

# Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2016/2017

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 where the Council can report to, and be questioned by, the local electorate. This is usually in late March or April.

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](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 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 coming years

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income. This current 16/17 year our expenditure has been greater than income and the Council has had a lot of extra expense in replacing old wiring and lights. The Council invested some of the money received from the easement over the Green some years ago and £5000 was invested in a bond but this will now be cashed in to provide funds for this work. In case of further electrical expenses and other unexpected costs a precept has been requested from CDC.

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 2016 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2015</i>	<i>£ 8472</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£2798</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£5814</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£11488</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 2020. 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
- Linda Wilson of the Post Office
- David Joy of Scale Haw, Hole Bottom
- George Coney of South Barn, Brayshaw Lane
- Matt Longthorne of Flatts Farm

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 Main Duties and Responsibilities

## 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. Ever since the Toilets closed there has been an ongoing problem with the supply from that building. It was decided this year after further loss of power to get a new separate supply. Two poles were found to be unsafe so new lights were installed. The trenching proved more difficult with concrete underground. Since November the work is complete.

## 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 on behalf of Rospa and any recommendations followed up. The Councillors regularly check and undertake

repairs as needed.

## 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 turbarry. 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.

## Council Report 2016-2017 And village news

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

A new system of land letting was introduced where the tenants enter into a 3 year agreement. The income increased and January 2017 it will be the last year of the present agreement. It will then be possible for new bids. Watch the notice board for details. The Parish also allows residents to have various wayleaves over its land and these were collected 01/01/15 and will run for 5 years.

### Highways

The Council has been regularly informing NYCC about the various potholes in the village. Efforts to get speed reduction through the village has again failed as the road does not meet the criteria for 30mph. There is a scheme where residents can monitor speeds and report back to the authorities and this will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

### 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

There have been no applications that the Councillors felt needed strong objection but there have been occasions where they have strongly supported an application against the recommendations of YDNP.

### The Village Institute

Anyone wanting to hire the Institute please contact: Pat Hodgkins. Tel. 752025 or ph@daelnet.co.uk The Annual Meeting is on the 7th February at 7pm. Any fund raising ideas welcome.

### A defibrillator for the village

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.

### The Village Phone Box

It is being used as a newspaper collection point and somewhere to display general interest notices.

### The Toilets

Martyn from the Tea Rooms has taken over the building and plans to undertake major repairs and to provide a unisex/disabled toilet. Other space will be used for storage. For many years the villagers have been requesting the re-opening of the toilets so the Councillors are very pleased that at last this may happen.

### The Hebden Sports

Many thanks to all those who helped with the Sports day and by giving your time made it a huge success. As a result £250 was donated to each of the following: Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Helping Hands, Manorlands Hospice and UW Fell Rescue.