



# Blackshaw Parish Council

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## Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Blackshawhead Methodist Church.

**Present: Cllr Greaves, Cllr Bowen, Cllr King, Cllr Tiler-Ansell, Cllr Dyter and one member of the public.**

1. Noted the resignation from the position of Chair by Cllr Lomax due to ongoing illness, elected Councillor Greaves as Chair and Cllr King as Vice-Chair until May.
  2. Accepted apologies previously notified to the Clerk. Cllr Lomax due to ongoing illness.
  3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda. None
  4. Confirmed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.
  5. Information on matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. None
  6. Kellie Foster from Yorkshire Water gave a presentation on the issues regarding water supply in Blackshawhead. Presentation attached.
    - Q - Believe mains pipes date from 1970s, and wondering what the expected life-span of those pipes is.
    - A - Generally looking at over 100 years for a main pipe, but will depend on type of material – some are cast iron, some asbestos cement.
    - Q – why are there pipes with asbestos still?
    - A – built before asbestos was known to be a problem. Lots of studies done by WHO and Consumer Council for Water to prove that there is no risk to health for water pipes as it doesn't get into the water supply. Risk is from inhaling the fibres, eg during dismantling the pipes. 50Km of pipe that serves this area, and about 6km is asbestos cement. It's not the most resilient material, and they wouldn't be installed now however they aren't routinely replaced as it's expensive and disruptive.
    - Q – how many bursts before the whole run is due for replacement?
    - A – 8 bursts in 3 years in order to replace the pipes. Looked like it has breached this, so Kellie will raise a query.
    - Q - What about pumping station and power cuts that impact supply? Used to be gravity fed, but now pumping station. Anything that could be done to reduce water outtages due to power cuts?
    - A - All of pumping stations usually have back-up generators. Kellie will look into this. Waste water usually gravity fed, so pumping station is for clean water only.
    - Q - Is there a plan/map here for the pipes that have been replaced? There was a major pipe replacement along New Shaw Lane, but as far as know wasn't taken all the way down to Jack Bridge. A
    - KT will find this out.
    - Q – wondered how we compared to other areas in terms of numbers of bursts and outtages?
    - A - Not sure that data is collected but will investigate.
    - Q – is it possible to have contact details – KF gave her details to elected representatives, but not for publicising to public .
    - Q - General feeling that we get more water outtages than an average community. In part due to a lot of bursts, or something changed due to pressure when pumped rather than gravity, and also the power cut. What is the policy regarding outtages and what to expect and what redress might there be.
    - A - Looking to supply bottled water if going to be out by over 6 hours. Would bring water to a central location. New team just created to take responsibility for this. Anyone signed up to priority service register, will take it to the door.
- Standby rota – incident management, so always someone on call.
- Q – who is the local contact?
- A - YW has the Clerk and any details that are online, but all agreed would be useful to have a second

contact. Potentially Chapel manager? As bottled water likely to be stored here. Clerk will forward this on.

Q – surely ought to have a rolling programme of replacement rather than keep patching up. If you've got 7 bursts on a run, would you look at replacing the whole section?

A - Yes, potentially. Sometimes it's better to line the pipe rather than replace. Replacing is inconvenient and expensive.

Q Pressure is as much of a problem as bursts for people on the outskirts of the village - HX7 7JB. Pressure has gone down on Davy Lane also. Is there a limit to number of properties water main can supply and would be nice to know how close are to that limit. KF to investigate this.

Q regarding what is meant by a 'section'. A - just a piece of the pipe, but don't know how long that is.

Q Has the amount of fluoride or chlorine gone up recently – this has been mentioned by a resident.

A - KF will look into it.

Q – if more people connected to the main in outlying areas, would that improve the supply for the people who need to use spring water? A – that would make sense.

Q - 3 yearly review on Rivers Trust and reads extremely badly. Would like a response from Yorkshire Water about this report as nothing has got better and much has got worse. Calder 2<sup>nd</sup> most polluted river in England.

