

# Hebden Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2022/2023

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.hebdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hebdenparishcouncil.gov.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 next new agreement will start in February 2023.

The Council's policy is to try to limit spending within their income .

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.

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 and displayed on the Notice Board.

The audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 may be summarised as follows:

<i>Brought forward from 2021</i>	<i>£ 17524</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£7832</i>
<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£6167</i>	<i>Reserves to carry forward</i>	<i>£15859</i>

*There was no precept charged to the residents.*

## Who are your Council Members?

The Council is comprised of five members who are each elected for a term of four years. 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
- Chris Davey of Angle House
- 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 after 31st March 2023. As yet we are uncertain how this will change the work your Council does.



# 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 have reduced costs from 2014 £643 to £184 this last year. The Council is looking to ways to reduce light pollution and has met with the YDNPA for advice on this.

## 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 protecting the heritage and impact on the village. In the last year a new barn was approved, a change of use from a working barn to a second home or holiday let was strongly objected to and another new barn application was considered too large for the site and expressed needs. All responses to planning applications are available for inspection on the YDNPA web site or by request from Colvend, Grassington 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. This is

being discussed with the Charity Commission as the Council is hoping to cancel this right and make changes to improve the environment of this special upland peat moor. There will be no shooting rights to let.

## Liaising with other Authorities

Up till now 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 has had some success in pothole repairs on the B6265 recently.

## Grants

The existing EU funded grants finished 30th November. The Council has been working with advice from David Hill to apply for new grants. These are being implemented in the new tenancy agreements.

## Council Report 2022/23 And village news

The web site domain for the village is [www.hebdenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hebdenparishcouncil.gov.uk) where you can follow the Parish activities or simply put Hebden Parish into your browser. You can also follow on the Hebden Facebook page.

## Land Letting

The Parish lands have been let on a 3 year agreement, with bids received by **January 31st 2023**. The new tenancies will be **starting 1st February 2023** lasting for 3 years. These include some new environmental conditions to increase biodiversity.

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 Clerk now emails the Area 5 office attaching photographs of the potholes and this seems to be resulting in speedier repairs.

## Playground

The Council keeps the equipment up to the standards set by the annual ROSPA inspection. A new sign about age restriction has been made and there are to be No Dogs signs put on the gates. The

white line mainly stops drivers parking in front of the entrance.

## 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). The Annual Duck Race is on Easter Saturday 8th 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 this has been installed within the porch of the School House Tearoom. It is monitored by Mr de Montfort and replacement batteries are fitted when needed.

## The Hebden Sports

It was a very successful Sports Day. As ever, many of the residents manned the stalls and helped with the organisation plus donating home made produce. Thanks go to all who made this a good family day out. **This year it will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 28th August.**

## The Beck Project

Thanks to all the residents who have been out helping plant trees and rake the cut grass on the meadow. Four residents have received training to recognise clean water quality by the invertebrates present. Bat and bird boxes are now in place, fences repaired and there is ongoing work continuing. Hebden Environment Action Group (HEAT) has been formed to help with these tasks and others around the village. There is also a bird monitoring group mapping where swifts nest and with plans to place boxes to encourage more birds to nest in the village. They also recorded other migrant birds. Look out for notices if you want to join in.

## Ash Trees

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

**Parish and Village Notices are displayed in the board outside the Institute and in the telephone box.**