



# Blackshaw Parish Council

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## **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of Blackshaw Parish at Hebden Bridge Town Hall on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 7pm.**

**Present: Former Vice-Chair Cllr Lacey, Cllr Bowen, Cllr Lomax, Cllr King, Cllr Greaves, Cllr Churchill  
and 6 members of the public.**

**Apologies: Former Chair, Cllr Patterson**

1. Welcome – meeting chaired by Cllr Lacey, who until the elections was the Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair.
2. Received a written Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council which was projected onto the screen and is pasted below. 6 members of the public.

“This last year has been a busy and productive year for Blackshaw Parish Council. We have dealt with planning applications as usual, only giving full approval when sustainability has been part of the build, such as solar panels, insulation etc. We send those comments to Calderdale Council who have the final say on building permission. We invited Councillor Scott Patient to a parish council meeting to discuss with us Calderdale’s approach to tackling climate change. Cars speeding through Blackshaw village has been a real issue and the Parish Council has supported the local speeding group as it campaigns on this.

We have also been part of the group looking at the relationship between mountain bikers and walkers, to tackle the often dangerous downhill use of footpaths by mountain bikes.

We have had representation at the Safer, greener cleaner group and also the Community Resilience group, looking at flood prevention in the valley.

We are pleased that members of the public have attended our meetings and encourage the local community to come along. We are open to questions and issues being raised and these can be put on the agenda if raised in advance.

As Chair, I attended the fete, “cutting the ribbon”, and presenting the community award this year to Phil Knowles. I also attended the Armistice Day ceremony and the Remembrance day service in the chapel. I took round the “Christmas boxes” to the elderly and disabled parishioners. (We need to make sure we have a full list of possible recipients so no one eligible misses out.)

I represented the Parish Council at the Kings Proclamation in Halifax, after the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and recently attended the Mayoral Civic service at Halifax Minster. This May I am sadly standing down as Chair, and also from the Council, due to work commitments. I would like to place on record my thanks to the Clerk and members of the Parish Council for their help and support. It has been an enjoyable time, I hope I have been able to make an adequate contribution and I am sorry to go.

Dr Linda Patterson OBE - Chair of Blackshaw Parish Council “

3. Report from Blackshawhead Speedwatch.

Cathy Urquhart from the Speedwatch Group / Community Association outlined progress to date. A small group of angry dog walkers started meeting last October to begin constructive efforts to work together to improve the situation with speeding and dangerous traffic. They have since become a thorn in the side of Highways and the Police with an extremely effective email writing campaign. They have had sessions with Neighbourhood Warden Simon to monitor speeds. Have ensured Blackshawhead was added to Operation Hawmill, the ongoing police road safety campaign, and this saw PC Brimelow chasing cars through the village.

Have linked with a similar group in Norwood Green, and it was revelatory that they have managed to fund private speed cameras. Norwood Green had a 40 strong residents association that had been in existence for 20 years.

Feel that this would be something to aim for as dangerous driving is a real issue. Fatalities in Blackshawhead in 1985, and in 2002 and it seems only a matter of time. There has been an increase in traffic at moment due to roadworks in the valley bottoms. They have managed to get the data from the Vehicle Activated Speed signs, which show that some people go through the 20 mph zone at 70 mph. On 26<sup>th</sup> April had a public meeting to look at forming the Blackshawhead Community Association with one of the aims being to bring together all the previous work that has been done by previous people and the parish council. 40 people attended with a presence from the police and ward councillor Cllr Fenton Glynn. After that got a lot of new people, at the following meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> may – 20 people. Have formed 4 groups: 1) setting up the association, 2) a protest group, 3) email and campaigning type group, and 4) working on the speed cameras.

Next steps are to set up the association which will have the following aims:

- 1) Road Safety
- 2) Amenities in the village
- 3) Work positively with stakeholders.

Congratulations on progress from the chair who noted that the group is mentioned in dispatches from police and highways in the Safer Cleaner Greener group and has had big impact locally. Noted that Year 5 at Colden are doing a project, and they will be working with them.

Q - What is it that they want?

A - Want to speak to some experts, perhaps road safety academics. Pavements consensus, and also around enforcement – this is a problem as police and highways are very stretched. Find the gaps – the space for action. Private speed cameras. Noted that could liaise On 't' Tops Riding Club, relay race etc.

Other Highways Issues. White lines on Badger Lane – is with the contractors and looking for a date to close the road. Speed Limit from Shaw bend to New Delight – traffic engineer will come at the end of the month to look at that. Tony Zelei has assured Cllr Lacey that the contractors do know where to put the white lines.

#### 4. Oakville Road update – report from Paul Knights.

Pretty much business as usual at moment. Network Rail fence – that would be head high on the boundary of the road and the Pen and caused such consternation some time ago - still hasn't been built. Maps that were sent indicated they were going to put it in wrong place following the line of a 2008 fence that was also put in the wrong place (but that was a small fence so mattered less). A number of residents sent a complaint (as did PC) and NR gave assurances that they had heard the complaint, wished to work with the residents and would organise a community drop in. Nothing happened for a long time and then 4 weeks ago got a phone call from Network Rail – should expect to hear soon . Boundary has been staked out in advance.

Also mentioned Charlestown Open Gardens – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 1-5pm, 6 people opening gardens, tea and cake and raising money for charity.

Noted the ongoing state of Oakville Rd. Crowd funder last year, and people raised around £5000 and they dealt with the worse of it. In conversation with the land fund contributors and with their contractor to do a little bit more work.

#### 5. Blackshaw Community Award – no nominations received - Agreed to extend deadline and discuss at the next meeting.

#### 6. Chair's donations – almost all the money this year went on the christmas parcel gifts as delivered more than in previous years, but if any remaining would be donated to the Chapel.

#### 7. Open Forum

Q asking for update on the Mountain biking group. Clerk responded that this had ground to a halt because of lack of staff in Calderdale Council's Rights of Way team, but will pick this up again this year.

#### 8. Date of next meeting – May 2024.