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# BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 22 May 2017 at Hebden Bridge Town Hall

**Present: Councillors Butterworth, Bowen, Davies, Goodman, King, Moss, Sutcliffe and 11 members of public**

- 1. Welcome from the Chair**
- 2. Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2016. Agreed**
- 3. Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.** Lots of issues have been dealt with this year that remain on the agenda (and will be discussed later in the meeting), eg Neighbourhood Plan, Flooding, Road Safety, Planning enforcement. No major contentious planning applications this year. Represented the PC at Remembrance Sunday and Children's Carol Service. Attended village carol singing. Two village clean-ups, and Parish Council was involved in facilitating the defibrillators. Supporting village get-together. Initiated a Community Award. Attended meetings outside the parish, flood resilience, neighbourhood plan, YLCA meetings, Ward Forum, and Town & Parish Council Liaison Groups. Put forward a motion to YLCA that councils should be allowed to invest in broadband.
- 4. Presentation of the Blackshaw Parish Community Award.** Chairman presented the inaugural community award to Roger Munday. Roger spoke about how in the past, few people even spoke about the village as a 'village'. Very little happened in the way of community events. However there was a sense of self-reliance and people did look out for one another. In 1980 Roger became a Parish Councillor and was the Chairman twice. At that point he noticed more of a village atmosphere in Heptonstall, and wanted to try to emulate that in Blackshawhead. He started a newsletter called Village news and views delivered to every single property four times a year. Before long there was the village fete, toddler group, sewing group, village celebrations of national events, VE day etc, and the village is now held up as a thriving community. Roger said he would like to dedicate the award to everyone who has worked with him over the years to help create the village we know today.
- 5. To update on the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan including the proposed changes to village envelope designations.** Local Plan is delayed because of election, so our Neighbourhood plan has to wait. As part of the Local Plan there are proposed changes to village envelopes. If the villages are in greenbelt, the greenbelt can either 'wash over' the village, in which case development inside the envelope will be restricted by greenbelt guidelines. Or it can be 'inset', meaning that within envelope development may be permitted using local plan or neighbourhood plan. Blackshawhead is proposed to be 'washed over', as it is Land Around Todmorden. However although Calderdale claim that this designation is treated the same as Greenbelt, it does not have national regulations and rules laid down in law. In Charlestown, we want Woodman and Callis mill to be developed, so an 'inset' designation may be preferable. Architects looking at Callis site as exercise in best-practice flood resilient development. When they start official 6 week public consultation exercise, the PC is keen to have consultation meetings on tops and in bottoms. NP will have a long term lifespan – 15 years. So we need to get local views on whether existing village boundaries are sensible? Do we want infill or not?

Member of public asked for confirmation that the Local Plan is unlikely to put big housing developments up here due to connectivity on A646. RB said broadly yes, as A646 at capacity, and there would be more development in lower valley, Brighouse, Elland. Any small-scale development in upper valley treated more as windfall, to increase overall numbers. NP aiming at smaller developments that works within overall LP framework. MD commented that the NP group is anxious that upper valley shouldn't be deadzone because of floods, but should have exciting progressive developments. Also want a prosperous rural economy on tops.

- 6. To consider speed, traffic, parking and road safety issues including Mytholm Steeps and Badger Lane, including an update on proposed changes to road signage and lines.** Had several meetings and correspondence with Highways on these issues. CMBC have agreed that they would reinstate the white lines, and this is in progress, awaiting contractor. Should help with speed reduction on Badger Lane. New signs to dissuade people using Steeps as a cut-through. Signs don't often discourage people from using the roads. Agreed to keep pressure on CMBC on this issue. Also looked at parking restrictions on the Steeps. Those proposed for Church Lane proved controversial but are not our parish. Dropped curb on Whiteley Arches to enable easier access for crossing – Clerk to write and thank Highways for this.
- 7. Colden School.** Sally, from the Parent working group and an Associate Governor at the school, introduced the issue along with another governor and the upcoming acting head. Sally described how during the time of the previous long term head, the school was considered excellent and over-subscribed. However the new head had had a big hill to climb to meet modern targets and requirements of Ofsted etc. This created some disunity and several teachers and 40 children have left. Low projected intake for coming year means numbers will fall further. This creates budget shortfall, and concern about longterm survival of the school. The new head is leaving at the end of this term. The acting head will need help to increase the and ideas were discussed about how the PC could help. School access was identified - looking after the path to the school between the village, and crossing, walking bus, or help for children crossing. Could this council help school look into buying some of the surrounding land to create larger play area? Support from PC for any subsequent planning apps would be helpful. Kids might input into Neighbourhood Plan ideas. Acting head has been appointed for a year. Governing body keen to reestablish school with its own identity. May have a shared staff/head, or other different models in the meantime. CMBC have been consulted, and offered ideas for mentors and support. Work has been done by students, staff, parents and governors on a new vision and new mission statement for the school. Question raised about whether there can be a formal liaison process between PC and school, for example having a councillor represented at the governor meetings. Agreed PC should have copy of newsletter and help distribute this, and also agreed to continue to do whatever we could, also to put this on a future agenda.
- 8. Update on progress on broadband in the parish.** Fibre will be coming to the cabinet by the Chapel. Finally! No date yet for installation, but funding has been released for this. But now main problem is those parts of village who aren't connected to the cabinet in the village, but to the cabinet at the coop, and those very isolated properties. Going to send a letter on this issue from PC, asking them to reconsider decision not to look into rerouting some people from the coop cabinet. Problem of slow speeds also in the bottom on A646. Any very rural properties, are being offered grants to look at satellite.
- 9. Presentation by Judith Appleton on Slowing the Flow.** Judith introduced the SOURCE partnership's ideas on Natural Flood Management, and particularly talked about practical ways to help, such as gully stuffing. For more information see [www.slowtheflow.net](http://www.slowtheflow.net), and to offer to help at Hardcastle Craggs, contact [bede1@mac.com](mailto:bede1@mac.com) or Judith at [Judith.appleton@zen.co.uk](mailto:Judith.appleton@zen.co.uk)
- 10. To report the Chairman's donations** - £100 to defibrillator. £210 to Christmas hampers for older/vulnerable parishioners. Collected £120 on carol singing and £115 was raised at the Carol Service collection. A total of £435 was given to Yorkshire Air Ambulance.
- 11. Open forum to discuss other matters of public concern. None**
- 12. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting – May 2018**

**Councillor Roger Butterworth  
(Chairman of Blackshaw Parish Council)**