



**Draft Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council Meeting  
on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 online on Zoom.**

Present: Cllr Lacey (Chair), Cllrs Lomax, Bowen, Churchill, King and Patterson, and speaker Neil Dewis from Yorkshire Water

1. Apologies previously notified to the Clerk. Cllr Tiler-Ansell
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None
3. Provisionally confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October (to be ratified in January)
4. Information on matters arising from the minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Clerk noted that she had chased Andrew Pitts regarding the Town & Parish Council Liaison meetings, and finally he responded to say that there would be a meeting organised shortly. We were asked to confirm our representative, who is Cllr Bowen.
5. Update from Yorkshire Water. Neil Dewis, who is Director for water supplies, and coincidentally a local resident, gave some background for context. Explained that 2-3 years ago there were a number of issues affecting Blackshawhead & Colden areas, and also affecting the reservoir at Heptonstall. Described the 'leakage management zones' which are discreet areas with mains and pressure control. Blackshawhead is fed direct from reservoir – gravity main. Whereas Slack bottom, Colden up to Blackshawhead is a pumping main. In the former, pressure can vary. Some of the mains are very old now, but YW have done a programme of mains replacement along Colden in last few years. In the summer, the problems were caused by an issue at the pumping station, along with a number of bursts at Slack. There has been a full review of this, and a permanent solution now in place with a variable speed drive that can flex according to pressure. So bulk of work needed is now complete. Though are still some leakage issues, possibly due to high pressure that is needed to get up the hills. Have installed 5 pressure reducing valves at some of the properties affected by high pressure. Some more works due, which will largely happen overnight to avoid disruption. In summary, 67% of the mains in this zone have been replaced with plastic with a lifespan of 100 years, 10% remain cast iron in fairly good condition, and 20% are asbestos/cement mains – these are problematic due to fracturing.  
Question from Cllr Lacey regarding work on Smithwell Lane – the diversion directed all traffic, including inappropriate traffic, down the Steeps. This is a Highways issue as in effect, traffic diversions have to have permission to be put in place. Cllr Lacey will take up with Highways. A further question was regarding the height of the reservoirs. Neil explained that a trial began with the Environment Agency in 2019 where 6 reservoirs were kept 10% lower as a group between Nov and March, to give some flood attenuation. Is worth noting that after levels rise (for example, Gorple Lower came up by 30% in the recent storms), it will take some weeks to reduce again as have to release excess water slowly and carefully.  
Neil was thanked for attending.
6. Noted the response from Steven Lee regarding the letter to CMBC regarding the post of Rights of Way officer. Recruitment happening shortly for two posts, and no intention to reduce the team overall.
7. Discussed updates to the Disciplinary and Grievance policies. Noted that the NALC templates as circulated are in line with recent legislation. Also noted that some references, eg to a 'staffing committee' do not apply to BPC. Also noted that in order to fulfil conditions for appeal, the council will need to be split so different councillors are involved. Cllr Churchill agreed to amend the template to remove inappropriate references to committees etc, but otherwise, agreed the policies in principle (to be ratified at next in-person meeting). Also agreed to look at amending the dated Standing Orders at

next meeting. Agreed that there needs to be a rolling programme of review, looking at policies every two years.

8. Raised the issue of alleged menacing dogs in the Knott Wood area as reported by a parishioner. Unfortunately, no further information was available on this. Agreed that PC could take no further action as no authority in this area and Clerk to advise that if there was any danger or injury, should be reported to proper authorities.
9. Discussed the issue of persistent loose sheep in Blackshawhead as reported by a parishioner whose email on the matter was read by the Clerk. It was noted that the sheep belong to a particular local farmer, they have been causing problems for some time, and quiet words from the neighbours haven't worked. It was agreed to write an informal letter from the PC referencing accidents and near-misses.
10. Plans for Christmas period. Cllr Bowen noted that it wasn't yet clear whether the carol service would go ahead in light of Covid, but if it did it would be on 17<sup>th</sup>. Councillors aware that mince pies may or may not be called for, all to stand by. On the matter of Christmas parcels, Chair has the list and will call in person wearing the chain.  
Agreed not to hold a meeting at all in December, unless a planning application required a decision from PC as consultees.

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

**11.1. Information on previous planning applications:** To note the refusal of appeals relating to both the Former Mount Olivet Chapel and the strawbale house at Rawtonstall Bank

**11.2. Planning Enforcement Issues:** Any further updates. Nothing from Roy Rizvi, Clerk to chase again.

**12. To consider matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths:**

**12.1.** Discussed recent issues on Mytholm Steeps. Noted that there was no alternative HGV diversion for blockage on Smithwell Lane, which caused problems – already passed to police. Noted that signage is needed at top of Badger Lane when there is a blocked route, when there is still chance to turn around. Also suggested that 'no HGV signage' would be useful at the Burnley end of Long Causeway by the KettleDrum – agreed should write to Burnley Highways to propose. Was also noted that problems are often caused when there is rail replacement buses and driver follows sat nav. Agreed to write to Northern/Network rail on this matter. Another suggestion was to have other signage, perhaps on private land.

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

Neighbourhood Plan Committee 1 November – Cllr Lacey attended, but is new to process as took over from Roger. There was a consultation exercise Feb-April which will be considered when producing the final draft. CMBC also queried quite a lot of points within first draft. Need to wait for Local Plan to be in place, which now looks like April 2022. There will be a generic design code for whole area, which seems to include most of the points that BPC have raised previously. Chair will forward the whole document to councillors. Also need to include money for NP in next budget/precept.

Safer Cleaner Greener - 15<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Lacey sent apologies for this, but had written to ask for the issue on the Steeps to be considered.

Remembrance Day – well attended and went very well.

Village Clean up – Lucky with the weather, went well, with lots of rubbish collected. Noted thanks to the resident who organises it.

Community Resilience Meeting - noted that this was actually 18th January and Cllr patterson will attend.

**Parish Council Meetings: - 24<sup>th</sup> January at Blackshawhead Chapel NB no December meeting unless necessary.**

**Allotment Committee: - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Signed Catherine Bann, Clerk to Blackshaw Parish Council**