

# Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2021/2022

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. Normally 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.

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

[www.hebden.org](http://www.hebden.org)

## 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 2023.

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income. This current 2020-2021 year income was increased by the Beck Grant of £6260 negotiated and being implemented by your Councillors and willing helpers.

The money is primarily spent on street lighting, the children's playground, land maintenance, the beck project and administration. The street lights are un-metered and repairs have to be met by the Council. £789 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 kindly undertaken 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 2021 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2019</i>	<i>£ 10487</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£5648</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£12684</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£17523</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 May this year as a result of the re-organisation of North Yorkshire](#) 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
- Stefan Sykes of Green House

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@hebdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sheila.ely@hebdenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Your Council objected to the unitary council for all of North Yorkshire but this was imposed on us from central government. As you may be aware CDC will cease to exist. As yet we are uncertain how this will change the work your Council does. There will be elections for all areas even though HPC wasn't due for 3 years so at least the council won't have to pay for them.

# 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 in recent years has replaced a lot of poles and new LED lights which have reduced costs from 2014 £643 to £198 this last year. Thanks go to Cllr Hodge for this work he undertook and he is still sadly missed.

## 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 YDNPA 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 YDNPA 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.

## 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.

## Liaising with other Authorities

Up till 2022 the Parish Council has worked

in partnership with CDC, NYCC and YDNPA. With the new re-organisation we wait to see how this changes our role.

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.

## Grants

Now there will be no EU grant funding that HPC received, the Government is introducing a new system of Environmental Land Management (ELMs). The Parish had hoped to extend the existing grant for another year but so far Natural England is refusing our request. It would appear that our upland bog at the Allotment will not be large enough to be considered in the new system. It will be a substantial loss of income.

## Council Report 2021/2 And village news

The web site domain for the village is [www.hebden.org](http://www.hebden.org) where you can follow the Parish activities. You can also follow on the Hebden Facebook page.

## Land Letting

The Parish lands have been let on a 3 year agreement, this being the 3rd year. The new bids will be received next **January 2023** and the new tenants will then have a new **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

After many complaints Highways has repaired the worst of the potholes in the village. Efforts to get speed reduction through the village has failed. The "20 is Plenty" campaign has been rejected by NYCC.

## Playground

The Council keeps the equipment up to the standards set by the annual ROSPA inspection. Two new swings were installed and minor repairs were again undertaken after the last report. A white line is now in place to stop drivers parking in front of the main entrance.

**Parish Notices are displayed in the board outside the Institute.**

## The Village Institute

Anyone wanting to hire the Institute please contact: Pat Hodgkins. Tel. 752025 or [ph@daelnet.co.uk](mailto:ph@daelnet.co.uk). There is a plan to have a street party to celebrate the **Queen's Jubilee on Friday June 3rd at 4pm**. The Cafe will be closed to the public so it can be used for the Jacob's Join as in previous years. The Annual Duck Race is on Saturday 16th April at 2pm. There are coffee mornings, on the last Wednesday 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 Toilet

Unfortunately there is still a delay in the repairs as the asbestos found there is yet to be removed.

## The Hebden Sports

It was a very successful return to the

Sports Day after the Covid restrictions. The Fell Race was made a Championship Race so there were over 100 runners so a much increased income from the gate money and other activities. Thanks to Cllr Sykes who took over as Chairman.

**This year it will be held on Monday 29th August.**

## The Beck Project

Thanks to all the residents who have been out helping plant trees and mow the meadow. Bat and bird boxes are now in place, fences repaired and some work on reducing pollution from water off the road undertaken. There is still further work to do and instruction on water quality monitoring to be organised. Tony Sargeant of YDNPA is very pleased with the work done, the village involvement and how the grant is being spent. There is a plan to start an Environment Group to look at ways to make improvements.

## Ash Trees

Several ash trees have been identified with ash die back and 3 already felled. More will have to come down and some branches cut back for public safety.