



Draft Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 23 May 2016 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Davies, Butterworth, Neill, Bowen, Sutcliffe, Goodman, King
and one member of the public

1. Welcome.
2. Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 May 2015. Agreed.
3. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Mick Davies read out his Chair's report, enclosed.

4. Guest speaker: Moy Cash from CMBC Countryside and woodland management gave an update on Upland Management. They have got funding from highways dept from pathfinder project, to try to look at natural flood management (NFM) and how it fits into the mix of flood defences. She has been involved with a small pilot project investigating this over the last year or so, and they are looking at whether this project can be expanded to whole of Calderdale as the flooding events on Boxing Day overtook us and made this more of an imperative. The project is a modelling exercise – only tool available to provide evidence on how effective interventions are. Environment Agency have funding for flood alleviation works, but to access this money one has to provide evidence that these interventions would reduce flooding by a certain percentage, and that this would therefore move properties or businesses (into a different tax band). JBA consulting

They have looked at 4 key areas and through modelling can find the areas where NFM would work. An important part of process is to involve stakeholders.

'Natural' can be misleading, but do try to work with natural features or characteristics to 'slow the flow'. Look at trees, storage in attenuation ponds, letterbox holes in wood etc. Natural flood management is just part of a suite of measures. Climate change will increase flooding and natural flood management might alleviate the worst of these excesses, rather than prevent flooding altogether. NFM better for smaller events that are more prevalent. Upper Calder Valley can't use some of the normal natural flood management techniques such as using fields in valley bottoms, due to our topography. NFM looks at soil erosion – capped fields and woodland with no undergrowth. This is really big problem as sediment goes into river/reservoirs,. Need to stabilise land and look at land management to get better soil structure. A field that is capped and not aerated acts similar to tarmac in terms of run-off. Grip blocking – that leaves silt behind and makes sure more water stays on the moorland. Trying to encourage development of blanket bog – very rare habitat. Other measures include leaky dams etc to slow the flow. Management of fields – roughness of grass – water goes slower. Tree planting, and the right sort of trees to ensure undergrowth,

though this will not give immediate results. Also have to bear in mind that round here there are lots of designated land, grasslands etc habitats etc, where trees mustn't be planted. Want to encourage good woodland management in places such as Colden Clough – good undergrowth, light airy, not too much beech. Ground flora, aggregated soil etc helps slow run-off and soil erosion. But this is tricky work to manage some woodlands in our area due to extremely steep sides/access. Areas that are overgrazed are problematic.

Moors for the Future in Peak District is a big project to bring back blanket bog. Acid rain has denigrated the peat. Water companies don't like peat in water, and it costs to extract it. Grasses used to stabilise peat. Eventually Sphagnum moss is put in and they have had a lot of success.

Simple things can be done on smaller streams – woody debris dams. Force of water too great on Colden Clough – has to be higher up. Funding for small local NFM schemes can be found using other categories such as improving water quality, carbon storage, or biodiversity, with better flood management as a kind of positive side-effect.

A good example of a very local NFM project is at Oldroyd – very local project to create an attenuation pond – diverting path of water into pond that will then drain slowly. Using money that was given in grants to householders.

Moy showed maps of the areas used in the initial modelling where natural flood measures could be located. Kershaw Rd model with bunds which have proved to peak at a lower level.

There is a new natural flood management group for Calderdale, with Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency and flood risk manager. Also includes local community group. Contacts with landowners and local knowledge will be key to any successful NFM schemes.

Calderdale been asked to produce a catchment plan, including all these measures

In response to questions from councillors regarding the dredging in town, she explained that hard engineered solutions will still be needed. NFM is just one tool in the box of flood defences. Other questions included the possibility of using reservoirs as water catchment – holding less water normally to have capacity to hold more in case of flooding. Moy explained that these discussions would need to be held with Yorkshire Water and/or the Environment Agency, but that the water company's main concern would be to maintain an ongoing supply of water, and they would be held responsible were there not enough capacity in the reservoirs. She was asked whether there was an inspection and upkeep regime for the reservoirs, and she said Yorkshire Water would be responsible under the Reservoir Act. RB suggested that together with any dams could be hydro-electric schemes.

5. Speed, traffic, parking and road safety issues including Myholm Steeps and Badger Lane. 20mph signs have now gone up. Regarding the proposed signage, there will now be a consultation Hebden Royd. DG commented that her neighbours have pointed out that perhaps whole bend (which is the main point of contention in the plans) is in Hebden Royd parish.
6. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan – only 7 days to go till end of current round of consultation. Very good attendance at the chapel last Saturday. Everyone encouraged to participate as much as possible. Still long way to go and now it's taking shape. Flooding will have big impact on this, and since Boxing Day has

become more significant part of NP. Brownfield sites in valley mostly flood. So this creates a problem – where are we going to develop – don't want to favour the tops over the valley. Need innovative ways of developing in the valley that manage the floods. Need to be creative in accessing funding to move forward in this direction – make our valley an exemplar of flood resilience and good planning.

Green belt review going on – opportunity to change quirks that were a part of it – but results not out yet. Potential developments on edge of village, create village envelope that might make more sense.

7. Broadband in the parish. CMBC and BT finally agreed to a meeting, and just before the meeting they informed us that they would in fact be proposing to bring fibre to the cabinet in the village. Roger felt that probably, they had 'ticked their boxes' by bringing fibre into the parish, but this makes no sense that this was only 5 m into the parish at Jack Bridge. The new fibre won't be here until 2017. Meeting with Fiona Thurlbeck and John Bullivent on May 25th, and we will be hopefully update parishioners further after this meeting. Andrew Pitts informed us that they are thinking about alternatives regarding more outlying properties. Government pressure on local authorities to move on the broadband issue – was in the queens speech.
 8. Proposal to initiate a project to install a defibrillator in red phone box at Jack Bridge. Two people have expressed an interest in taking this forward. Clerk has been in touch with Heptonstall to see where they are at as it might make sense to work together on this.
 9. Chairman's donations - £64 from parish service, and couple of other small donations, and added £20 from chair's allowance. £40 each to Tod food bank, Red Cross refugee project, and Macmillan Cancer Nurses.
 10. There is an allotment plot vacancy at Charlestown allotments, plot 8, that needs a lot of work. It was advertised in newsletter, and everyone should ask around.
 11. Open forum to discuss other matters of public concern.
- Bus service – buses are getting a bit decrepit. Service been much better since new company took over, but the buses are getting old now, with more faults. Could we have a half-hour service. Agreed to have an informal conversation with bus company. Agreed to invite TLC to come to a parish council meeting.
12. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting – May 2017

This meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at approximately 8.00pm.

Signed

23 May 2016

**Councillor Mick Davies
(Chairman of Blackshaw Parish Council)**