



Blackshaw Parish Council

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Annual Parish Meeting MINUTES

Held at
Hebden Bridge Town Hall Council Chamber
on
Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7:00pm.

Agenda

Present: Wayne and Ann Ogden, Grayde Bowen, Carol and Gary King, Simon Bull, Gemma Higginson, Andrew McTominey, Jake Dyter, Caroline Tiler-Ansell, Ali Mitchell de Santos

Clerk: Sally Hughes

1. Welcome The Chair opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

2. Receive the Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr Tiler-Ansell stated that her year as a first-time Chair has been a pleasure and a huge learning experience. She thanked the Vice-Chair, Cllr Dyter, and the rest of the council for their support and time.

3. Presentation from:

3.1. Blackshaw Head Chapel – Ali – We've had a busy year and thank the Parish Council and other community members for their support. The Fete, Christmas events (the carol service didn't happen), Heritage Weekend, and the plant sale were all lovely. The community garden, the existence of which is down to two village members, is becoming a reality, and two benches are to be installed. On Sunday the 31st of May, people are invited to come and have a look; it is meant to be a tranquil place for people in the village. The chapel is regularly open on a Wednesday morning for arts and crafts, board games, gardening, tea and cake, and on Fridays for yoga. The oldest attendee is 95. Both days' sessions are followed by tea and coffee or lunch, from 11 am to 2 pm. The anniversary and afternoon tea will be on the 14th of June. Thank you for being part of the community, and thanks to Jake and others for helping to keep the building going. The chapel is always there on a Sunday morning. The congregation is between 0 and 95. It's your chapel – use it or lose it.

All present thanked Ali.

3.2. Pennine Heritage/SHED – Andrew, Heritage Manager at Pennine Heritage/Birchcliffe Centre – said the organisation was set up in the late 1970s by the three Davids to preserve, protect and celebrate the heritage of the Calder Valley. In the 1980s the focus was on buildings, buttresses and the canal. Now the ongoing work is more about records, history and community engagement, including sessions with elderly people, refugees and others. Pennine Stories is trying to get people to use the images, get out into the HX7 area, engage people and try to find stories. A session at Blackshaw Head Chapel, using photos, was the most popular of the six sessions across the valley. They are seeking to grow the archive with SHED. The emphasis is on using resources to copy and preserve, not to take ownership of them.

All thanked Andrew. Ali added that SHED had an exhibition at the weekend and is always looking to work with younger people.

3.3. Calder Valley Search and Rescue – Wayne – this is the 60th anniversary of the founding of the team. It was founded after a local tragedy involving a reservoir keeper. Local people volunteered, and the Water Board, then a major local employer, drafted men in. In September 1966, the first meeting was held with the idea of forming a rescue team. This year an anniversary walk was held, trying to follow the track they thought Robert Akrigg had taken. On 7/2/26 there was a family and remembrance service. A new vehicle will have a logo remembering Robert Akrigg, 1910–1965. There will be an open day on 20th June at the rescue post in Mytholmroyd. In response to Simon’s question about how many times they had been out last year, Wayne said 75, which was a quiet year. This year they have had 25 so far; a search is one callout and can be 3 hours or 65 days. In response to Simon’s question about drones, Wayne said they have trialled them and have a pilot, but search dogs are better.

3.4. All thanked Wayne.

4. To report the Chair’s donations – Parkinson’s Association and Dorothy/Chapel.

5. Open forum to discuss other matters of public concern.

Gary said the road will be closed on 27th for 3 days, which is ridiculous, as it does not need to be shut. If it is closed, there should be a fire engine and paramedics available. Carie said they have been told it has to be, and that Sarah C, A Gill and Streetworks are aware; there is a working group. Initially there was to be a closure of the A646.

Regarding Dorothy’s contractors closing the road, Carie said this had all been reported. Gary said the contractor should be stopped from doing any work in Calderdale. Carie said they are under investigation and that it was not an emergency. People were asked to email the Clerk if they wanted to complain. The emergency provision had been used to get an immediate road closure. Simon mentioned an unmarked van.

6. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting: Monday **24th May 2027**.

Meeting closed at 7:38 pm.