

Hebden Parish Council Minutes
Annual General Meeting held Wednesday May 19th 2021 in the Institute at
7.30pm

Present: Cllrs, Joy, Coney, Ferguson, Sykes & Wilson

Apologies: None

Elected councillors signed a declaration of acceptance and took a code of conduct forms to complete later and return to the Clerk

Elect a Chairman

Cllr Joy was elected and signed a Chairman's declaration.

The Minutes of the meeting held 24th March 2021 by zoom, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Ideas about the new website: Cllr Longthorne had been looking at CMS systems but it was decided that first what must be included should be agreed to meet local requirements and to disseminate information to the local residents. Cllr Coney said the host name was registered and it is hosted on a server in his garage. After some discussion it was decided to form a sub-committee to consider a properly managed site and Cllr Coney and Cllr Sykes agreed to this and Cllr Coney will invite John Gardner to join and benefit from his expertise. Cllr Ferguson didn't want printed matter to be ignored and it was suggested that there is a quarterly Newsletter produced to keep the residents, without computer access, up to date about village matters.

Beck project update: The 20 alders planted are surviving. Cllr Sykes has mown a path around the trees on High Green. Cllr Joy said Ben White will cut the "meadow" in the next 2 weeks. If the cut isn't removed it will be raked off by villagers. As a deterrent to parking a strip of uncut grass will be left at the road side as the No Parking signs have not been replaced. The fence has now been erected the other side of the beck to keep sheep off High Green. The Clerk will talk to the Longthornes about putting an owl box in a tree on the Tip. The other box will be put up in the autumn perhaps on the barn up the beckside and owned by the Jowetts. Cllr Sykes will speak to Mr Jowett. Possibly one swift box might go on the bungalow of Mr K Longthorne and perhaps one on the Institute. Cllr Ferguson will put up the other boxes. Cllr Joy will ask the Whites about turning tractors over the Green and lay some gravel where necessary. Cllr Sykes has some more boulders he could put with assistance into the beck below the cafe. The Clerk will ask Mr Howick if some of the large stones by the recently repaired Bridge House beside the roadside could be used. Prof Grey will lay the tree kicker when he is next involved with the Project.

Query about a white line by Institute: Mr I Simpson had raised the problem of parked cars obstructing the notice board. Cllr Ferguson has spoken to Brook Street residents who frequently park there and explained this and the situation has improved. The need of a white line costing £250 was therefore dismissed.

Highways response to water on road and wall repairs: The Clerk will reply to their email stating that the Parish owns the land above the leak. She has looked at the section of walls fallen on the Stripe and Low Bank Side and taken a photo of the one on the Stripe. In the past Highways has repaired this wall as a hazard to the road collapsing into the field. It was at a higher point but Highways will be contacted again. The Longthornes will have to repair the wall on Low Bank Side.

Playground inspection and recommendations:- The annual inspection by ROSPA and the report pointed out trip hazards. To make it as safe as possible gravel had been placed in holes and some concrete blocks removed. The 2 swings in the middle were showing signs of

corrosion and wear. They will be replaced and the Clerk will look at the Sutcliffe website to find integral chair and chains. Cllr Coney will measure the height again. Mr de Montfort had mentioned putting 2 seats in the playground and had been asked to write a letter to the Council but one has not been received.

Follow up from “bog” onsite visit: The Residents will be told at their Annual about the plans to have this as protected area of peat and therefore ask they don't exercise their rights of turbarry. It was decided not to try to change this with the Charity Commission. The fence will be removed as a village project. The Council only has responsibility for the wall on the north side to left of the bridle way. In the past it has been repaired by the farmer with stock in the field beyond. There has been wear by farmers vehicles accessing these fields and turning through a gate. The Council will try to be discover the new owner, or who rents there, and to see if damage can be reduced. The Peat Partnership will be contacted by the Clerk to see if they can offer advice on how to improve the “bog”.

Wayleave over Whygill Gap: Mrs Pope had been informed about the 2 poles to be erected in the field and Cllr Joy signed the agreement with Openreach to allow this and the Council will get a one off payment of £315. Other wayleaves were looked at after Mrs Isaac asked about these. The Clerk gave out the up to date list. Cllr Ferguson raised a problem of a builder wanting to extend over the privilege road so the Council must make sure to protect this wayleave. The wayleave for lights fixed to buildings is owed by HPC since 01/01/21. The Cllrs agreed for £1 to be paid to those owed to cover the next 5 years. She will check with the new owners of Manor Hall to see if they own the barn opposite so they can be paid.

Correspondence: None

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 31/03/21	£2579.73
Bank statement s/a@ 31/03 /21	£13,870.54

Money received

Payments for approval

Approved at site meeting 02/04/21 by all Cllrs except Cllr Longthorne who was emailed.

MW Tree Services for cutting down 3 diseased ash	£1600.00
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as agreed before work started

Stuart Naylor grass cutting verge x 2 £60 +VAT £12	£72.00
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NYCC for street lighting- checked £184.63 +VAT £36.93	£221.56
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BHIB annual insurance	£328.72
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CDC uncontested election cost	£100.00
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The Report from the internal auditor was given to the Cllrs and the points raised noted. The Clerk handed out the latest spreadsheet of all the rpa grants showing the amount of money received and how this may change in the future. As yet DEFRA has not produced clear rules of how the farmers must use their land for grants to be awarded. The Clerk showed the Cllrs that she has prepared a spreadsheet to “ringfence” the Swinden NEF grant. She had explained to Mrs Isaac the YW rent was £5 per year and paid till 2024.

The AGAR Return was gone through. The exempt page was signed by the Chairman as the income was £12,684 and did not exceed £25,000 and will be posted to PKF Littlejohn. Mrs Isaac had signed the Internal Audit report. The Clerk read out the Governance statement and the Cllrs agreed to all the points listed and it was signed by the Chairman.

They agreed the Accounting statement and this was signed by the Chairman. These pages will be put on the web and also put up on the Notice Board. The Clerk gave the Cllrs the HPC own Governance Statement as written last year and still adhered to this year in compliance with the AGAR Return.

Any other matters

Cllr Wilson reported that there are to be free saplings made available to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and it will be followed up with a community planting.

Cllr Sykes suggested that Hebden should have a Local Plan involving the residents and their aspirations for the village. YDNPA have one but HPC should have our own policy and it was felt it would strengthen our position in planning matters with our own environmental and historic requirements. It will be raised at the annual local resident's meeting. Cllr Sykes said that there was a grant of £10,000 available and will look into this. To encourage a greater interest in attending this meeting it will also be posted on the village Facebook page and those who have shown interest in the Beck Project encouraged to attend. There will be coffee and biscuits organised.

Date of Resident's Meeting

Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 7.30pm in the Institute.

Date of next HPC Meeting

MONDAY 28th June 2021 7.30pm in the Institute

Signed.....

Date.....