
BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL



6 Adelaide St, Todmorden, OL14 5HT 01706 815155
blackshawclerk@gmail.com Website www.blackshaw.net

Draft Minutes of Annual meeting of Blackshaw Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 18th May 2020 online on Zoom.

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

- 1 Elected Roger Butterworth as the Chair for 2020/21.
- 2 Accepted the Chairman's verbal declaration of Office and undertaking to observe Code of Conduct, and copy to be posted out and signed.
- 3 Appointed Helen Lacey as Vice-Chair for 2020/21
- 4 Apologies previously notified to the Clerk. None.
- 5 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None.
- 6 Confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th April 2020.
- 7 Information on matters arising from the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 April. Clerk informed councillors that Highways had reported that they had done further investigations at Dry Soil, but all drains appear clear. They have added a full clearance in that area to their jobs list. Clerk noted that the tree works at the Allotments had been completed.
- 8 Discussed the recipient of the Blackshaw Community Award 2020. There were originally nominations for two people, but an overwhelming number of them were for May Stocks of May's shop. The other nomination was withdrawn in view of the public clamour for May to be the recipient. Unanimously agreed to award this year's Community Award to May who has always made a great contribution to the life of the Parish, but in the current times, was felt to have gone above and beyond to support the area. Plan A would be to present the award at the Fete, but if this or any other suitable public event doesn't go ahead due to Corona Virus, agreed to present the award with a small deputation of councillors to be arranged.

9 To consider planning related matters:-

9.1 Information on previous planning applications: None

9.2 Planning Enforcement Issues:

- 9.2.1** Update on land around Hippines Clough. Clerk mentioned letter from parishioner pointing out that contrary to previous minutes, it was most likely local residents such as herself who had done most of the litter picking there. Clerk has arranged meeting with Cllr Patient as agreed at last meeting. It will be at 4pm 20/5/20, councillors and the two interested local residents to be invited. Also agreed to invite Mike Hales of the Environment Agency. Noted that our letter to the EA is being treated as complaint, and that they were looking at an online meeting with the PC. Also discussed the widening of the entry to the field off Davey Lane, but felt that we should stick to the main issue when pursuing this, as it wasn't unusual for farmers etc to widen entrances. Agreed to write to member of public who raised this and said we'd support them if they wished to follow this up further. Agreed to thank and support same member of public in their intention to pursue investigation into the regulations surrounding waste disposal.
- 9.2.2** Dumping of car and other waste outside 7 High St. Member of public gave some detailed background about this issue with regard to an ongoing neighbour access dispute. Felt that the car and waste dumped in that location on purpose (along with his poles being sawn off) as part of this dispute, but aside from this, this was causing an eyesore and ragging old cars around agricultural fields is misuse of countryside. Councillors commented that they could not get involved in the access issue, as this was not a public right of way, and not a council issue. However it was agreed that this did constitute misuse of the land, and wrecked cars and washing machines etc do have a negative impact on the visual amenity in the area. As such, agreed to write an informal letter to the landowner to request that they take action and remove the offending items. This could be taken further if necessary, to CMBC Environmental Health, or Planning Dept. vis a vis a change of use.

9.2.3 Trees felled and other works by Naze Chapel. Noted that the shipping container on Pennine Way was not part of the same bit of land where trees have been felled. In terms of latter, it was noted that there is a suggestion that the trees have been cut in order to build a house there, and owner believes that the building technique planned would not require planning permission. Cllr King thought that the owner had got around the necessity of having a felling license by felling the trees across two different years, but Cllr Lacey thought there was enough cubic metres of wood to still require a licence. Agreed to write to planning department and CMBC tree officer with details.