A - YW is changing what it was doing – new river health team, and a programme to reduce reliance on combined sewer overflows (CSO). Combined sewers built in Victorian era and there is a geographical divide, in YW and United Utilities areas, have 50% of the overflows and 23% of the population. So working to replace the CSOs to stop them being necessary. But asking for government support, as unfair on YW customers to have to pay for this. Investment of 100m from shareholders from now till March 2025, investigating every CSO that spills more than 40 times a year and stop from overflowing by 20% compared to 2021, and beyond that business plan put forward to offwat, 2025-30, 1.5 billion investment. Closest CSO to here is Todmorden, but about 20 sites that spill into the Calder. CSOs account for 7% of rivers failing the river health EA stats. Cigarette butts and water run off the highways are also really significant so in order to tackle river health need support from partners.

Q – can you take action if an industrial overflow is affecting water that YW controls.

A - If it goes through our system, industrial waste team can. Breweries using yeast etc – can take action in breach of permits. A lot of it is just farmed fields, and no action can be taken in that case.

Q - Do you have any concerns about people swimming in reservoirs?

A - Yes it's always unsafe. Most recent fatality on Leeds Wakefield border, turbines switch on suddenly according to demand. Do have rangers so that if there are reports of people drinking etc, they'll go round and engage. Been asked to put lifebuoys around, but research suggests that gives a false sense of security as can't throw far enough. Trialling an event, a triathlon, where swimming can be facilitated.

Q – would YW have a stall at things like the Fete?

A - Yes, have an engagement team, and can come along and have a stall. Some specific information about any blockages in the area? Also have strainers, debt advice, etc.

7. Amended Emergency Plan for Blackshaw Parish – agreed. Agreed to publicise in pdf format on the website, but add a note above the PC contacts to refer to emergency contacts.

8. To consider planning related matters:-

8.1. Information on previous planning applications:

8.1.1. 23/20199/TPO | Woodland Management (including thinning of Holly) (Tree Preservation Order) | Rawtonstall Wood Savile Road Hebden Bridge Calderdale – **consent granted**

8.2. Planning Enforcement Issues: any further update

8.3. New planning applications:

8.3.1. 23/01292/HSE | Replacement of existing double garage with new double garage | 5 Jack Bridge New Road Blackshaw Head Hebden Bridge Calderdale HX7 7HS. Clerk read email from applicant. Comments made included increased footprint seems unjustified as existing size seems large enough. Also in agreement with Highways officer it's too close to the road. Agreed to object by majority with one abstention and one against.

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

- 9.1. Update from the Blackshawhead Community Association. Putting up planters way out of the village on telegraph poles, and may be more happening.  
Speed gun/awareness session happening tomorrow. Noticeboard by bus stop is fixed up.
- 9.2. Pavement and culvert outside Leafather view – incomplete works, retaining wall that. Agreed to take this up with Highways.
- 9.3. Any update from Highways regarding the outstanding issues – costings for gate and signs, and it may be that if we chose a sign that is inexpensive. Agreed a small working group, Cllrs Tiler-Ansell, Dyter and Greaves. White lines have happened but still waiting on other side of the road – some dissatisfaction that the pedestrian bit wasn't as big as some people hoping, but does seem to have slowed traffic down. Still waiting about speed limit review on Kebs – good to get a timeframe on this.
- 9.4. Bad repair on main road at Charlestown outside Able Fuels. Will report to Highways.

**10. To consider the following Financial matters:**

- 10.1. The 2023/2024 budget has £4180 remaining and bank balances stand at £7733 which reconciles with the cashbook
- 10.2. Confirmed payment of the grass cutting invoice at the allotments - £180
- 10.3. Confirmed payment of the domain name renewal invoice (paid by the Clerk)
- 10.4. Confirmed payment of the Clerk's monthly salary and expenses including the above

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

- Ward Forum - 24<sup>th</sup> January  
Neighbourhood Plan meeting - 28<sup>th</sup> February  
CROG - 19<sup>th</sup> March

**Dates of future meetings:**

**Parish Council Meetings: - February 26<sup>th</sup> March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Allotment Committee: - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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