
BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Informal Meeting of Blackshaw Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 8th January 2018 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church

Present: Cllr Davies, Cllr Butterworth Cllr Bowen, Cllr Goodman and Cllr Sutcliffe and 2 members of public

Apologies: Cllr King and Cllr Moss

- 1. Gritting.** CMBC produced gritting policy chart, and deemed Steeps as secondary route, which will be gritted time permitting after main routes. Only if temperature is below freezing 9am. Uproar from parishioners. No consultation about this policy. This route should be considered main route for commuters from Lancashire to Halifax and beyond. Traffic count indicates this. Andrew Pitts only briefly touched on this when he was here. Couple of awful crashes on Steeps recently. Davy Lane deemed bus route because of school bus. Commuters don't realise Steeps/Badger Lane not gritted. Could we organise traffic counts simultaneously for Heptonstall route and Steeps route? Need to be careful as we're also campaigning for Steeps NOT to be a main through route. However could argue that traffic levels were too much for a minor route. Lee Wood road not suitable for high traffic volume either. Volume of traffic and gradient not taken into consideration in gritting decision. Evaluation is based on traffic flows, and not on the social impact, and isolated individuals. Far greater impact here for already isolated individuals than for people in more populous areas. Question about piles of grit being delivered. Height of the Steeps ought to be taken into account in view of temperature drop. Agreed to write letter to CMBC, to our local councillors and to MP highlighting parishioners' concerns.
- 2. Emergency Plan** - discussed draft outline. This needs some minor amendments and additions. Clerk needs councillors to input their local knowledge of people who have useful skills or equipment.
- 3. Response to Andrew Pitt's address to our last meeting** – Will carry on doing village clean up but Roger worried about health and safety risk of doing much more, such as gully clean up. Probably training available from CMBC. How does our precept compare to our neighbours? Do our parishioners fare worse or better in terms of costs. Could we ask parishioners if they'd be prepared to pay more, and enable us to take on some more services? Clerk explained additional budget available. Should we spend money on something like this? Discussed possibly things we could contribute to: signage, gulleys, gritting. Could try to help with blocked gulleys through flood groups. Quote to hire machine to do whole lot? Could get a quote to grit the Steeps. Some research needed into these options. Need to look at the budget more closely. Clerk to contact Peter Stubbs again regarding the white lines on Badger Lane
- 4. Input to the Neighbourhood Plan** – Need to get a design statement together. Next NP meeting soon. Need a draft Plan before can develop this any further.
- 5. Broadband** – Meeting set for 24th Jan at 9am with CMBC in Princess Buildings, Cllr Davies, Butterworth and parishioner to attend. Meeting about how to assist outlying places.
- 6. Highways and White Lines** on Badger Lane – Clerk to chase. One of parishioners written a letter regarding traffic incidences on Steeps. Log of incidents that DG has personally witnessed. Next agenda.
- 7. CCTV** – Neighbourhood Watch (NW) group decided CCTV would be ideal solution for the village. Thefts almost always include vehicles. ANPR would be good. NW should go and visit CMBC again regarding this. Cllr Sutcliffe noted that NW noticeboard was a disgrace. Steve will check on this. Police cuts have impacted on NW liaison. Relaunching OWL on 22nd, hopefully someone from NW will go along.
- 8. Countryside Stewardship** - People should be encouraged to look after the countryside, footpaths, rubbish etc. Fly-tipping is a real issue, including recent incident in Colden Water. Can we assist in countryside stewardship in some way. Also should be proud of our great footpaths, having better signage, also part of countryside stewardship. Unused boat and caravans send message to others that no-one cares about this type of thing. Also affects bottoms with post-industrial sites on roadside to Hebden from Tod. Ivy completely overgrown footpath opposite Callis Mill – but was resolved quite quickly. Invite proposals to make improvements. CROWS might come and do a talk about the work that they are doing. Agreed to approach CROWS and invite them to come to a future meeting. CROws have been cleaning gulleys at the roadside. And clearing drainage ditch on Trimmer Lane, organised by Jan Gibson.
- 9. Budget setting including the General Data Protection Regulation** – discussed this somewhat above. Clerk explained the situation – advice from YLCA/NALC was that we had to have Data Protection Officer. Clerk has written to other local councils to see how we could share resources. Cllr Bowen works in this field and felt strongly that we don't need a DPO, that the regulation designed for much much larger organisations. Agreed to include money in budget for this year, as this needs to be set at next meeting. It could then be vired into another pot should it not be needed.

10. AOB – would be very useful to have internet access here. Something to think about for the future – there is money in the tech budget.

Signed *Catherine Bann* Clerk to the Parish Council