

Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2013/14

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 in the Ibbotson Institute. This will be held Wednesday April 2nd at 7.30pm this year, 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 meetings of the council.

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.

The Council Minutes are published on the Hebden website once they have been approved by the Councillors.

http://hebden.org/parish_council_minutes.htm

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 was reorganised this past year so that farmers have a 3 year tenancy agreement and pay an agreed amount. Although it was expensive to set up there will be no further outgoings and there is an increased rent value from the Parish Lands over the 3 years.

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income and so avoid asking the electorate for a precept. This last year our income was greater than expenditure so this coming year the Council hasn't had to ask CDC for financial assistance so there will be no Parish precept. The Council invested some of the money received from the easement over the Green and hold £5000 in a Skipton Building Society Bond.

The money is primarily spent on street lighting, the children's playground, land maintenance and administration. The street lights are un-metered and repairs have to be met by the Council.

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 2013 may be summarised as follows:

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|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Brought forward from 2012</i> | <i>£ 8989</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> | <i>£4394</i> |
| <i>Receipts</i> | <i>£4932</i> | <i>Reserves to carry forward</i> | <i>£9527</i> |

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 **2016**. 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
- George Coney of South Barn, Brayshaw 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

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

Council Main Duties and Responsibilities

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Street Lights

Hebden Parish Council is responsible for the 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. At present it is in contact with the YDNP to preserve the historic open spaces within 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 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.

Council Report 2013-2014

Most Council business is concerned with repairs to roads, 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

Land Letting

For several years the Parish Lands have been let to the same farmers with very little bidding as a result. Last year there was a new system introduced where the farmers enter into a 3 year agreement. The income increased and we are in the second year.

Highways

The Council has been regularly informing NYCC about the various potholes in the village. At last the road down through the village has been resurfaced. Over a year ago the part of the safety fence by the ghyll roadside was demolished by a car and the Council is in dispute with NYCC to have it replaced and not just by 3 bollards. English Heritage has been contacted to try to get Brook Street Bridge repaired and protected.

The Playground

The Council keeps the grass cut and keeps the equipment up to the standards set by the annual inspection. Minor repairs were undertaken after the last report.

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.

Trees in the village

There are two chestnuts up the B6265 bank near the road side that have been diagnosed as diseased. They will have to be felled before they become a danger to the road and traffic.

Another tree in Orchard Lane will have to be felled as it has become a hazard. There is a very tall evergreen hemlock between the two bridges by the side of the beck that has become too tall for its location and will need felling. All these have been agreed with the YDNP who have also recom-

mended some branch removal on the trees by the main road for safety reasons.

Other village news

The Village Institute

The Institute is having its now annual Duck Race down the beck on Sat April 19th. On May 3rd there will be a concert by the Heritage Boys with half any profit going to Help the Heroes. May 24th and a coffee morning in aid of the village hall. On August 2nd there will be an event to commemorate the start of WW1. The Committee would like to organise a monthly Film Night for younger members of the village. Anyone with a projector to show DVDs and willing to help please contact Pat Hodgkins. Tel. 752025 or ph@daelnet.co.uk

The Village Post Office

After 30 years with Linda Wilson as Post Mistress the Post office and shop closed at the end of the year. Fortunately for the village The Stables opened as a Farm Shop and is run by the pub. I'm told the Golden post box will be re-located to outside the Clarendon Hotel