

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Hebden Local Electors
held Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Ibbotson
Institute**

Fifteen local electors present: Cllr D Joy(Chairman) Cllr C Davey, Cllr J Ferguson, Cllr S Sykes, Cllr L Wilson, Ms S Ely (Clerk)

Mr I Simpson, Mrs C Birtley, Mr G Coney, Mrs L Hodge, Mrs P Hodgkins, Mr C Goodwin, Mr T Flynn, Mrs R Lilley, Mr K Horn.

Apologies: Mrs G Isaac, Mr & Mrs Wiegand, Mrs L Morgan, Mrs M Hargraves

Cllr Joy introduced the Councillors and the new member Cllr C Davey.

The Minutes of the last year's meeting held 16th June 2021 were read and Mr G Coney proposed acceptance and this was seconded by Cllr Sykes.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work for the Council. He referred the residents to the Newsletter for much that the Council has been doing. He made a comment on the cost of street lighting and the Clerk added that this is much reduced by the work previously done.

He said that the situation with grants from the Govt has become complex and is not helpful to rural areas. The new ELM (Environmental Land Management) has not been spelt out clearly. HPC is unusual in owning land and has been seeking professional help and with the Clerk looking at the new options. He said that the Council will do its best.

He was pleased at the return of the Village Sport's Day which the Chairman Cllr Sykes said was due to go ahead again this year.

Ash die back was becoming more obvious as the trees came into leaf. The Council has had to have some trees felled as a safety issue.

Matters Arising:

Beck Project: Mr T Serjeant from YDNPA and Professor Grey have been assisting with this work. Cllr Sykes explained the money came from Swinden Quarry to help communities improve their environment.

Four from the village attended a Riverfly training day at Addingham to learn how to recognise 8 river flies that indicate the quality of the water. This will be "cascaded down" to members of the village and the results put on a national data base. All the work so far undertaken is to improve the water to encourage more insects, birds and fish. The alders planted have withstood the floods and further planting is planned. Prof Grey requested boulders to be placed in the beck to create eddies and pools. To date no suitable stone has been located and the quarry area owned by the village hasn't been worked in the last 120 years so has nothing

suitable. The Council is still working on it.

Bird, bat and owl boxes have been put up around the village but as yet its not known if they have been occupied.

On High Green last year the grass was cut twice on the meadow area with it being raked off by local residents. This Friday at 5pm Catherine Mercer from YDMT is coming to advise us on how best to encourage wild flowers to generate in the meadow.

It is hoped to set up a specific action environmental group as suggested by Mrs Ros Lilley. They would then support the work of the Cllrs. It was decided to arrange a meeting soon to set out the parameters and a date was discussed when the Institute would be free and willing members available.

The proposal for a village orchard on Low Bank Side to provide flowers for insects and fruit for the residents is being looked into. With the land tenancy due to expire next January the site and size would need to be decided on before then. Access and maintenance will also have to be considered. The new group will look at this proposal and see if the village wants an orchard and where to put it, then come back to the Council. Mr Coney queried the position regarding the Charity status but as it will still be land in production it wasn't thought a problem.

Matters of Public Interest:

The kissing gate is being renovated thanks to a generous donation of £1000 from Mr A Nettleton in memory of his parents who had owned a cottage here for many years. Mr C Foster kindly offered to paint it and has applied 5 coats to the gate. Further work is yet to be done.

Hannah Kay from the YDNPA Dark Skies Project had come to a meeting and explained that there were grants available to reduce light pollution.

The underpass on Backstone Edge was in urgent need of repair and this has been done. The 21 hectares of the upland bog in the Backstone Edge Allotment contains many interesting bog plants and had received a special grant. Disputed by the Clerk with the Natural England representative this has been lost but she hopes to be able to claim a lower category grant.

The Rights of Turbary allowing peat extraction to freeholders of the village is being considered. The possibility of rescinding the rights will be investigated with the Charity Commission to see if it is legally possible. There may have to be a public meeting with the residents accepting this loss of their rights. Mr I Simpson said that peat cutting was a sensitive area.

Mrs Hodgkins has been looking after the troughs and explained the

problem of the lack of light and need for watering in dry spells. This will be taken over by the new action group. She had been asked by Clare Appleton if the village might make a Time Capsule for the Jubilee and she would donate a mask and testing kit! This will be further discussed.

Mr I Simpson said that on the Boundary Walk last year to commemorate Peter Hodge, there were a lot of spent cartridges in Gate Up Gill. While this isn't Parish land a letter will be sent to the Grimwith Shoot as this littering is bad practice. He also stated that there was a problem with parked vehicles obstructing the bus on Church Lane and at the corner. This had been a problem last year and the Clerk had contacted the Police and Highways about no parking bollards but with no success. Buses and CDC waste collection lorries have a right to access this route so it will be followed up. He pointed out that the boards behind the seat at the corner of Back Lane and the main road down the village are rotten. He wasn't sure what lay behind but thought it might be a drain. He was thanked for this information but it is not Parish land so not its responsibility.

Mrs R Lilley said that when there was interest in participating in the village meadow activities there was only short notice given. The Chairman explained that this was because the work was weather and farmer dependent. It is hoped future community work is more structured and would be put on the new website under News. She thanked the Clerk for her work on the wild flower verge.

Mr C Goodwin suggested that ferns would make good shade loving plants for the troughs but would need watering. He also expressed concern at the rut on the roadside on the way to Grassington near the old hospital site which he considered a danger to cars should they leave the tarmac. The Council will look into it.

Cllr Ferguson asked what should be done about the broken bench by the bridge as Mr J Henfrey did not want to replace it. This will be put on the next Agenda.

There will be a tree planting ceremony on the day of the Jubilee Street party with the tree donated by Cllr Ferguson planted on land below the cafe in sight of the road. There was a mention of putting the Time Capsule in the ground there at the same time.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those who had attended and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.