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# BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL

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## Draft Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church,

Present: Cllr Butterworth (Chair), Cllrs Bowen, Davies, Goodman, King, Moss and Sutcliffe, Andrew Pitts (CMBC)- guest speaker, and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absences previously notified to the Clerk. None
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. Cllr Goodman declared an interest in 10.1
3. Confirmed the minutes of Parish Council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
4. Information on matters arising from the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Fly-tipping reported on Dukes Cut, Colden School will put in a 137 funding application, and GoDaddy back up not possible, though incurred expense of £4.51 to discover this.
5. **Invited speaker - Andrew Pitts from CMBC.** Andrew explained that he is visiting all Town and Parish councils, to consider how to work together in the new financial environment we face. The Safer Cleaner Greener service now includes parks, open space maintenance, street cleaning and so on. By 2020, this service will have £1.2 million less to spend than it did prior to the cuts. Only way to deal with this is to reduce staffing costs. Hopefully no compulsory redundancies but over next 2 years, will lose 15 or 16 staff from workforce of around 100. Question is how to maintain service levels with reduced staffing. Several ways forward - 1) look to move service to 7 day a week rota arrangement – increase efficiency. For example the 2 large street sweepers are unused all weekend. This will reduce overtime bill and increase resilience in severe weather. 2) Review of maintenance levels over borough. Introduce more standard maintenance regime across entire area. Smaller green/park areas will have reduced maintenance. 3) Need to increase capacity that whole service has by working more effectively with volunteers. People might do litter picking for example. Working more with formal voluntary and community associations. 'Friends of groups' for example. Or town and parish council who have access to funding (however limited). Is there anything that the PC can do to close gap in services, so people see less of a difference in terms of level of maintenance? For example, Tod town council funding one street cleaner dedicated to Tod town centre. Hebden Royd looking at taking on a bit more street cleaning. But one question around this is double taxation. Option for PCs is to provide some added value to go beyond the basic service that CMBC will be able to provide in the future. RB mentioned the difficulty of large items cleaned up by volunteers, not being accepted at the tips. Andrew noted that this is all going to be streamlined under the one service. Winter maintenance, gully cleaning etc – universal services is all coming together in one service area. MD commented that there had been enthusiasm for 'adopt a drain' scheme in past, but CMBC didn't enable this by blocking idea of a hotline, so there wasn't any point in carrying this forward. SM asked how they would work with these new 'volunteer' groups – will there be a process put in place? AP explained there needed to be a culture change. CMBC employees need to accept that public engagement is now part of their job. AP confirmed that skip and bin bags will still be provided for the cleanup. Edith raised topic of insurance? AP said this become a bit of achilles heel, but does need to be sorted out. Who is responsible for overseeing the contractors work? AP explained that need to tell him/CMBC if work not adequately carried out. RB asked whether verges are still cut up here? DS – not cut up here for 3 years. AP – that is a safety issue. Could get a parish team to report problems – but only if we knew that these would be responded to quickly. DG commented that efficiencies could be made by using bigger drain clearing vehicles in places like Mytholm Steeps by closing the roads, would need communication with residents. MD suggested a project based system that groups can select to be involved in. AP said this was already being considered. Clerk asked whether CMBC will be approaching PCs to fund things such as Charlestown Rec in future. Would be more of a dicussion / voluntary arrangement.
6. **Discussed flooding on the tops.** MD asked for us to mark up all the floodspots on the map. AP will look into getting a map watercourses/drains/dams/lodges etc. MD has collated activity regarding most recent flooding. Lot of responses from people on the tops, mainly concerned with run off/blocked or old drains. Some on private land, some on roads etc. Not currently being dealt with by flood groups in valley. MD organising a meeting with locally interested people, the EA and Flood Group, CMBC, Slow the Flow, probably at New Delight, to possibly form a group. Could adopt one of the several models of

flood groups – informal or more formal. Former model may cause issue with insurance and funding bids. Need some equipment, wheelbarrows, shovels, sandbags and somewhere to store this. Was agreed that BPC should support initiative. Telephone Box could potentially be used as storage. Catherine who lives at Mill House said they have a small area of land that things could be stored on. Also old toilets have potential at the end of High St. AP agreed to take details of incidents to colleagues.

