

Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2018

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 also view these on our web site, see below.

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.

www.hebden.org email address hebdenpc@daelnet.co.uk

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. The new agreement will now finish in 2019 with new bidding in January 2020. Although this 3 year agreement was expensive to set up there will be no further outgoings and there is an increased rent value from the Parish Lands for the next 2 years.

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income. This current 17/18 year our expenditure has been greater than income and the Council has had a lot of extra expense in replacing old wiring and lights. Last year a precept was requested from CDC as the electrical works were expected to be costly. However, some of the work came out under budget so this coming year there will be no precept.

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 2017 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2016</i>	<i>£ 11488</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£7815</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£5071</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£8744</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 Old 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

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. The work on putting on a separate supply from the toilets is complete and further new work was found to be necessary with the supply in Brook Street being repaired and also more work in Chapel Lane.

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 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 passes on any problems.

Council Report 2017-2018 And village news

There is a new more active website for the village: www.hebden.org where you can follow the Parish activities. This is to conform with the Governments' new Transparency Code. The Parish now has its own laptop and printer that belongs to HPC where information will now be recorded.

Land Letting

The Parish lands have been let on a 3 year agreement. The income increased over the previous year but will now remain the same till January 2019 which will be the last year of the present tenancy agreements. 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. The scheme where residents can monitor speeds and report back to the authorities required 6 residents to be trained and comply with H&S rules so it was not taken up.

Playground

The Council keeps the grass cut and keeps the equipment up to the standards set by the annual ROSPA 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. There has been an occasion where they have reported an application was not following the approved plans.

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 13th February at 7pm. All welcome. Please bring any fund raising ideas to help keep our village hall a focal point for all the residents. There will be the annual Duck Race on Easter Saturday March 31st at 2pm.

A defibrillator for the village

Thanks to funding from a local char-

ity and Rural Action Yorkshire this has been installed within the porch of the School House Tearooms

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. There is at present a delay as asbestos has been found in the building.

The Hebden Sports

Many thanks to all those who helped with the Sports day and by giving your time made it a huge success. Again it made a profit and so it was possible to support local charities.

Trees on High Green

Thanks to a grant from YDMT 100 broad leaved trees were planted by local residents in November. It had been decided not to let High Green for grazing but as agreed at the last Annual Meeting to plant it with trees.