# Parish Council Forum Meeting Report

**Tuesday 12 May, 18:30 – 20:00**

**Microsoft Teams**

Attendance

| Organisation | Membership |
|---|---|
| Calderdale Energy Park | Christian Egal<br>Donald McKay<br>Ashley Robinson<br>Christopher Wilson<br>Andy Mills<br>Sophie Thorpe<br>Kevin Whitmore |
| Wadsworth Parish Council | Cllr Jon Kimber – Forum Chair<br>Cllr Jenny Shepherd |
| Heptonstall Parish Council | Cllr Joanne Holt |
| Blackshaw Parish Council | Cllr Jake Dyter<br>Cllr Gemma Higginson |
| Hebden Royd Town Council | Cllr Nikki Harvey |
| Oxenhope Village Council | |
| Erringden Parish Council | |
| Haworth & Stanbury Village Council | |
| Keighley Town Council | Cllr Andrew Judson |
| Trawden Forest Parish Council | Cllr Adrian Foulkes<br>Cllr Jonathan Wiggins |
| Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council | Cllr Paul White<br>Cllr Amanda Meachin |
| Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council | Cllr Pippa Lishman<br>Apologies - Cllr Roger Frost |
| Worsthorne with Hurstwood Parish Council | |
| Denholme Town Council | Cllr Paul Golding |
| Colne Town Council | Cllr Andy Bell<br>Cllr David Cockburn-Price |

Agenda

| Agenda Item | Timings |
|---|---|
| 1. Welcome & Approval of Previous Minutes | 10 minutes |
| 2. Overview of 2026 project design and statutory consultation process | 10 minutes |
| 3. Focus on Peat, Hydrology & Habitats | 30 minutes |
| 4. Focus on Flood Risk & Drainage | 30 minutes |
| 5. Topics for next meeting | 10 minutes |

Minutes

**Welcome & Approval of Previous Minutes**

Apologies were noted from Roger Frost (Briercliffe PC).

Cllr Kimber opened the meeting and welcomed attendees, raising concerns about abuse directed at members of the CEP project team since the previous meeting. He reiterated that this was unacceptable and reminded forum members to conduct themselves respectfully, regardless of their views towards the proposals.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

**Overview of 2026 project design and statutory consultation process**

DM provided a refresher on the current proposals, including the redline boundaries for the Western and Eastern access routes, and the Bradford West Cable Corridor.

**Focus on Peat, Hydrology & Habitats**

AM presented on peat. This covered differing definitions (Scotland: 50cm; England and Wales: c.30cm), peat structure, and mapping across Walshaw Moor, including distribution, habitat types (blanket bog, degraded bog, acidic grassland, dry heath and Molinia), and condition. The presentation outlined design-led approaches to minimise impacts, including layout optimisation, construction methods, and landslide risk management. The

approach to excavation, storage and reuse of peat was explained, including reinstatement of temporary works, reuse in storage areas and borrow pits, and restoration measures. AM confirmed the focus remains on continuing to reduce impacts through design.

Cllr Kimber thanked AM for the overview and sought clarification on floating tracks. AM confirmed that the approach will vary by location, with transitions dependent on site conditions.

Cllr Shepherd questioned alignment with Natural England's 2025 position. AM responded that this remains under active consideration. Further clarification was provided that peat volume calculations would not change if all land were classified as peat. It was confirmed that the English peat definition is being applied.

A request was made for mapping shapefiles. AR confirmed this is being progressed.

It was agreed that mapping data will be shared with parish members when available.

Cllr Cockburn-Price raised questions about peat excavation and emissions. AM confirmed some dewatering will occur, but material will be managed to retain moisture prior to reinstatement. On decommissioning, it was noted that peat would remain within restored areas, including borrow pits.

Cllr Shepherd sought an update on discussions with Natural England regarding peat restoration. AR confirmed this work is ongoing.

**Focus on Flood Risk & Drainage**

ST presented on flood risk. This included the Flood Risk Assessment process, surface water drainage strategy, and policy context. A direct rainfall runoff model is being used, alongside conservative assumptions. Surface water management principles and next steps were outlined, including completion of modelling and the overall assessment.

Cllr Kimber asked what assurances could be given to Hebden Bridge residents. ST confirmed ongoing work with the Environment Agency and a conservative modelling approach.

Questions were raised on timing and transparency of flood modelling. ST advised outputs are likely to be published with the application, though further engagement could be arranged. It was confirmed the model must demonstrate no increase in off-site flood risk.

Technical questions were raised on modelling inputs, greenfield runoff rates and mitigation design. ST confirmed some details remain in development and will be finalised ahead of submission, with mitigation measures to be confirmed through the assessment process.

KW acknowledged concerns around the level of available detail, noting this reflects the DCO process and that further information will be shared as it is finalised.

**AOB and topics for next meeting**

Cllr Kimber opened AOB and requested an update on the Planning Performance Agreement. CW confirmed an offer has been made, with outstanding points still under discussion.

Councillors requested further sessions focusing on transport, traffic and community benefit.

It was agreed that transport/traffic and the Community Benefit Fund will form the focus of the next meeting.

It was confirmed that the Community Fund would be administered independently rather than through the Council.

Further points were raised regarding traffic impacts on East Lancashire routes, and the need to consider noise and vibration.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place at Colne Town Hall on Monday 29th June.