7. Update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Further delayed. Nothing further to report other than the numbers of housing needed continues to drop. Requirement to get policies in moved to early January.
8. Discussed progress with issues around Oakville Rd, and the exposed drain at Charlestown Rec. Clerk will email Andrew Pitts regarding drain. DS to look into the documentation we already have Oakville Rd issue. MD and DS to take this forward, and maybe meet up with Oakville Rd residents.
9. Discussed the idea of a welcome letter/pack for newcomers in Charlestown. Edith noted that existing one in BH is out of date. Clerk will lay-out BH one if Edith and Roger Munday do the updating, and will email Charlestown groups to find interested party to help distribute one there.

**10. To consider planning related matters: -**

**10.1.** To receive information on previous planning applications and enforcement notices: **17/20150/TPO** Prune two trees (Tree Preservation Order) | Gudger Glen View Road Hebden Bridge HX7 6DA - Consent granted.

**10.2.** Update from Enforcement Team. Report on meeting with Richard Seaman. Clerk and RB met Richard Seaman and Anne Markwell. Cuts in enforcement team mean only one person working on enforcement in whole of north end of Calder Valley. Anne's approach is that if there is an infringement, it has to be causing some specific harm for them to do something about it – this is a resources issue. Anne explained that as a PC we can give more background context and local knowledge when commenting on applications. We do not have to stick entirely within the 'material considerations' but can offer comments around this, which will help the planning team establish local context. RB raised current enforcement actions in the area, but currently staff extremely busy with action in Heptonstall. Once this finalised, will have more time to work on other issues. Agreed to meet every 4-6 months, the next being planned for after Easter.

**10.3.** To consider new planning applications: **17/01228/FUL** | Construction of polytunnel, plant room and agricultural workers accommodation, time limited to three years. | Land To West Of Higher Strines New Road Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale. Full discussion about this application, noting that almost all councillors approved of the business part, appreciated exciting new methods of agriculture, commended amount of work gone into the application and the business plan. Some thought it looked like a genuine attempt to make a new agricultural business work, others felt they were exploiting a planning loophole to try get a dwelling in the Greenbelt. RB noted that a similar but larger aquaponic project in Todmorden did not need 24/7 attention. In four years of operation, they had not needed to be called out to the site. SM (who sits as a volunteer on the board of the group who awarded the funding) explained that to get that pot of funding, the applicant would have needed to do a lot of work and be committed to the project. The council resolved to object to the application on the basis that they felt that they had not justified the need for an agricultural dwelling, and this was passed by majority with five in favour and two against.

**11. To consider matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths. None.**

**12. To consider the following financial matters:**

**12.1.** To consider the budget for 2017/8

**12.2.** Confirmed payment of £20 to British Legion for the poppy wreath

**12.3.** Confirmed payment of £180 for allotment maintenance to Dan Shaw's Garden Services.

**12.4.** Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary and expenses.

**13. To consider representative reports and invitations:**

**13.1. Previous events**

Remembrance Day Service – well attended including Colden School and that was great. Bugle player was fantastic. Clerk agreed to send a letter to Hebden Bridge Junior Band. Agreed to put a donation on the next agenda.

YLCA 13<sup>th</sup> November – RB attended. Discussion about a charter between Town & PC Councils and CMBC? Update on annual conference.

T & PC Liaison 7<sup>th</sup> November – Run by Andrew Pitts, much of it was about Lidl in Tod. Concern from residents about raised car park.

**13.2. Upcoming Events**

Christmas events in the parish. Carol Service 22<sup>nd</sup> December 7pm . Xmas fair in village this Saturday.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm concert in aid of Together we Grow. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> family Christingle. Christmas morning

service 10am. Carol Singing round the village, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, details to follow.  
Ward Forum - 10<sup>th</sup> January, Hebden Bridge Town Hall – RB will attend.

**14. Items for next meeting**

Go through accounting papers, to explain how our accounts work.  
Discussion about the issues raised at this meeting by Andrew Pitts

**Parish Council Meetings:** - 27<sup>th</sup> November, December meeting only if significant planning issues arise. 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Agreed to have an informal meeting prior to this on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Allotment Committee Meeting** – March 2018 HB Town Hall

Signed *Catherine Bann* Clerk to the Parish Council