

# Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

December 2011

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all Councils are obliged to ensure that most of the papers associated with council business are accessible to the electorate. This Newsletter is Hebden Parish Council's means of informing the electorate of their rights. Hebden Parish Council has always had an open policy of representation, and its minutes, letters and accounts have been available for inspection. The electorate can view these by appointment with the Clerk.

However, the best opportunity to find out what is happening in your Parish is to attend the Annual Parish Meeting of the electorate. This is usually held in March or April where the Council can report to, and be questioned by, the local electorate.

Council Meetings are held approximately every 6 weeks. Members of the public may attend as observers. You are welcome to attend any of these meeting of the council.

The other event of local interest is the Annual Land Letting which is usually held on the last Wednesday in January.

Events are advertised in good time on the Parish Council Notice Board, which is now to be found on the board outside the Ibbotson Institute. All meetings are held in the Ibbotson Institute and usually start at 7.30pm.

## Who are your Council Members?

The Council is comprised of five members who are each elected for a term of four years. The next election is in 2012. Fresh blood is always welcome and details on how to stand for election will be published on the Parish Council Notice Board at the appropriate time.

The current members are:

- Peter Hodge of The Grange, Mill Lane
- Colin Hargreaves of 2 Brook Street
- David Joy of Scale Haw, Hole Bottom
- Jack Richards of Avondale, Chapel Lane
- Arthur Stockdale of Manor House Cottage, Main Street

The clerk is:

Ms Sheila Ely, Bank View Cottage, Main Street, Hebden, Skipton BD23 5DU

Sheila may be contacted by telephone on:

01756 752978

Email: [sheila.ely@daelnet.co.uk](mailto:sheila.ely@daelnet.co.uk)

This is where the guide to information under the model publication scheme can be viewed.

## Council Finances

The Council acts as trustees for two sets of parish lands and receives an income from the lands in the form of rents, grants and wayleaves. Income from the Land Letting varies from year to year but there has been a downwards trend.

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income and so avoid asking the electorate for a precept. In recent years expenses have increased and the Council has had to draw on its reserves. Money was received for an Easement over the Common which has been added to our reserves. This coming year the Council hasn't had to ask CDC for financial assistance so there will be no Parish precept.

The money is primarily spent on street lighting, the children's playground, land maintenance and administration. The street lights are un-metered and the Council has finally resolved its dispute regarding the npower account which was ongoing for over 2 years. Meanwhile we continue to have electricity supplied via an account with NYCC. The bill for the new street light was paid this year and cost £1170 with a final npower payment of £216. This increased the expenditure above the usual level.

The Clerk receives a stipend, but the Councillors give of their time freely and claim no expenses.

There is an internal audit by a local elector and a summary submitted to external auditors for their inspection.

The audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2010</i>	<i>£ 10512</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£5082</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£2988</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£8418</i>

# Council Main Duties and Responsibilities

2

## Street Lights

Hebden Parish Council is responsible for the seventeen street lights to be found around the village. If you see a problem with any of them, please let the Clerk or a Councillor know.

## Planning

The primary Planning Authority for Hebden is the Yorkshire Dales National Park, but the Parish Council is a statutory consultee.

For many planning applications, the YDNP Planning Officer has delegated powers allowing him to make decisions based on established policies. If, however a consultee has a reason why the policy should not be followed, then the application is referred to the YDNP Planning Committee.

In general, the Parish Council bases its recommendations on the visual impact of the development; any effect it may have on the heritage of the village; and on the possible impact on the

social fabric of the village.

All responses to planning applications made by the Council are available for inspection at the YDNP Centre Colvend or from the Clerk.

## Playground

The Council is pleased to maintain this for the children of the village and visitors. The grass is cut regularly. The playground is annually inspected by on behalf of RoSPA and any recommendations followed up.

## Parish Lands

The Council is trustee of two sets of parish lands. The Recreation Grounds of High and Low Green (which are registered village greens) and the Town Lands which are a number of fields around the village. It also

includes Backstone Edge Allotment where freeholders have rights of turbary. Income is derived from the letting of the land and grants.

## Liaising with other Authorities

Most of the services provided to the community are the responsibility of other local authorities, including Craven District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The Parish Council work in partnership with these authorities to help them fulfil their obligations.

The Parish Council monitors the state of the roads and footpaths, the effectiveness of the cleaning services and so on, and ensures that any problems are reported to the appropriate department.

The Council, however has no authority in these matters.

# Council Report 2010-2011

Most Council business is concerned with repairs to walls, getting the streetlights to come on and go off at the proper times, answering queries from CDC or writing to the Yorkshire Dales National Park about planning matters.

The following are the more significant matters to have arisen in the last year.

## The Public Toilets

CDC closed this facility in October 2006. These remain closed and as yet nothing has been resolved as to the future of the building.

## Affordable Housing

No new sites have been proposed in the village.

## Highways

The Council continues to inform Highways about potholes and drainage problems. To try to discourage parking near the Bus Stop the Highways finally painted a yellow outline to prohibit cars from parking there. There is still an ongoing campaign by the Council to have a speed matrix light placed on the bank. Attempts to have a 30mph limit failed as the road didn't meet the required criteria.

## The Playground

The Council keeps the grass cut and keeps the equipment up to the standards set by the annual inspection.

## Notices

Parish Notices are displayed in the board outside the Institute. Work has been completed in the Institute and there is now a heated cupboard where the Parish Council archives can be more safely stored. Recent records are kept by the Clerk.

## Boundary Changes

There will be no change to the Hebden Parish boundary and there are no changes for our political boundary and we stay with Skipton & Ripon

## Other village news

### Road Verge Project.

This continues with a small group of volunteers led by James Ferguson of the Wildlife Trust who cut and rake the verges on the road sides around

the village centre. This is to encourage wild flowers and insects. He is hoping to extend this management to other verges in the Parish and to recruit more volunteers. This is an ongoing project over many years so look in the notice board for information if you would like to help.

## The Village Institute

Pat Hodgkins is asking for new committee members for the Institute. Please go to the AGM on Monday Feb 6th 2012 at 7.30pm.

## The Jubilee

The Government has allocated 4 days for celebration, 2nd to 5th June with this last date being a Tuesday and an extra Bank Holiday. As with the last street party its hoped to arrange a group of local people willing to help organise the event. There will be an Open Meeting Monday 27th February 2012 at 7.30pm to discuss the actual date for the party and to make a start on the plans.

Anyone not able to attend but with ideas please phone Pat Hodgkins on 752025