

Hebden Parish Council Minutes

Meeting held Wednesday 30th March 2022 in the Institute at 7.30pm

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

Apologies:

Ms Hannah Kay of the YDNPA Dark Skies Project was introduced and she told the Cllrs about the dark sky reserve with the best area being in the centre of the Dales while here in Hebden we're in the buffer zone. Outside lights are best pointed down and on a timer or motion sensor. She gave out leaflets explaining these points that will be displayed on the notice board and on the village Facebook page. There is some grant funding available for targeted lighting improvement for non-residential sites in the park. This could be a village hall, a pub or a sports centre for example. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority would fund a full audit on the property and then offer funding for recommended lighting improvements to make properties 'dark sky friendly'. Of course this would help reduce light pollution; but also remember that more efficient lighting reduces energy usage and as a result can have a considerable positive financial impact.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 16th February 2022, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising

Update on the kissing gate and wording for the plaque: After sheep getting into the field it is now empty again and the pallet removed. Chris Foster has given the gate 2 coats and is waiting for it to dry. Paul Walker is due back from his holiday next week so hopefully will complete the job of the other section. Cllr Sykes will make a temporary wooden cover so it can be painted in situ. The wording was agreed for the plaque and it was discussed how best to attach it to a wooden base. Two shops in Skipton will be asked about costs for the plaque probably made of brass. Cllr Sykes will look at where best to put it on the wall near the gate. The Clerk had received the kind donation of £1000 from Mr A Nettleton.

Further advice about the HLS for the Upland blanket bog and Claim form from rpa: Advice from both the YDNPA and David Hill agreed that the AG00412213 agreement would not be extended and that to apply for the Higher Tier grant for the Allotment would not be feasible as Natural England wanted greater management of the site with contractors stopping up grips and its being part of "landscape" improvement. Hettie Evans from David Hill suggested the Council looks at the Mid Tier rpa grants for next year and made some suggestion. High Green is no longer in the present scheme but the Clerk will see if it can be added as woodland. On this lower level it might be possible to get the Allotment wall to the left of the bridleway repaired. Cllr Sykes has a contact who could use his drone to survey the Allotment for signs of water runoff.

Poles on Whygill Gap: There are only 2 poles as per the wayleave but the Clerk had been in touch with Openreach about the lack of warning for when the contractors would be busy in the field. The wiring was supposed to have been completed Monday but wasn't so they will have to return. The tenant will be told of this as she will be wanting to put her horses in the field.

Walls on Low Bank Side: Cllr Ferguson had noted 2 gaps in the field, one on the Craig Mar Lane and the other on the stretch leading towards Thors Ghyll where repairs had been made last year. The Clerk will have a word with Mr G Herd and Mr A McGowan. Cllr Wilson explained that the gap by the bottom gate has been partly blocked so sheep can't get into Low Green again.

The wall opposite Chapel Garth had been reported as unstable. There are some stones that have fallen out on the field side. The Clerk will ask Nigel Fairbanks to put them back and make it secure.

River quality training at Addingham: This had been an excellent meeting on 26th March attended by

4 Hebden residents and all had been given guides to keep and Mrs Liv Hodge has the test kits in her garage. It is hoped that after Prof Grey has suggested suitable test sites on the beck, an interested group will take monthly records to be entered on a website monitoring water quality in the rivers and becks in Yorkshire. The Clerk is still trying to locate boulders to put in the beck and to be directed by Prof Grey. It was suggested that Longthornes be approached for help. The 2 remaining swift boxes have been put up on Mr J Simpkin's barn at Moorside Farm.

Tree felling : After unanswered phone calls the Clerk had called at Webbers to see why the work hadn't been done. She was told 2 employees had covid and one had left and Mr Webber was in the Lake District. Later he phoned and said he hoped to be able to bring the cherry picker needed from the Lake District and do the work this coming week. He said he'd check for bird and bat nests.

Dog waste bins locations: There are 3 in the village. It was decided to move one from the bridge and put it near the kissing gate for dog walkers coming up the footpath there. The Clerk will contact CDC to propose this move on to the BT post there.

