



Blackshaw Parish Council

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Draft minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on **Monday 24th January 2022**

Present: Cllr Lacey (Chair) Cllrs Patterson, Tiler-Ansell, King, Bowen, Lomax and Churchill

1. Apologies previously notified to the Clerk. None
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None
3. Confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd November and formally approved those of 25th October
4. Information on matters arising from the minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 22nd November. Noted that finally the Town & Parish Council Liaison group has been resurrected and meeting happening tomorrow. Letter regarding loose sheep sent to farmer but no response as yet. Letter sent to Northern Rail re buses using the Steeps, which was noted, but still not managed to get correct contact at Burnley Borough Council regarding signage at Burnley end of Long Causeway.
5. Formally ratified decisions from the meeting of 22nd November.
6. To formally approve the new Disciplinary and Grievance policies – deferred till the next meeting.
7. Update from the mountain biking group. Clerk outlined the latest work of the group, including looking at where footpaths are being used informally to form circular bike trails or anomalies where bridleways suddenly become footpaths with prospect of upgrading these to permissive bridleways where appropriate. Also the positive steps taken by Ride Calderdale working with CROWS to take on path maintenance. Undertaking survey to look at cyclists habits in the upper valley. Also noted the potential clear felling of the woodland occupied by Havok bike park, and the negative impact this would have on enduro provision, youth provision and also flooding impact and visual /walking amenity in the area. Cllr Lacey raised a question about role of group, as the Safer Footpaths is in abeyance until such point as new Footpaths officer is appointed by CMBC. Blackshaw PC is paying for admin of this group, but are walkers' interests properly represented? Noted that ramblers groups are on invite list, but group is definitely around responsible cycling. Agreed to raise at Town & PC meeting to look at whether other councils can be more financially involved.
8. Discussed the proposal by member of public for changes by Charlestown Rec to alleviate flooding at Sandbed. Cllrs Lacey, Lomax and King met with member of public and flood warden to do a site visit. Wall alongside rec could be taken down/changed to allow flood water to enter rec. It wouldn't solve flooding issue in a big flood, but might well be enough to make difference on wood villas between just their cellars flooding and their ground floor living space. Cllrs who visited felt that this was a sensible proposal and couldn't see any negative ramifications of this. Cllr Patterson noted that it's not always obvious what the right thing to do is when it comes to floodwater. Clerk noted that this proposal has been raised previously and EA response was that the modelling they had done rendered it inadvisable. Agreed to go back to the EA and suggest this again, and ask them to investigate it again.
9. Discuss remote / delegated decision-making arrangements. Proposal that the council delegates decision-making to the Clerk, following a zoom meeting, should there need to be remote meetings in the future, and when the Clerk has been specifically asked to do so. Agreed by majority that Clerk can have delegated decision making powers.
10. Discussed business continuity arrangements. Clerk explained current situation, and it was agreed Clerk and Cllr Lacey to go through the YLCA template on this to ensure best practice.
11. Discussed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Cllr Tiler-Ansell reported that Bridge Across the Generations want to do something linking with Colden School. Local resident Tim Cole is organising a beacon, and celebrations at his house to which all here welcome. Cllr Tiler-Ansell noted that there is

scheme to distribute free trees to be planted. Some concern around the time of year, but agreed to look at the trees option. Cllr Bowen to explore what other community groups are planning to do in Parish.

12. To consider planning related matters:-

12.1. Information on previous planning applications: None – note that there are a number of long-standing applications still 'pending consideration'. Cllr Lomax noted that there was a huge backlog in the planning department at CMBC, so likely not specific to the applications in Blackshaw. It would be good to assist the planning department by putting pressure on at a high level, as the planning process is central to people's business and family lives. Agreed to write to planning and ask about timescales, and what plans they have in place to deal with the backlog (and how long is the backlog).

12.2. Planning Enforcement Issues: No further updates. The business case should have been put in by UpPlant now, but we need to not lose sight of this.

12.3. New planning applications: 21/01552/LBC | Removal and relocation of existing stair with associated works including modification of window at first floor. | Blackshaw Royd Farm Marsh Lane Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7JU. Agreed no objection.

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

13.1. Discussed the recent issues on Mytholm Steeps. Good news is that Ian Turner from Highways reported at the Safer Cleaner Greener meeting that the 20mph scheme in Blackshawhead, and reinstating the white lines is imminent. The scheme would include the junctions at the Chapel and the top of Davey Lane. There have been a number of objections to the parking lines further down Mytholm Steeps, into Hebden Royd area, so this has gone back to the drawing board. In the SCG meeting Cllr Lacey raised the issue of stuck HGVs, and it was noted that chicanes and better signage would be good. Ian responded that issue was that it is difficult to distinguish between essential delivery vehicles to properties in the area and other inappropriate vehicles. Cllr King proposed that there could be signs that could be put out by residents when the Steeps are blocked to stop traffic going down and having to turn back. Some dispute as to whether it would work, and finally agreed not to progress.

13.2. New fence at the Pen. There is concern among residents of Oakville Rd that Network Rail may be imminently about to construct a tall, unsightly fence alongside the Pen. Agreed to write to Network Rail to ask about the fence and suggest consultation with neighbours.

14. To consider the following Financial matters:

14.1. 2021/2022 budget and balances and bank reconciliation. Clerk noted no changes as no payments made in last 2 months.

14.2. Discussed the budget for 22/23. Clerk talked through the budget proposal and the broad outline was agreed. Noted the issue of the proposed cut for 23/24 in the current budget consultation of the annual grant and council tax reduction grant that CMBC pay to parish councils alongside the precept. Noted that this money is about 10% of our annual income, and there are no other places to make such significant cuts in our budget except for S137 grants or chair's allowance. Would be a shame because this represents the public face of the council supporting the community. We would have to increase the precept to cover the cuts. Noted that although it is not definitely going to be cut, we need to decide our precept now, and it would be better to spread the burden of increasing the precept over this year and next. On this basis it was agreed by majority to raise the precept by 3.75% this year, having not raised the precept at all for the previous couple of years. Also noted that this was probably less than inflation anyway. Agreed to demand £7103.

14.3. Confirmed payment of the rent to the Chapel- £450

14.4. Confirmed payment of £60 to YLCA for a webinar training course

14.5. Confirmed payment for the Remembrance Day wreath

14.6. Confirmed payment of the registration to SLCC £80 and ALCC £50

14.7. Confirmed payment of the allotments water bill to Business Stream - £16

14.8. Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary and expenses including the annual web-hosting payment of £86.26 and for the cable to link the projector and laptop

15. To consider representative reports and invitations:

Safer Cleaner Greener - 17th January – Cllr Lacey noted the excellent presentation on Modern Slavery, including the county lines dealing issue. There is a specialist unit, but people should report any suspicions by calling 101. Noted that this could be included in next Newsletter.

Speed indicator check on Badger Lane – need to request that they take readings at a better time of day next time.

Community Resilience & Operations Group 18th January – Cllr Patterson had connection difficulties, so couldn't make meeting, but learned that they want to have a charter with the public – Clerk to circulate to all councillors for views.

Town & Parish Council Liaison Group 25th Jan – Cllr Bowen to attend.

Neighbourhood Plan draft has been circulated.

16. Next meeting – standing orders and disciplinary and grievance policies.

Parish Council Meetings: - 28th February and 28th March at Blackshawhead Chapel

Allotment Committee: - 14th March 2022

Signed *Catherine Bann, Clerk to Blackshaw Parish Council*