



**Draft Minutes of Blackshaw Parish Council Meeting Monday 24th October 2022
at Blackshawhead Methodist Church.**

Present: Cllr Lomax (in the Chair), Cllr Tiler-Ansell, Cllr Bowen, Cllr King, Cllr Churchill and three members of the public

1. Apologies previously notified to the Clerk. Cllr Lacey and Cllr Patterson
2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None.
3. Confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September 2022
4. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September. Defibrillator – Cllr Lomax explained that there are no holes in the cabinets for water to leak out so standing water – waiting for a final response from the company who are trying to repair the defibrillator. To be discussed again at the next meeting.
5. To discuss matters relating to climate change mitigation with Cllr Patient. Cllr Lomax introduced the item saying the invitation arose from an occasion where the PC had made comments suggesting conditions on a planning application for climate mitigation - Questions is, How best do we as a Parish Council phrase our objections in order to ensure that new developments are built to the best possible carbon neutral (or negative) standards?

Cllr Patient said that he holds the 'climate change and resilience' brief at CMBC, but also as a town councillor, understands the difficulties with planning comments. Two things are going to help. The first is the Local Plan (LP), as this will alleviate some issues as there will be actual policies relating to such as rural settlements, supplementary planning documents SPDs – eg. air quality, flood management, and other such documents. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will also be helpful. At moment we are waiting on policy, building regs, and Future Homes Standards which aren't quite in place yet. Home builders moving towards v energy efficient low impact housing already however, due to customer demand. Difficulty in heritage areas is that sometimes heritage aesthetic may conflict with future homes design. It was commented that external insulation, while being a particular aesthetic, would solve energy problems and extend the life of the homes.

Reality is that law is changing, but not there yet. 2025 is next amendment of Building Regulations.

Cllr Bowen noted that the process of the LP and NP has taken so long that he doesn't care anymore.

Cllr Patient responded to say process has speeded up now due to attaining overall political control of the council.

LP began life prior to targets of carbon neutrality, and CMBC hadn't yet declared a climate emergency etc etc. Therefore SPDs are designed to add to the basic elements of the LP.

Bigger developers going for lower carbon homes. Member of public noted the new Barrett Z house, for example. But small developers are not subject to those demands. How can we positively engage with potential developers in the parish. Should be saying the area is aiming for net zero, and better off doing it 'with' the goodwill of the people. The small developers still sell houses in a climate where people are concerned about energy consumption. EPC rating will make a difference.

Member of public noted that Pennine Community Power has a grant from Norland power grid for retrofitting which includes training people in the building trade for net zero houses – includes small developers local to Calderdale, and concentrating on upper calder valley. Contract signed with Carbon Coop to help deliver the training, and planning a public meeting with them in January. First meeting on 20th November, with speakers on some of these issues, and climate change more broadly. Important to have upskilling and also developing a supply chain. Retro fitting more relevant up here – carbon leakage is massive.

Other thing that impacts here is the transport part of the CMBC Climate Change Plan. People in

outlying areas drive to the centre to get the bus. So many unnecessary car journeys, need to create better bus routes. Noted lack of actions in the CC Plan.

Cllr Patient noted that it is currently a draft action plan – it's a partnership piece of work, and there is a consultation to ask what is missing, what are the actions that need to support. Can submit responses individually and as a parish council. Can also influence at a West Yorkshire level. It's a Calderdale not CMBC plan, with the council being just the facilitators of it.

The consultation ends 20th November. There are a variety of ways of responding, online or by email for slightly longer one. Only a plan for 3 years – what doesn't happen in the first tranche will go through to more complex work in future.

Member of public was approached to develop a workers coop of builders to be trained up in eco-fit, as they know there is a skill shortage. Secondly - going back to possible conflict between heritage / retrofitting? Could be politically quite difficult? Cllr Patient would be pushing for it to lean to eco rather than heritage. Also looking to Heritage England to make more climate change advice

Planning policy is mentioned in the warm and resilient homes section of the CC Action Plan.

