

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Blackshaw Parish held on Monday 20 May 2013.

Present: Cllr. Carol King (Chair), Cllr. Dorothy Sutcliffe, Cllr. Mick Davies, Cllr. Steve Hoyle, Cllr. Chris Lund and 6 members of the public including Ward Cllr. Janet Battye

In attendance: Maggie Boyle (Clerk).

Welcome – The Chairman Cllr. Carol King welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 May 2012** – these were agreed as a correct record.
- 2. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council** – The Chairman read the report much of which had been included in the Parish Newsletter sent to all residents of Blackshaw Parish who are on the Electoral Roll which included items about Charlestown Allotments, Blackshaw's Emergency Plan, the summer flooding, the burial of the time Capsule during the Queen's Jubilee, a new form for reporting footpath problems, the Parish website, the campaign for faster Broadband, the campaign for better bus services, the adoption of a new code of conduct by Councillors. The Chairman also presented figures from the Annual Accounts 2012/13 and explained that the Parish Council considered 19 planning applications in 2012/13. She noted that Lars Hansen had ceased working as Parish Clerk and said he would be sorely missed; he is replaced by Maggie Boyle. She reminded everyone that the Parish Google group is a good way to keep in touch and receive papers for Parish Council meetings. She invited everyone to the Great Rock Picnic on 23 June at noon.
- 3. Developing the Blackshaw website: www.blackshaw.net** – It was reported that it seems the Blackshaw Parish website is not used as much as it could be, however there were also comments that the Play Area Group had put documents on the website and were grateful to have a visible presence as it was useful when making bids for funding as funders could judge the profile of the group within the community. The Charlestown Allotments Group members agreed with this and said they were considering using it for their documents and communication with members as they were thinking of not renewing their blog site subscription. A question was asked whether the Google group could be used to advertise information that could then be downloaded from the website thereby driving traffic to the website. The Clerk agreed to look into how this might work for papers for meetings of the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that a questionnaire had been inserted into the newsletter encouraging residents to let the web team know what they would like to see on the website and how it might be developed further.
- 4. Campaign for faster Broadband in Blackshaw** – The Clerk announced that there was going to be a public meeting in July about Broadband to which Dr. Trevor Higgins of BT Openreach had been invited. Cllr. Janet Battye suggested that the Parish Council also invites Craig Chew-Moulding and Mary Farrar, Calderdale Council. Broadband would also be the subject of a presentation at the next Ward Forum on 4th July, where Councillors should check whether Blackshaw is still going to be part of a pilot project. She told everyone that it was important to keep asking: 'what we were going to get, where and when?' she stated that 'we want the fastest Broadband we can get in the Upper Valley' as this would be good for children's learning, good for small businesses and good for workers working from home. The Clerk was asked to encourage residents to register their interest in faster Broadband speeds by visiting the Superfast West Yorkshire site.
- 5. A mountain bike code for Blackshaw** The Clerk reported that Cllr. Tim Cole is considering a number of codes and will be bringing a recommendation to a future meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk circulated a code written by the International Mountain Biking Association which was considered to be well written.
- 6. Report about Charlestown Allotments.** The Chair of the Allotments Group gave a presentation using the overhead projector which showed what the many working parties had achieved. This included the felling of trees which had been recycled onto the paths by chipping, community benches being relocated, plots being marked out and the ground strimmed, fences put up, security gate painted, water connected and fruit trees and bushes planted for community use in the communal areas. Grants had been received from Calderdale Small Grants, Community Fund for Calderdale, BEAT (who raised funding through a bid) and the Parish Council. At the last AGM on March 19th it was agreed to allow 25% of plots to be leased by residents of Erringdon who lived in adjacent properties. The AGM was followed by the second meeting of the Blackshaw Parish Council Allotments committee (this had its inaugural meeting on 17 September 2012). Draft lease documents had been given to the Parish Council (Cllr. Mick Davies was considering them and will be making a recommendation at the next meeting of the Parish Council). The Allotments Group were looking into insurance for themselves when they

become plot holders. They will also be buying sheds and greenhouses from funding allocated to these items and will be making new bids to raise money for water butts and more fencing. Cllr. Dorothy Sutcliffe said that creating the allotments was the best thing that had happened in Blackshaw over the last 12 months. In answer to a question from Cllr. Janet Battye the group informed the meeting that all the plots had been allocated and there was 1 person on the waiting list for plots.

- 7. Blackshaw's Emergency Plan.** The Clerk informed the meeting that there will be a WayaHead meeting on the 17th of June solely dedicated to discuss the Emergency Plan. Items to be considered will include asking residents to identify sources of spring water that would be available to anyone experiencing a water disconnection and how the Emergency Plan is to be triggered in the event of a major disruption to essential supplies or other event impacting a large part of the community. Everyone was invited to attend. In response it was pointed out that there was less spring water available in recent years as many residents had been connected to the mains and had got rid of their spring water outlets. It was also pointed out that although left over water bottles provided during the water disconnection at Christmas had been stored in the Chapel for future use these would eventually go out of date and furthermore children should not drink bottled water.
- 8. Any other community issues** no other issues were raised.
- 9. Chairman's donation to Cancer Research** – Cllr. Carol King would make a donation from funds that had been raised this year and from what is left of the Chair's allowance.
- 10. Invitation to local residents to join the WayaHead Committee** – The WayaHead Group is a formal subcommittee for the Parish Council and all recommendations made are ratified (if appropriate) by the next Parish Council meeting to which the minutes of the group are presented. Everyone is invited to attend to discuss matters of importance to Blackshaw Parish. It was agreed that Cllr. Mick Davies would write an article raising awareness of the work of the group to be published in the Hebden Bridge Times.
- 11. Open forum to discuss other matters of public concern.** The poor bus service to Blackshaw was discussed. The service had been disrupted for nearly two years. Cllr. Battye informed the meeting that METRO had still not been able to purchase the required small buses to run a robust service. Discussion took place about whether it was possible to install a 'live board' which would inform residents about whether a bus was running. Dave Pearson of METRO had indicated that there was currently no money to do this and a bid would have to be made. A comment was made that it would be better to have fewer bus services a day but that there was a guarantee they would turn up as young people trying to get to exams and work were finding it very difficult to plan their journeys. Many people help each other and offer lifts however this is no substitute for a fully operational bus service. The matter of pedestrian access to Hebden Bridge along the A646 from Charlestown was raised. Cllr. Battye is going to arrange a meeting with the Head of Highways and Cllr. Mick Davies to discuss this.

12. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2014.