

Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2021

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 but has not been held because of Covid

Council Meetings are held approximately every 6 weeks. Normally members of the public may attend as observers. You are welcome to attend any of these meetings of the council when they resume.

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.

The Council Minutes are published on the Hebden website once they have been approved by the Councillors.

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 next new agreement will start in the year with new bidding in January 2022. Although this 3 year agreement was expensive to set up there will be no further expenses except in the printing of new agreements for the new tenants.

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income. This current 2019-20 year our expenditure has been greater than income.

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. £3967 was spent on new lighting that will save in running costs in the coming years.

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 any comments are acted upon and any corrections are then made. The final year end accounts can be seen on the village website.

The audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2019</i>	<i>£ 11975</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£8428</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£6940</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£10487</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 this year.** 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:

- James Ferguson , Brook Street
- 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, 2 Bank View Cottage, Main Street, Hebden, Skipton BD23 5DU

Sheila may be contacted by telephone on:
01756 752978

Email: sheila.ely@daelnet.co.uk

Council Main Duties and Responsibilities

2

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 in recent years has replaced a lot of poles and new LED lights which cost a lot less. Plus the village lights are off between midnight and 5am.

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 recom-

mendations 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 there and also the verge is regularly cut.

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.

The Council, however has no authority in these matters.

Council Report 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 Government's 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 new bids will be received next **January 2022** and the new tenants will then have a **3 year agreement**.

The Parish also allows residents to have various wayleaves over its land and these have been collected and will run for 5 years to 31/12/24

Highways

The Council has been regularly informing NYCC and the main road has been repaired. Efforts to get speed reduction through the village has failed. It was implied that until there is a record of accidents it seems unlikely to get it reduced to 30mph.

Playground

The Council keeps the grass cut and

keeps the equipment up to the standards set by the annual ROSPA inspection. Minor repairs were again undertaken after the last report. A notice is now in place to stop drivers parking in front of the main entrance.

Notices

Parish Notices are displayed in the board outside the Institute.

Planning issues

There have been no objections made by the council. There has been an occasion where they have reported an application was not following the approved plans and the Council still awaits YDNP planners to ensure the owner puts this right.

The Village Institute

Anyone wanting to hire the Institute when we are again able to, please contact: Pat Hodgkins. Tel. 752025 or ph@daelnet.co.uk. There is a plan to have a street party to celebrate the lifting of restrictions in the future. If you want to donate towards it or the Institute contact Pat. There will be a return to coffee mornings, when allowed, on the last Tuesday of each month for a chance for Hebden folk to meet and chat.

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 Tearooms

The Toilets

Martyn from the Tea Rooms took over the building and plans to undertake major repairs and to provide a unisex/disabled toilet Unfortunately there is still a delay as the asbestos found in the building hasn't been removed.

The Hebden Sports

Sadly the annual sports were unable to take place due to Covid. We hope that it will be reinstated as soon as possible.

The Beck Project

Thanks to a grant from Swinden Quarry there are plans to plant trees by the beckside, try to improve the water flow, fix bat and bird boxes to nearby trees and keep part of High Green mown to encourage wild flowers. Villagers are encouraged to participate and will be contacted about forthcoming events by email, village Facebook and notices in the phone box.