



# Blackshaw Parish Council

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## Draft Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council meeting on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Blackshaw Head Methodist Church.**

Present: Cllr Lacey (Chair) Cllrs Bowen, Lomax, Tiler-Ansell, Churchill and Patterson and three members of the public

1. Apologies previously notified to the Clerk. Cllr King.
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None
3. Confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January.
4. Information on matters arising from the minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January. Discussed the Environment Agency response to the PC letter regarding flooding at Charlestown Rec / Sandbeds. Agreed to write back urging a response before any further flooding. Clerk will forward to Mr Murty, and will forward the photos to EA as requested.  
Chair explained that she and Clerk had recently met to work through the Business Continuity arrangements and this will be ready by the time of the next meeting.
5. To formally approve the new Disciplinary and Grievance policies. Noted that an outdated template had been used, and this will be revised and brought to the next meeting.
6. Agreed that the Standing Orders would be revised according to the new NALC templates. Cllr Lomax to work on these, and Cllr Tiler-Ansell noted that Standing Order 2 was part of the recent training course she attended.
7. Update from the mountain biking group. Clerk explained the situation with the mountain biking group. Still continuing to work towards creating accessible circular mountain bike trails at different levels to encourage people away from inappropriate footpaths. Somewhat stymied by fact that CMBC still haven't recruited a new Rights of Way officer. Group noted the comments from this council regarding the safer footpaths issue, and agreed to try to reunite both issues in one group again, until such time as the officer is recruited and the work can be separated. Cllr Lomax proposed to continue to support the group and underwrite the funds for the next 4 months before, along with appropriate requests/ invoices to other councils for another amount.
8. Update on the issue regarding new Network Rail fencing alongside The Pen, Oakville Rd. Resident attended and explained that they have become aware that Network Rail are due to erect a 1.8m anti-trespass fence alongside The Pen. They have managed to get details of the route of the fence which confirmed their suspicion that it would follow the line of the existing fence. The original documents from the 2008 registration of the Pen as a village green show that the existing fence was erected by British Rail in the wrong place. BR sold the land in 2008 to a private individual. This new fence would potentially sever 3 portions of the Pen Village Green, and people will be denied access, but will retain rights of access to the other side of their new fence. Have tried to communicate with Network Rail but have only had cursory replies. It would end up being 3m high (as mounted on a wall in some places) eg by 1-8 Beechwood View. Waiting to see if they are going to re-survey. Residents haven't been consulted, concerned about movement of wildlife (e.g. deer), want a discussion about the type of fence etc. Have also passed onto Planning Enforcement, but had no response. Have requested that the erroneous 2008 fencing be removed. If they get the boundary in the right place it would make a substantial positive difference for some residents. Stretch on Oakville Rd where railway is hard against the road, will be 3m high! But believe that they will need planning permission for this section. Network Rail hasn't even contacted the landowner, but villagers can contest this without need for owner to be involved. Agreed to write a follow up letter to Network Rail.

9. Issue of errant sheep. This is an ongoing issue in Blackshawhead – a further complaint has been received by the PC. Have had no response to the letter to the farmer who we believe owns some of the sheep, and it's not clear whether all the errant sheep belong to this farmer. After some discussion it was decided that the PC couldn't do very much, but individuals can go to small claims court. Agreed to do a bit of research to see if there were any avenues worth pursuing and revisit on next agenda.
10. Noted the letter regarding Calderdale Relay event.
11. Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Cllr Bowen asked googlegroup regarding any other plans but no group had anything to report. Chapel could be used, but Chapel wasn't going to organise anything. New Delight available. Agreed to forward to the school and suggesting they apply for the trees. Cllr Tiler-Ansell to look further and collate info. Agreed to do a tea and cake afternoon on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm. Parish Council to supply hot drinks and ask community to bring cakes. Agreed to liaise with New Delight in case they want to do something later.
12. To discuss the correspondence relating to Mayors for Peace. Postponed the decision to allow councillors to read the document.
13. Defibrillator cabinet issues. Clerk explained that our defibrillator not working due to water ingress and the one currently on loan will need to be returned. YAS claiming that this isn't covered by a warranty. Cllr Lomax will liaise with Edith to have a look at this from a legal perspective.
14. **To consider planning related matters:-**
  - 14.1. **Information on previous planning applications: No update**
  - 14.2. **Planning Enforcement Issues:** Any further updates
  - 14.3. **New planning applications: None**
15. **To consider matters relating to highways, bridleways and footpaths:**
  - 15.1. Progress with the 20mph scheme and the other road issues. Cllr Lacey wrote to Ian Turner regarding the issues on the Steeps, asking for any further restrictions/signage. He has responded to say that there is already signage, and they can't put a chicane up as it will restrict deliver and emergency vehicles. The 20mph signs are all in, and the 20mph road markings done. He said they will be ordering light up speed signs soon. Not sure whether the work they are planning to do on Badger Lane and top of Davey Lane includes the additional safety issues we have raised. Cllr Lacey continues to raise these issues. Clerk mentioned new Green & Healthy Streets initiative from national government which is being taken up by Calderdale.
  - 15.2. Hole where the telephone box was is now a danger as there's a drop into the river. Agreed to ask Jae Campbell to find out whether this is Highways land. Cllr Lomax to look at it and see if it's possible to do a temporary fix.
16. **To consider the following Financial matters:**
  - 16.1. The 2021/2022 budget stands at £3259 remaining and balances are £7505 which reconciles with the cashbook.
  - 16.2. Discussed whether to continue with an annual Zoom account /payment but Clerk noted that Zoom had just taken £143 from her account without nary a by your leave. Looked this up and found that it said a refund for that period already paid for was not possible. Clerk will double-check this, but the money already spent now.
  - 16.3. Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary and expenses. Noted that hadn't included the cable in the last expenses payment and that has had to spend money immediately on renewing the domain and the cable. Raised issue of the slow/ inaccessible website and Cllr Bowen will look into it.
17. **To consider representative reports and invitations:**

Town & Parish Council Liaison Group – this was the first meeting of the group since pre-pandemic and Cllr Bowen attended. Discussed the make-up of the group and the potential subject based meetings in the future. Also mentioned the proposed grant cuts to the T & PCs.

Department of Levelling up has noted that the permitted amount of expenditure for S137 will go up to £8.82 per elector

Ward Forum - 29<sup>th</sup> March. Questions to Jae Campbell in advance, anyone can attend. Cllr Bowen will attend.

YLCA webinar (Cllr Tiler Ansell). There is a YLCA template for public participation for Rules & Expectations. Cllr Tiler Ansell presented a gavel to the Chair. Chair will forward the template to Cllr Tiler-Ansell to adapt.

Dot noted her thanks for a generous donation – has raised over £1000 for her chosen charity regarding macular degeneration.

**Parish Council Meetings: - 28<sup>th</sup> March (apologies from Cllr Lacey and Bowen) and 25<sup>th</sup> April at Blackshawhead Chapel**

**Allotment Committee: - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Councillor Lacey is away, and Cllr Lomax has a funeral, so Clerk will attempt to postpone this to following week. [Done – meeting now 21<sup>st</sup> March]**

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