

Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2018/19

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 year.

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income. Although there has been a lot of planned lighting work the Council was helped by the precept from CDC in 2017. The Council has continued with replacing old street lights and putting in LED bulbs that use less electricity. The lights are off from 1am to 5am. As yet the NYCC has to invoice the council for 3 new posts and other repairs and this should cost about £6500. The other main costs have been for the playground safety check, grass cutting and administration. No precept has been requested this coming year.

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 which were passed as correct in August and are summarised below

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|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Brought forward from 2017</i> | <i>£ 8744</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> | <i>£6918</i> |
| <i>Receipts</i> | <i>£8937</i> | <i>Reserves to carry forward</i> | <i>£12,263</i> |
| <i>Precept</i> | <i>£1500</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. Work has continued in updating the lights and bulbs.

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, and passes on any problems. It has been reporting potholes more frequently and requested a full repair to the road through the village and has been told by Highways this will be undertaken after April. The Councillors will monitor this.

Council Report 2018-2019 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& Wayleaves

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 2020 when there will be another auction for the land. 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. A local resident contacted the Police as he was concerned for the safety of walkers on the B6265. As yet the Council hasn't received the response. In the past, speeds had been monitored but there wasn't enough evidence to get a 30mph limit on the road.

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 they needed to object to. An application for a new build to house a local family had been supported but it was turned down by YDNP planners.

The Village Institute

Anyone wanting to hire the Institute please contact: Pat Hodgkins. Tel. 752025 or ph@daelnet.co.uk During 2018 there has been a coffee morning for Friends and Neighbours of the village. It is held on the last Tuesday of each month from 10.30 to noon. Please come along for a chat. It is free but any donations will be for the village hall funds. It is now an issue on how to circulate news to all residents. There is a site on Facebook, an email

list and the notice board. Let Pat know if you want adding to the email list. Please let her know of anyone missing news of these events. AGM 12th February 7pm.

The Toilets

There is at present a delay as asbestos has been found in the building. It is hoped that work may recommence in 2019

The Hebden Sports

There is a new young team with new ideas and their first Sports Day was a great success.

Many thanks to all those who helped on the day and by giving your time made it another enjoyable day for all the families. Help is always needed in erecting the tents and then storing the equipment away after. Please see Matt Longthorne if you can help in 2019.

Trees on High Green

Thanks to a grant from YDMT 100 broad leaved trees were planted by local residents in November. They survived the summer drought by a watering effort by the Councillors and help with a water tank from Gavin Herd.