Land and Nature very relevant up here. Someone wanted to build big barns on land with no road access. Question regarding whether there is any way in the future that new applications would be refused prior to consultation due to climate change. Cllr Patient said that having applications on the planning portal is good because refusals will flag for future developers. Ways in which pressure can feed upwards from us at grassroots – commenting on planning applications will be sending out a message, and it will influence both councils and architects and so on. Also, some of the newer planning officers are more up to speed with climate change aspects.

Also if lots of consultation responses mention planning policies, this will be fed into the planning department as well as into the revised plan.

Also plan to write a biodiversity action plan to supplement the climate plan and hilltop parishes will be key consultees.

Public meeting on biodiversity on 10th November in Hebden Bridge Town Hall – Hazel Draper is speaking.

Opportunity to create jobs in green economy – important not to leave anyone behind, so people who leave fossil fuel sector have to have a job.

Community Land Trust will be doing a retrofit project on Crown St and Jerusalem Farm as a net zero project and an incubator in Tod. Revenue recycled into more affordable and green housing.

6. Discussed Remembrance day plans – the service here will begin at 10.30am. Agreed to purchase a wreath. Cllr Bowen has spoken to HB Junior Band in relation to trying to get a Bugler. Cllr Bowen has tried to contact the person who provided wreath last time and he and Clerk will continue to follow up
7. Agreed amended Standing Orders. Reviewed disciplinary and grievance policies – comment from Cllr Lomax both need to be headed as Blackshaw rather than Blackshawhead, and also ensure that the reference to Chair is consistent throughout.
8. Matters relating to the allotments.
 - 8.1. Accepted the minutes from the Allotment Committee.
 - 8.2. To hear a report from the re-visit on Plot 1, and discuss any matters arising from this
The Council RESOLVED under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude members of the press and public for this item of business as in the opinion of the Parish Council, the business to be transacted is prejudicial to the public interest. This is because it could be considered to be a potential dispute with the plotholder.
After discussion, the Council agreed with the process proposed by allotment committee councillors, which would be to inform the tenant that if their plot was not cultivated to the required amount by the next liaison visit in 2023, the contract would be terminated immediately.
 - 8.3. Proposals from the Allotment Committee councillors for minor amendments to the allotments contract. The contract has been clarified in terms of areas that need to be under cultivation for food and what this means, and what is allowable for everything else. The proposals have been circulated. Cllr Churchill noted that all the amendments were entirely sensible. Proposals were agreed.

Proposed changes to Termination procedures – at the moment, there would be an improvement notice, a further inspection, following year same could happen and by third year it would be automatic termination of contract. Tightening this up, so that if by following year, it's still not 75% can go straight to termination with the right to appeal. This is fairer for those people on the waiting list. This was agreed.

Member of public noted that there has been a long-standing issue with the plot that is under consideration. Chair noted that work was underway to deal with this and to improve the situation. Have also taken into account when people are ill or the plot was handed over to them in a poor state.

9. To consider planning related matters:-

9.1. Information on previous planning applications: None

9.2. Planning Enforcement Issues:

9.2.1. Any update from Staups Mill. Cllr Bowen noted no further change at the mill site. Clerk read the correspondence from local resident asking for PC support for a possible preservation order by West Yorkshire archaeology. Agreed to support by majority. Cllr Churchill abstained on the basis that the owners have a responsibility to the public to make sure it is safe – she does recognise the heritage value but has sympathy with the owners from a health and safety perspective. Cllr King noted that a distant relative owns the building. Saw a video online that showed two people clambering all over it, and she can also understand why they are worried about safety. Owner was told by CMBC that it was his responsibility if someone was to be hurt. Cllr Lomax confirmed this. Agreed to add into the letter that the council acknowledged the health and safety aspects.

