3.3. 19/01251/FUL | Change of use of land and buildings to hand car wash with trailer for customer waiting area (retrospective) | Land South East Of Sandbed Garage Halifax Road Charlestown. Cllr Lacey noted that the objection from immediate neighbour was significant. She had experienced a number of issues including water going down her driveway, her fence being used to attach signs, the portacabin overlooking her garden (now re-sited). Agreed no objection in principle, but felt the neighbour had valid arguments, and conditions could be placed on the permission which referenced her access, boundary and right to privacy.

- 6.3.4.** 20/20049/TPO | Fell trees (Tree Preservation Order) | Gudger Glen View Road Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 6DA . Agreed to support.
- 6.3.5.** 20/00242/HSE | Two storey front extension | 2 Pennine View Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7JS. Agreed no objection, but noted the disruption in this corner of the village due to development works. If this were to go ahead at same time as houses on Davy Lane, it would be very difficult for residents.
- 6.3.6.** 20/40006/AGR | Agricultural storage building | Land To South Of 3 Lane Bottom The Long Causeway Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale. This was a prior notification and had already been granted by the time the meeting happened. Councillors and members of public expressed disappointment that with something so large, nothing was said about proximity to listed buildings. Further, was noted that it has not thus far been agricultural machinery and foodstuffs that have been stored on this piece of land.

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

- 7.1.** To discuss problems with the bridge at Hippins Clough. Member of public raised this as an issue. Said it was a beautiful bridge that ought to be listed, and have an absolute weight restriction placed on it – already had two cracks. Councillors discussed pros and cons of getting a structural survey. Agreed to approach SHED about putting together an argument for listing, as well as asking CMBC to do a check on the structure of the bridge.
- 7.2.** Link path of Pennine Way behind Underbank House – Cllr Patterson reported a 6ft gate installed. Contacted Jan at CMBC, who was helpful and agreed to look into whether a gate was marked on definitive maps (can only be done in office, i.e. after lockdown lifted). She also contacted CROWS, and Richard has been out and attached way markers to make it clear that the path is through the gate. Will keep a further eye on this matter.
- 7.3.** Cllr Lacey reported on the sewage release at Hebble Hole – had begun happening again, despite the work previously done to identify and solve problem. She has written to Andrew Simnott with the details and will chase up a response. Is not an issue now, presumably because very dry at present.

8. To consider the following financial matters:

- 8.1.** Reviewed the effectiveness of the systems of internal control and reviewed the annual assessment of significant risks. Agreed document as amended to take account of changes relating to COVID19.
- 8.2.** Agreed the draft accounts for 2019/20
- 8.3.** Discussed the budget for 20/21. Clerk pointed out changes from the estimates made in December. Larger amount for property maintenance due to tree work. Also IT, as agreed to buy Clerk new (reconditioned) laptop. Also money for Neighbourhood Plan, which could potentially happen in this financial year. Now only £2000 in S137 budget, so reduced amount available for climate change measures. Agreed budget as presented by Clerk.
- 8.4.** Agreed a grant of £250 to CROWS within the budget for this year under S137
- 8.5.** Confirmed payment of the bill for the newsletter printing £92.80 (an online printer, so this is a reimbursement to the Clerk as required a card payment)
- 8.6.** Confirmed payment to Zoom for online meeting services for 2 months (reimbursement to Clerk)
- 8.7.** Confirmed payment to Go Daddy web hosting for year's hosting of blackshaw.net – (reimbursement to Clerk), and agreed to find cheaper hosting for next year. Cllr Tiler Ansell suggested her son would help with this.
- 8.8.** Confirmed payment to HMRC for tax of £10.60 (to be deducted from Clerk's salary/PAYE)
- 8.9.** Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary and expenses, including postage to send the remaining leaflets to the Blackshaw Mutual Aid volunteers.

9. To consider representative reports and invitations.

Nothing to report, everything cancelled or postponed

Items for next meeting - works happening in area of Naze chapel, issue relating to 7 High St.

Parish Council Meetings: - Agreed that the Annual Meeting should be postponed to enable face-to-face meeting if this is within the acceptable practice under COVID19 regulations. Annual Parish Council meeting: 18th May, to happen on ZOOM, Future PC meetings, 22nd June, 27th July (venue tbc depending on situation with COVID19)

Allotment Committee Meeting - October 2020

Signed Catherine Bann Clerk to the Parish Council