

Hebden Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2017

Present: Cllrs, Joy, Coney, Hodge, Wilson

Apologies: Cllr Longthorne

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 30th November 2016, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters arising:

Land letting and High Green: Following up the suggestion that part of High Green be planted with trees to increase the ELS grant the Clerk had contacted Natural England. There is no money for increasing this environmental grant. Mr Garrett at YDNP said that there were grants available and was looking into this if the land was planted say below the footpath. There might be grants from the Millennium Trust &/or a Woodland Creation grant from another Govt dept. Rather than increase the ELS would be cut by the reduction in the area. If the land wasn't to be grazed at all then this would be against the grant conditions. The Clerk will contact Natural England again to try to clarify the position and how much money would be lost if High Green was taken out of the Agreement. She will report back at the next meeting. Meanwhile it was decided not to put High Green up for letting for the present.

Tree matters: The Clerk had checked with YDNP that Mr Ives had received a letter about his unauthorised cutting back of a tree. Ms Dinsdale said she'd also sent a copy of a leaflet about tree preservation. The Clerk said she was concerned about the state of the trees in the village after various branches had come down in the past few years and a large fir tree had completely fallen, fortunately on to High Green. Mr Garrett had looked at them last year but wouldn't give any comment as to their safety. She had phoned AON to ask about cover and was told it was under Public Liability but couldn't say why no payments were paid out in the past. She has written to AON to try to clarify the position of the Council after they had refused to pay any insurance money for two tree incidents in the past. It was discussed that perhaps a tree specialist might look at the trees in the village. Mr Garrett will hopefully make some suggestions. Cllr Joy said he had a name for someone in Pateley. This will be further discussed at the next meeting when there might be some idea of the cost.

Gate in wall in playground to cafe and Land by Toilet: Yet again Mr Montfort was unable to attend nor had he written the letter to the Council as requested. This is therefore still on hold.

Christine's bench: Mrs Stones had sent a plant arrangement as a thank you and the Clerk had replied with her thanks and that once the seat is in place she will email a photograph. The Clerk will ask Stuart Naylor for a price for levelling the ground and securing the bench on the corner by the bridge. Mrs Stones said that the family would pay for this so when Stuart replies she will forward this cost for approval.

Local query about C/41/8E Garage replacement: The residents will be told that this planning was agreed by YDNP so any concerns should go directly to them.

Light at top of Chapel Lane: This still comes on intermittently but will be on hold while the council decides on the next item.

Community energy project: There is a grant available to help reduce energy costs. Cllr Coney will look into applying before the cut off date of 1st Feb. He will liaise with the Clerk. Meanwhile Cllr Hodge had got a price for converting the street lamps to be off from midnight to 5am with a subsequent good reduction in the electricity bill. This will cost £49 + VAT to supply and fit to each lantern. It wasn't certain if all the lights would

be suitable for the new timers. The Cllrs decided to go ahead with the conversion but will make the application for a grant from Northern Powergrid.

Correspondence:

None. It was now possible to forward correspondence by email and anything important added to the agenda.

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@09/01/17 C/A	£372.07
Bank statement s/a@ 09/01/17 D/A	£4712.69
SBS bond	£5000.00
To be cashed in 19/01/17	

Monies received

Nat England grant for BPS	£1201.84
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Payments for approval

Hebden Institute-Room hire and tree trimming	£69.00
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A remittance advice had just come from rpa with the ELS & HLS grant for the ½ year of £889.80. This will be checked on the bank statement.

VAT discussion: After the Clerk had been told by a “friendly accountant” that HPC had been incorrectly filing VAT returns the Clerk downloaded rules from the HMRS site about partial exemption. This seemed so complicated that it was thought it might be better to deregister. However after some emails and a phone conversation with Mr Steve Parkinson, a VAT specialist at SLCC the Clerk was assured that were HPC a business then partial exemption would be correct. It seems that Councils do not have to apply this method and that within certain limits the Council can continue claiming back all the VAT on expenses. He said he’s send an email with further information but as yet this hasn’t been received. The Clerk will chase this up. SLCC also told her about new Government Transparency Rules but since our Minutes go on the village web and residents are invited each year to look at the accounts it was thought that HPC was already doing all that was necessary.

Land letting: The Clerk read out the notice that will go on the board outside. It was suggested a copy go up in the pub. Cllr Hodge will put it on the village email list. The Clerk read a template letter to go to all the existing tenants. High Green will not at present be on the letting field list. This will be posted or delivered the next day. The closing date for closed bids is January 23rd and the new 3 year agreements start 1st February. It is hoped that since the agreement is exactly the same only new tenants will need the full agreement.

Any other business:

The Clerk suggested that at the next meeting the council would have a better idea of the funds available as by then the NYCC lighting work invoice should have been received. The latest communication gave a much reduced amount. There was now no need to reserve funds for any VAT repayments. It would then be possible to reconsider the options for preserving the Green at Town Hill.

Cllr Coney asked about the footpath sign that had been removed. The Clerk had spoken to Mr Longthorne who said the existing pole was rotten but he’d spoken to Phil Richards at the YDNP and a new post will be installed in time.

Cllr Wilson had been approached by a resident about the poor and slippery state of the path down by the beck towards the fish farm. Walkers were widening the path to avoid the mud. The Clerk will contact Phil Richards at YDNP.

Date of next meeting

This will be in the Ibbotson Institute on **Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7.30pm**

A provisional date for the Annual meeting of the Residents was Wednesday 5th April but will be agreed finally at the next meeting. If necessary it could be in May.