

Hebden Parish Council Minutes

Meeting held Wednesday 17th November 2021 in the Institute at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: None

The Chairman told the Council that with regret Mr Arthur Stockdale had died as a result of an accident. He had been a Councillor since 1955 and served the village for 61 years. He was always an Independent Councillor and was a true countryman and farmer whose expertise and knowledge was always appreciated. He retired only recently. The Council gave thanks for his long service and were saddened at his sudden death.

The Chairman then introduced Tony Serjeant from the YDNPA. There had been a complaint from Prof Grey about the Swinden grant and how HPC was using it. Cllr Sykes had phoned Prof Grey and they decided there had been some misunderstanding and communication difficulties that were to be addressed. He offered to be the Cllr who would keep him informed and act as co-ordinator to the project and will meet him to discuss it. Cllr Sykes said there wanted to be greater involvement with the village and is hoping to form an environmental group of interested residents. Mr Serjeant had met the Clerk on the 15th and looked at the work so far completed. He told the Cllrs how he had to look after the way the grants was being spent but he had no overall objection to what had been done and he was happy with the work and village involvement so far considering the interruptions due to Covid..

The Clerk said she'd moved most of the cuttings from the bank that had upset the Prof. Mr Serjeant said there might be help in removal of the cuttings this one occasion if not taken as mulch by the residents. The boulder issue would be considered before next April when it would be best to place them in the beck and with ideas on their source and the logistics in getting them in place. The Clerk reassured the Cllrs that having been granted a licence then it followed there was no danger in flooding. Regarding the training sessions Mr Serjeant thought he might be able to contact the Riverfly Partnership if needed. The main concern was to move forward and continue with the work of the project. More trees are to be ordered and in the future an orchard is being considered which pleased Mr Serjeant, who said there might be funding for it. The Chairman thanked him for his time and he left.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 6th October 2021, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:

New Parish Council Website Update

A purchase order has now been raised with York UK Hosting for the registration of the hebdenparishcouncil.gov.uk domain and WordPress hosting. Domain registration and site setup will now proceed.

Hebden History Website

Cllr Coney said he thought HPC should take on ownership of the Hebden History Site domain and the hosting in HPC's name. He has discussed this with John Gardner and John is happy with this proposal and will do what is required to register and transfer the site. John plans to register a new domain (hebdenhistory.uk). John would still maintain the site contents as at present but the site and domain hosting would be registered to HPC. Thus the site would be preserved in perpetuity.

He said that HPC don't need to do anything except agree to this. Once they have done so John will do the rest. John will retain all management of the site, the only difference being that the domain and site hosting will be in HPC's name.

It will cost about £15 a year, John would be happy to pay that as long as he is involved with it.

The material on the site is effectively copy-left, and John would like it to remain so.

If we agree to this then Cllr Coney said we should also secure the site files and source document scans in an offsite backup in the firesafe (to be discussed). John has agreed to this if we take ownership of the site. Cllr Coney will investigate the best storage medium for long-term storage.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gardener for his offer. All councillors agreed to this proposal.

Old maps – further ideas for their safe keeping: With digitising the maps the Clerk will now look into smaller, less expensive fire proof cupboards in which to keep the old Minutes and other documents and the Hebden History back up files.

Backstone Edge Lane and the underpass: In the absence of quotes from those to whom the Clerk had written the Clerk met Mr J Walmsley and they had looked at the holes in the underpass. There were now gaps on both sides of the lane. Mr Walmsley said he would give a quote to fill both ends with rubble. He felt the middle section bridged with slabs was safe. The Clerk went up the following day to put hazard tape around the new holes.

Trees to be ordered and planted: It was decided to ask Hedgerow to get 10 more alders, 15 gueldar roses, 5 spindles, 3 willows and a specimen beech all from local native stock. Stakes and guards will not be required. The Clerk will give Nigel the order.

Memorial gift from Al Nettleton -further suggestions: Residents had responded with more flowers, some new playground equipment, solar powered speed limit sign, and heritage work to be done on the repair of the kissing gate by the cafe thought to have been made by William Bell, village blacksmith of the 19th century. A plaque would be put up to state this. The Council is considering this latter suggestion and will consult the village and the Clerk will talk to Al.

NYCC and default 20mph in the village: This was to engage as many villages as possible in the NYCC to have this as a default speed. There was some discussion about this being a national campaign and it was noted cyclists are exempt from speed limits! The proposal is Hebden PC supports the implementation of 20mph as the default speed limit for our parish and all the urban and village streets in North Yorkshire where people live, work, shop, play and learn. This Parish Council will write to the Leader and Cabinet Member for the Highway Authority (currently NYCC) to implement a county wide policy on this issue to support 20mph as the default limit with higher limits only where the needs of vulnerable road users are fully taken into account. The Cllrs agreed to this motion.

To avoid any political bias the Clerk will contact Highways after the Police Commissioner election and Cllr Coney will also follow this up.

CDC Tourism questionnaire: Cllr Coney had circulated his comments and the Council were happy for him to send in the response. (See attached)

Correspondence:

Letter from Mrs Jowett regarding a gate: This would entail vehicular access and hard core across the Village Green. The Clerk reminded the Cllrs that an easement had to be given at Rowan Cottage in the ghyll for vehicular access across the Green. There will be a site visit to see if an alternative cannot be agreed

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 01/10/21	£1683.46
Bank statement s/a@ 01/10/21	£11871.20

Money received

Powergrid -wayleaves £105.82

Payments for approval

S Naylor cut verge £20-cut playground £12.50 +£6.50 VAT £39.00

Playsafety for playground ROSPA inspection £68.50 +VAT
£13.70 £82.20

Charity Return Figures

The Clerk gave the Cllrs the spread sheet showing the income and expenditure for the 2 charities and explained the workings to the Cllrs. The figures were cross referenced to the year end summary. They were agreed so the Clerk will complete the online CC Year End Return.

Any other matters

Bulk buying of oil – Cllr Sykes said that other villages had done this. If residents sign up to it, then the best price is obtained from a supplier and this is the savings available to those residents. It had been considered before but was felt it wasn't really a Parish matter.

He has been working on how to apply for grant aid in producing a Local Plan. The Cllrs agreed he should continue. He didn't think all of the £10,000 available would be needed but thought £3000 would suffice.

Cllr Ferguson noted a hole in the road at the bottom of the ghyll and the Clerk replied she had contacted Highways twice about this hazard. He wanted to know if Hartlington Fencing had given a date. No, but the Clerk will phone them. He asked if the letter to the tenants had brought results regarding weeds. The Stripe has been cleared as a start.

Cllr Coney had attended the YDNP Forum and CANS (Councils against Noise and Speed) and sustainability and partnerships were discussed. There were some funds for Village Halls to make them more energy efficient. Regarding the Dark Skies at Night project there was advice to be had for the village to become less “light polluting”. This could be followed up at a later meeting.

Cllr Wilson was concerned that at least 2 vehicles had driven on to the meadow area. Replacing the stones and the No Parking signs was discussed but it was decided to leave it for the present and to monitor the situation.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 5th January 2022

at 7.30pm in the Ibbotson Institute

Signed.....

Date.....