Correspondence: None

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 25/03/22	£ 2292.26
Bank statement s/a@ 25/03/22	£14,871.84

Money received

Payments for approval

Walmsley for work on Backstone Edge Lane £530+VAT£106	£636.00
Reimburse S Ely for primer and paint £112.46+VAT £22.49	£134.95
S Ely salary 30/09/21 to 31/03/22	£500.00
S Ely Exps for above	£ 9.87
YLCA annual subs	£ 128.00
Riverfly training day and sampling kits	£ 200.00

Internal audit – The Clerk will write a letter to Mrs Isaac asking her to do this work again.

Further update about MTD VAT: This had been far from easy as stated on the HMRC letter. The main problem being that Excel isn't a recognised format for the new system. Many companies are offering their services. The Clerk has found one that will “bridge” Excel to the approved system for free. Once the VAT Return for 2021 to 2022 has been sent in the Clerk will register using this ANNA conversion and will keep the VAT records for the coming year as they suggest. The added problem was explaining HPC makes only one annual VAT Return.

Any other matters

Cllr Sykes will meet with Cllr Coney to discuss the new website to get it up and running before Cllr Coney no longer stands for election. The format of the Minutes is still to be agreed. The old website is to be redirected to the new one.

The confusion over the land Mr R Stockdale had been suggesting he donate is now resolved. This was the stretch outside Thors Ghyll and it has been established and agreed by Mr R Stockdale that HPC already owns the land. Mr Stockdale's deeds give him access down Low Bank Side.

It was noted the bank is falling into the beck near the footbridge and it will need to be monitored.

Cllr Coney had varnished the 2 “Soft Ground” signs the Clerk had collected from Colvend and for which work he was thanked. Cllr Joy agreed to meet Cllr Sykes so they can be positioned on High Green slightly back from the road so not to upset the local farmers.

Cllr Joy thanked Cllr Coney for all the work he has done for the Council and village and all the Cllrs and Clerk regretted that he had decided not to stand again at the coming election.

It was felt that any spare kissing gate paint could be used on the other gate by the playground entrance. It was suggested the actual structures in the playground be repainted before the June 3rd village celebrations. Also the Under 14 sign needs painting to be clearer to visitors. The empty trough might wait for the Village Action Environmental Group to be formed before being filled.

Vehicles had driven over Low Bank Side while the ground was soft. Mr Longthorne had asked for permission for a gravel track over to the corner of land in the past and showed a letter from the previous owner but he had not followed it up with a written request and the Council wouldn't accept the letter as evidence of any rights. It is hoped this doesn't become a frequent field damaging problem.

Cllr Ferguson was monitoring the road repairs in the gill on the Highways website which implied the work was “resolved” which it clearly isn't. It will be reported again.

The side of David Ogilvie's shed has now fallen off so Cllrs Ferguson and Sykes will put the tools into his stone built shed.

Cllr Wilson reported that the drains by the main road bridge have filled with gravel after the storms. Highways will be informed by Cllr Ferguson and the Clerk.

Cllr Coney asked about the fireproof box and the Clerk explained she was waiting to hear from Mr Foster about the paperwork he'd received from Mr K Longthorne and the size now needed for this with the books in the archive cupboard. The mines map should go to NYCC archive office so the Clerk will check this out.

Mr Gardener is still managing the Hebden History site and there are copies of the site login details with Cllr Coney and the Clerk. Cllr Coney will also give a copy of the site login details to Cllr Sykes. It was thought a good idea to get a couple of memory sticks and put one in the fireproof box.

Cllr Sykes had been asked about having more flowers in the village. This had been raised before with daffodil planting and it was said then that it should only be within the main village. It was said then that Hebden is a “working village”. It can be discussed by the Village Action Group with their ideas brought back to the Council.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 11th May 2022
at 7.30pm in the Ibbotson Institute

The Residents Annual Meeting followed by the
Acceptance and Meeting of the newly elected Councillors

Signed.....

Date.....