

Hebden Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday 5th April 2017

Present: Sixteen local government electors, being Cllrs Coney, Hodge, Longthorne, Joy, (Chairman) Wilson, Ms S Ely (Clerk)
Mrs M Hargraves, Mr J Richards, Mr M White, Mrs J White, Mr K Longthorne, Mrs J Longthorne, Mr J Longthorne, Mrs K Longthorne, Mrs J Arnott, Mrs M Holmes

Apologies: none

The Chairman, Cllr Joy introduced the 2 new Councillors Longthorne and Wilson. He formally thanked the past Cllrs Mr Hargreaves for his time as working for the Parish and particularly Mr A Stockdale who had been a Parish Councillor for about 40 years.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2016 were read and Mr Hodge proposed their approval and Mrs Hargraves seconded.

Matters Arising:

Little had been done regarding protecting the Village Green at Town Hill as the priority spending had been on street lighting. It was planned that action would be taken at the following Parish meeting with a hope to keep good neighbour relations and protect the Green. The ideas of setts was too expensive but a wall at the road corner would stop further erosion and quotes for this had been received and one would be accepted. A return to the erection of posts with a chain (linked and not initially locked) across the grass entrance was being reconsidered and quotes would be obtained. Mr White was delighted that the corner would be protected as he said 2 ft had been lost. The concern about emergency vehicle access seemed unfounded as an ambulance had recently been to the back of Mount Pleasant. Local residents had flattened and reseeded the damaged grass and this was taped off at present. It would be further discussed and the position of the posts agreed with the contractor. Mr & Mrs White thanked the Cllrs for their time and effort with this matter. Cllr Joy thanked Cllr Hodge for all the work undertaken with the lighting problems and the good relationship he'd developed with Mr Ball from the NYCC. Cllr Hodge then explained the plan to separate the supply from the Toilet block with a new pillar has also resulted in 2 new street lights and trenching being required as the old posts were not safe. All the lights have new photocells on top so they go out at midnight and come back on at 5am. The new lamps are for 20w and 2 will be 10w. The next expense is in replacing the junction box in Brook Street. The light at the top of Chapel Lane still needs repairing. The Cllrs had decided that all this work was necessary and yet more work might be needed in the future to bring all the lights up to modern safety standards. It was for the long term benefit of the village and the electricity bill should be halved. The council has applied for a grant for the photocells on all 15 lights.

High Green had been grazed for many years with 2 gates at each end but there was a problem with increased vehicle use by visitors and delivery vans with the gates being left open. There had been 2 cases of cattle butting people on the road. Rather than let the field the council was considering tree planting. Ash dieback which is estimated to kill off about 80% of ash trees is already in Hebden. The Council was considering tree planting on the field as a long term

replacement. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Mr Garrett from the YDNP had been approached and agreement would be given for open spaced indigenous hardwood trees about 15ft apart on the area to the south with a grant to pay for the trees. The field by the footpath and seat would be left open and a few individual trees planted further up the ghyll. There would be no expense to the village and there would be no need for fencing. It was hoped the local residents might take part in the planting and perhaps add their own commemorative trees. Mrs Holmes asked about grass cutting in the open areas and Mr K Longthorne was concerned about the management of the trees. This will be considered later. Cllr Wilson suggested an extra seat with a bit of path made accessible for the disabled. Mrs Hargraves thanked the Cllrs who had found space for a horse chestnut on Low Green. All those present gave their approval to proceed.

Further to the concern about speeding traffic on the B6265 the 95 Alive road safety partnership had done another check and found no excessive speeding so no action would be taken. It was suggested that the village might like to join the Community Speed Watch but after the Clerk read out the conditions and the need for at least 6 residents to be trained it was decided not to proceed. Mr Richards said it was a police matter and not for the residents to act as volunteers to do this.

The Toilet building was now to be taken on by Mr de Montfort and the lease with CDC ended. The Cllrs wished to thank him. He plans to open a unisex toilet and small art outlet. Mrs Hargraves said the village has long needed the toilets reopening for the many visitors. The Cllrs wish to thank Mrs L Bullough for the loss of the land she rented below the toilets.

Chairman's Report:

Cllr Joy said that all the work done by the Council in the last year was in the Parish newsletter. The Clerk will put spare copies in the telephone box now the shop is closed. He thanked the residents for their time and effort with the community shop.

Matters of Public Interest:

There are new Govt transparency rules and how HPC has to present its finances. For assistance the council will join the Yorkshire Local Councils Association and through them get funding to pay for a separate lap top for Parish affairs and for other new expenses.

The idea of the Freedom of Hebden to be given to Andy Hodge was well received and Cllr Coney will look into this.

Any other business:

Mr K Longthorne expressed a view that the village needed more flowers and to look tidier. Planting more daffodils will be discussed later in the year. Mrs Hargraves lamented there were fewer wild flowers. The Clerk suggested that wild flowers be planted by the wall on the verge opposite the chapel with only the front area being strimmed and this was agreed. Mrs Holmes asked about the closing of the permissive path from Edge House to Mr Richards hen pens. Apparently the gate is now padlocked. The Clerk will draft a letter to Mr T Kitching the owner of the land to explain its a long used path.

Mr Richards pointed out that the wild garlic is spreading down the field towards the beck but this will now be where trees are to be planted so will no longer be a pasture problem.

Mr K Longthorne said the drains needed clearing up the bank and the Clerk will contact Highways.

Mr Richards thanked the Cllrs for the street cleaning and work undertaken and Mrs Hargraves thanked them for the upkeep of the telephone box.

Cllr Joy thanked the residents for coming and there being no further business closed the meeting at 8.25pm.