9.2.2. High House Farm. Noted that the situation hasn't changed, and Cllr Lacey has agreed to go and take some photos and send to Roy Rizvi.

9.2.3. Whiteley Arches – the issue here is the registration with the Land Registry. Roy has confirmed that this can be taken up with the Land Registry. Agreed that the Clerk would do this.

9.3. New planning applications

9.3.1. 22/01015/HSE | Proposed single storey extension to the rear of the property | 19 Underbank Avenue Charlestown Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 6PP. Next to listed buildings so could have an impact there. Agreed to lodge No Objection.

9.3.2. Noted the appeal lodged - 21/00167/CON - Wagtail House, Lane Head, Blackshaw Head, Hebden Bridge, HX7 7JP

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

10.1. The Council noted with appreciation the formation of the new Blackshawhead Speed Awareness Group. Cllr Tiler- Ansell has agreed to be the representative to this council. Member of public representing the group explained that there were approximately 20 people on a Whats App group - anyone can join in to this. Already organised a date for speed monitoring on 24th November. Drafting a survey which will go on the googlegroup. The police responded to pressure and came along last weekend to do a speed survey, and though they chose the right time (rush hour) unfortunately it was foggy. Group has got some wheelie bin/garage stickers to give away. Thinking of organising a petition. Would like to know about the repainting of the white lines. Noted that residents wish to be involved in any siting of a Vehicle Activated Sign on Badger Lane. VAS do record data and group did a FOI request and discovered 13 people driving over 75 mph in a 12 hour period recorded by the VAS towards Keps. Another member of the public did note that the majority do seem to respect the speed limit, but there will always be a minority of speeders. Member of the group noted that 20% within speed limit, 40% below 30. There is an app you can download so that you can use your mobile phone as a speed camera.

Chair welcomed the group and the approach it is taking, on behalf of PC. PC would definitely offer support. The white line issue has been underway for some time, and we are told it is imminent.

10.2. To discuss installation of a VAS sign on Badger Lane and to discuss funding of village gateway signage. There was an agreement among the Speed Awareness group that only speed calming or speed cameras would work. Clerk noted that incredibly unlikely to get a speed camera as do not fit

national criteria, and there were difficulties around traffic calming as some do cause additional noise as people accelerate after stopping for example, or go over bumps or rumble strips.

Clerk has brochure for speed signs.

Agreed to approach CMBC regarding a speed sign – could they get a cheaper price? Would they install? Regarding rumble strips member of public noted that they do cause more noise but that can be useful when trying to cross the road. Also noted that the grass has egressed so much – covering the drains as well as blocking the footway. Member of public asked if the rumble strips could they be raised up?

Chair noted that this would be on the agenda for next time.

Clerk to investigate simple welcome to the village sign and relative costs relating to a speed awareness sign.

10.3. Any further update from Highways regarding the other outstanding issues, including white lines. Still being told that this work is on the list and will be done imminently.

10.4. Noted the update from CROWS and funding request – Agreed an additional donation of £100

10.5. Noted the report about the dead tree at Hebble Hole and action taken. Tree has been dealt with and removed.

11. To consider the following Financial matters:

11.1. 2022/2023 budget stands at £7642 remaining and balances £10373.

11.2. Confirmed the grant to Heptonstall Exhibitions Richard Naylor Charities

11.3. Confirmed payment of the allotments water bill

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

12. To consider representative reports and invitations:

Town & Parish Liaison Conference, 1st October – Clerk will circulate the minutes

Calder Ward Forum, 4th October

YLCA on 12th October – attended by Cllr Churchill, who gave a brief report.

Report from village clean-up 15th October – noted thanks to the organisers and all who attended.

Community Resilience Operations Group - 11th October – a section of the meeting relevant to here related to scheme at Charlestown – which is being worked on by EA.

Dates of future meetings: 28th November

Allotment Committee: 13th March 2022

Signed Catherine Bann - Clerk to Blackshaw Parish Council