9.3 New planning applications

9.3.1 20/00117/FUL | Straw Bale dwelling | Land West Of 8 Glen View Road Hebden Bridge Calderdale. The applicant was present at the meeting to put forward the case for approval, and answered the various queries relating to the size of the building, the siting of the wind turbine etc put to her by councillors. There followed a lengthy discussion about the merits of the building and whether to support the application. There was some strong support for the application in view of the low impact nature of the dwelling. The council passed a climate emergency motion recently, and acknowledged that future housing needed to be of this ilk. It was felt that the objection relating to the land being classed as ancient woodland was countered effectively by the applicant, and this should not impede the application. However there were concerns expressed that should this dwelling, which most (but not all) agreed was laudable in its design and its aims, be allowed in the greenbelt, other less ecological dwellings may seek to use the permission as a precedent. Others also expressed the view that although the house was modestly sized internally, externally it was very long and quite tall at 6m, with additional potential living space in the double height, and would be obtrusive from many viewpoints.

It was felt that priorities for granting permission for building in the greenbelt are somewhat warped at present. A 4 bed, double garage, executive style home was given permission in the middle of the greenbelt outside Blackshawhead recently despite council and much local objection, purely because the applicants kept horses. While a small-scale, modest, model ecological off-grid development, which councillors believed represented the future of housing, might struggle to gain permission.

After some debate, a proposal to support the application fell, with 2 votes for, 3 against, and 2 abstentions and councillors then agreed by majority (6:1) to not object to this application.

It was also agreed to request that this application is taken to planning committee, as existing planning guidelines have not caught up with the pressing need to change the way we build homes. It was felt that such an application would benefit from wider discussion and engagement.

10 To consider matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths: Cllr Lacey reported that despite chasing on the issue, she has received no reply to her letter regarding the sewage flowing out at Hebble Hole once again.

11 To appoint Parish Council representatives for 2020/2021:

11.1 Allotment committee – Cllrs King, Lacey and Lomax

11.2 Audit matters – Barry Eccles

11.3 Yorkshire Local Councils Association – Cllrs Butterworth and Patterson

11.4 Calderdale Town and Parish Council Liaison Group – Cllr Butterworth

11.5 Heptonstall Exhibitions and Richard Naylor Charities – Cllr Bowen

11.6 Friends of Colden Clough Nature Reserve – Cllr Bowen and Tiler-Ansell

11.7 Old People's Welfare Committee – Cllr King

11.8 Flood Resilience Group – Cllr Patterson and Lacey

11.9 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Butterworth

11.10 Safer Cleaner Greener – Cllr Lacey

12 To consider the following Financial matters:

12.1 Certified Blackshaw Parish Council as exempt from external audit for fiscal year 2019/20

12.2 Noted the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2019/20 included at page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

12.3 Approved the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 for Blackshaw Parish Council on page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

- 12.4 Approved Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2019/20 for Blackshaw Parish Council on page 6 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return
- 12.5 Approved the publication of documents required by Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities
- 12.6 Confirmed the Dates for the Exercise of Electors Rights would be 15/6/20-24/7/20
- 12.7 The 2020/2021 budget remaining is £9857 and bank balances stand at £13889.
- 12.8 Confirmed payment of £313 for membership of Yorkshire Local Councils Association
- 12.9 Confirmed payment for the annual insurance premium to Zurich of £373.60
- 12.10 Confirmed the honorarium payment to Barry Eccles for the internal audit
- 12.11 Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary and expenses, including an online payment to Zoom of £14.39

13 **To consider representative reports and invitations:** Noted that the Safer Cleaner Greener meeting had asked for comments and ideas for priorities. Agreed to suggest fly-tipping and to request that one of the cameras they had available be stationed for a time at the quarry on the Steeps. Cllr Lomax reported no action taken by Climate Change working party – feels there isn't enough motivation right now as priorities have changed due to Corona Virus. Hope to get going as soon as situation allows.

Items for next agenda: Flooding issue at Sandbed

Dates of future meetings: Clerk noted that there is a planning application that may need a special meeting if comments would be too late after next meeting in June. **Parish Council Meetings: - 22nd June, 27th July**

Allotment Committee: - October 2020

Signed *Catherine Bann*

Clerk to Blackshaw Parish Council