

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Hebden Local electors
held Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 7.30pm in the Ibbotson Institute

Seven local electors present: Cllr D Joy(Chairman) Cllr G Coney, Cllr J Ferguson, Cllr S Sykes, Cllr L Wilson, Ms S Ely (Clerk)

Mrs L Morgan

Apologies: Mrs H Dye, Mrs D Joy, Mrs N Sykes, Mrs C Birtley

Cllr Joy introduced the Councillors.

The Chairman went through the Minutes of the meeting 2 years ago.(Covid cancelled last year)

The problem of water on the road up the gill by Town Hill is still being discussed with Highways. The condition of the bridle path has been solved by tarmac put down by the Longthornes. The potholes in the main road have been repaired and a new surface laid. The toilets are still not progressing as the asbestos has not been removed. There are no easy solutions to the parking and various ideas have been investigated in the past. The cast iron guttering on the bus shelter has disappeared but a plastic replacement will be fitted. There are still some cars speeding along Brayshaw Lane as it is a satnav error. It is used by the 72B bus and the refuse vans so its not possible to put up an Access Only sign. To keep speed passing through the village it is suggested to erect the 30mph down by Hodges Row. The Clerk will contact Highways. Also the dog waste bin be moved to the bottom of the hill and move the one by the main road to be put near the kissing gate. Broadband has slightly improved but is still not good all round the village and fluctuates. The Clerk had contacted Open Reach about this problem but received no response. The “jungle” of snowberries between the two bridges has been cleared as part of the Beck Project.

The Chairman's Report: Cllr Joy said that the sudden death of Cllr Hodge was a great loss to the Council and he was a great asset to the village and is much missed. The death of Mr Wilf Hargraves was also a sad loss as he had worked for the village over a lifetime. There were thanks to Cllr Longthorne who had to resign as he now lives in Cambodia but has helped with the website and is still keeping in touch. He thanked the Clerk and also Cllr Coney for the work undertaken with Mr J Gardner on painting the bridge markers and protecting the historic heritage of the village.

The Chairman pointed to the Newsletter for further information.

Following on from the ROSPA report on the playground the Cllrs have decided they will repair the two middle swings and have a cost of £433 from Sutcliffe Play so will now go ahead and order the new chains and seats. It was thought the existing swings are over 10 years old so hopefully the new ones will do as well.

There is a request to support the 72A Venturer bus service that connects Hebden with the bus to Skipton. It is noted that the morning 9am bus is no longer on the timetable. The Clerk will write giving the council's support and query the missing morning connection.

The income from grants from Defra and the rpa are an important source of money and pays for lighting and other expenses. The Govt is considering major changes to grants for farmers and land management so HPC will keep this under review.

There were no controversial planning applications in the last year and the only objection previously was to light pollution from the Linton Camp development but the hotel complex is now to be built below land level.

The village defibrillator is regularly tested by Mr M de Montfort and a new battery was bought.

Matters Arising:

Beck Project: The Swinden Quarry grant of over £6000 has been used to improve the beck environment with 20 alders having been planted, boulders put in the shallows in Low Green, grass cutting on the “meadow” with removal of the cut, all of which has been undertaken with the help of local residents. Ash die back will make a sad change to the look of the gill and the Dales. Three ash trees on Parish land have had to be felled for safety reasons. HPC had the trees checked for safety which resulted in this felling. There will be further inspections in the future. Laura Mercer of YDMT gives advice about flower meadows and we may contact her if necessary. She says to avoid spraying. Ben White cut the grass and will cut again. Payment for this was made to him last year. The stones put to stop parking will be removed and put in a pile until it is decided if parking on the High Green becomes a renewed problem. Stones were taken from around the bridge marker from spare building material of Bridge House. The Clerk will write thanks to Mr C Howick. Prof Grey will be contacted to give the indoor training when Covid rules allow. There is the annual need to trim around the two seats on High Green and Cllr Coney will ask Mr I Simpson if he will do it again this year. The thistle and nettles by the road side up the gill will be scythed by Cllr Sykes. The public footpath by the beckside from Brook Street is very overgrown so the Clerk will contact YDNPA.

The nest boxes were on display and will be put up around the village. They will be monitored and the village kept informed of their use.

Memorial Trees on High Green: A draft written policy will be undertaken by Cllr Ferguson stating that the Council must give consent on their land and the terms for the planting. This can be discussed at a later meeting. The Clerk will speak to Mr R Holmes about the flower planted and plaque put up beside the tree on High Green by Sandra in memory of Martin Fretwell

A Village Plan: This would hope to involve the villagers and increase enthusiasm for the development and direction they want for Hebden. The Localism Act is to encourage a greater involvement of Parish Councils. If we had such a plan then it would be possible to get more attention from YDNPA planners on how the village will look and maintain its historic appearance. Cllr Joy will look at a plan near Selby and report back.

Parking: This has increased as tourism has grown in the area. It will be further discussed at the next Parish Meeting.

Matters Of Public interest: Mrs Morgan wanted to know how we could get new people to the village involved. There is the monthly coffee morning but that doesn't attract the younger residents. There is to be a Street Party after Freedom Day ! There might be one again next year to celebrate the Queen's reign of 70 years plus a village tree planting ceremony.

The Rights of Turbary are no longer being exercised and no legal action will be taken to overturn these rights. To improve the condition of the “bog” the clerk had attempted to get advice from the Peat Partnership but repeated phone calls and an email had not resulted in any response. The fence will be removed as a community project. The state of the bridle way will be looked at again.

Mrs Birtley had suggested to Cllr Ferguson that there be a village orchard and suggested it being planted at the top of Low Bank Side providing blossom for bees and insects and fruit for the village. It will be discussed further at the next Parish meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

There was no demand for the proffered coffee and biscuits.