

Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2014/15

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 1st 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 2014 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2012</i>	<i>£ 9527</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£3935</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£4447</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£10039</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 2014-2015

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

The year before last a new system of land letting was introduced where the farmers enter into a 3 year agreement. The income increased and 2015 will be the last year of the present agreement. The Parish also allows residents to have various wayleaves over its land and these will be collected from 01/01/15 and will run for 5 years.

Highways

The Council has been regularly informing NYCC about the various potholes in the village. The road down through the village has been resurfaced. There has been a growing concern for the bridge over to Brook Street and English Heritage has been contacted to try to get it repaired and protected. After an article in the Craven Herald NYCC Bridges have said it will be on their 2015 repair

list. The Council are continuing to ask Highways to replace the bollards up the ghyll with a safety fence that was in place. Drainage work has been completed on High Green so that the path from Mount Pleasant should not flood and ice over in the winter months.

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.

Planning issues

After many years of applications and support from the Council, Mr & Mrs Geldard have permission to rebuild at Hebden Lodge. The strong views expressed by Hebden PC in respect of Moorside Barn conversion were welcomed and accepted by the YDNP Planning Committee and after an initial refusal permission was granted.

The Village Institute

The Parish Council has been wanting

to re-install the hanging doors so that the room may be divided and the smaller end by the fire kept warm in the winter. Hopefully a joiner has been found who will undertake this work in 2015. Anyone wanting to hire the Institute please contact: Pat Hodgkins. Tel. 752025

A defibrillator for the village

Thanks to funding from a local charity and Rural Action Yorkshire this will be shortly installed within the porch of the School House Tea Rooms. It is hoped a group of volunteers will have training on its use.

The Village Post Office

After the closure of the village post office the telephone box had to be moved. The Parish council has decided to adopt it and move it to a new location. This may be at the road corner of B6265 but as yet a final decision awaits further considerations.

B6265 Speed restrictions

The speed data found that there was a mean speed of 35mph with only 15% exceeding at a mean of 42mph. Therefore there were no issues for enforcement and no further action will be taken.