

Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter2015/2016

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 March 16th 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

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 **this year 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 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 so that tenants have a 3 year tenancy agreement and pay an agreed amount. This was extended a year so will now finish January 2017. 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 4 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 expenditure was greater than income but there were still adequate reserves 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 some years ago when £5000 was put in a Skipton Building Society Bond and it still holds this in reserve.

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 2015 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2014</i>	<i>£ 10039</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£7566</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£5999</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£8472</i>

Council Main Duties and Responsibilities

<p style="text-align: center;">Street Lights</p> <p>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. Ever since the Toilets closed there has been an ongoing problem with the supply from that building. There are plans to have a new junction box and supply from it. This will an added expense in 2016.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Planning</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Playground</p> <p>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. Repairs are currently under way to one of the swings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Lands</p> <p>The Council is trustee of two sets of parish lands. The Recreation Grounds of High and Low Green (which are registered village greens) and</p>	<p>the Town Lands which are a number of fields around the village. It also includes Backstone Edge Allotment where freeholders have rights of turbarry. Income is derived from the letting of the land and grants.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Liaising with other Authorities</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Parish Council work in partnership with these authorities to help them fulfil their obligations.</p> <p>The Parish Council monitors the state of the roads and footpaths, the effectiveness of the cleaning services and passes on any problems.</p> <p>The Council, however has no authority in these matters.</p>
---	---	---

Council Report 2015-2016 and village news

<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Land Letting</p> <p>A new system of land letting was introduced where the tenants enter into a 3 year agreement. The income increased and at January 2017 it will be the last year of the present agreement. It will then be possible for new bids. The Parish also allows residents to have various wayleaves over its land and these were collected from 01/01/15 and will run for 5 years.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Highways</p> <p>The Council has been regularly informing NYCC about the various potholes in the village. The road down through the village has been resurfaced. After many letters from the Parish Council the old bridge over to Brook Street has just been repaired and new tarmac laid to protect the stonework underneath. Much of Brayshaw Lane was also resurfaced</p>	<p>Efforts to get speed reduction through the village has again failed as the road does not meet the criteria for 30mph.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Playground</p> <p>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 and our own inspection revealed rusting on a swing support so this is now under repair.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Notices</p> <p>Parish Notices are displayed in the board outside the Institute.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Planning issues</p> <p>There have been no applications that the Councillors felt needed strong objection but there have been some concerns about road access and safety.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Village Institute</p> <p>After a long wait the doors in the Institute have been re-hung and keep the smaller end warm. Anyone wanting to hire the Institute please contact: Pat Hodgkins. Tel. 752025 The Annual Meeting is on 16th February at 7pm. Any fund raising ideas welcome.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A defibrillator for the village</p> <p>Thanks to funding from a local charity and Rural Action Yorkshire this has been installed within the porch of the School House Tea Rooms. Martyn de Montfort is hoping to get a small group of local first responders who know how to give basic 1st aid and to use the defibrillator. Tel: 753778 BUT anyone can dial 999 and get the code to open the box and the defibrillator gives instructions on its use.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Village Phone Box</p> <p>After the closure of the village post office the telephone box had to be moved. The Parish council has adopted it and moved it to a new location at the road corner of B6265 . It is being used as a newspaper collection point and somewhere to display general interest notices.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 5th 2016</p> <p>The 4 year term of office for the 5 Parish Councillors comes to an end this May. There will be an election and local residents will be able to put forward names for election of new councillors. Existing Councillors can also choose to be re-elected. If you are interested please watch the notice board for updates.</p>
---	---	---

