

Hebden Parish Council Minutes

Annual General Meeting held Wednesday May 11th 2022 in the Institute after the Electorate AGM

Present: Cllrs, Joy, Davis, 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 Sykes nominated Cllr Joy and Cllr Wilson seconded

Cllr Joy was elected and signed a Chairman's declaration. He said he felt there should be a Vice Chairman as he does not live in the centre of the village and is not up to the new internet speeds.

The Minutes of the meeting held 30th March 2022, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Update on the new website: Mr Coney was thanked again for all the work he had done into setting this up. The Clerk and Cllr Sykes had been learning how to input material. It was thought the front page needed new wording so ideas welcome. The documents will be updated regularly as before with Agendas and Minutes. Cllr Sykes will post in News matters of village interest. Email addresses all take the format of .gov.uk and will be sent on automatically to the individual Cllr's email so these are kept private. If a Cllr replies it will be from their own email address so if they don't want this then contact the Clerk.

Beck Project:

There is still the boulder problem to sort out with Prof Grey wanting larger ones than have already been put in the beck. These would be bigger and about 1m x300cm x300cm for which he has the licence for 30. So far none have been located. The Cllrs decided to amend the number to 10. Swinden Quarry provided the money but as it won't be a local person who managed it, there has been no reply to the Clerk. Cllr Sykes spoke to the Longthornes and they might be able to help with stones from the Greenhow Quarry. The Clerk will check with Tony Serjeant if boulders from there will be acceptable. There is the difficulty of getting these heavy stones into the beck and this is an on going council debate.

Cllr Ferguson pointed out that the river gates were rotten. He thought old telegraph poles could be used in repairs. The question of who was responsible for their upkeep resulted in a plan for a site visit in the future. Cllr Sykes will talk to Mr R Stockdale about this matter

The meadow cuttings were to be removed to the compost bin at Colvend but this hasn't happened. The Clerk will contact the Phil Richards to see what can be done. In the future it was suggested the cutting were given to feed the Cafe's goats. At the meeting on Friday Catherine Mercer will be asked to advise on this as well as how to encourage wild flowers.

Ideas with Hettie Evans about the ELM and grants in the future:

The Clerk gave the Cllrs a spreadsheet showing how much grant money had been received in the last 10 years. The BPS is being reduced then withdrawn over the next few years. Natural England had refused to give a year's extension and said that the Higher level payment would not be given in the future as the Allotment of the upland bog didn't meet their new requirements. The Clerk has been looking at Middle Tier grants and had written to Hettie with maps and ideas about what the Council might apply for and with the plan to bring back in High Green as a ELM. It is ongoing.

Ash die back and Webber's estimate:

The Clerk had an estimate of £450 +VAT to fell the trees near the beck opposite Brook Street and the dead rowan in the Old Tip. This is again a reduced price for being the local council. It was agreed to accept this cost. In the autumn trees will have to be planted to replace those felled. Webbers had some spare whips so the Clerk will call in with the acceptance and see if they are still there.

Painting the kissing gate:

Chris Foster has applied 5 coats with a week to dry between. Cllr Sykes has made a temporary gate and been assisting Chris. Special masking tape was requested and the Clerk bought some. Cllr Sykes now has the brass plaque costing £95.

Relocate the dog waste bin:

The Clerk had been told by CDC that the new position by the kissing gate was acceptable but they wanted the bin from below Hebden Park moving up and not the bridge one moving down as they said the lower one was used a lot less. Cllr Wilson said she used it. In the end the Clerk left it to the Cllrs to decide and move it.

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 05/05/22	£987.44
Bank statement s/a@ 05/05/22	£14,871.84

Money received

Payments for approval

Approved by email by all the Cllrs and paid	
Webber for felling the ash trees £950 +VAT £180	£1080.00
NYCC for street lighting £196.63+VAT 339.33	£ 235.96
BHIB annual insurance	£363.96
Reimburse S Sykes for brass plaque	£ 95.00
Reimburse G Coney for web expenses	£70.56
Reimburse S Ely special masking tape	£19.00

End of year summary and AGAR report:

The Cllrs agreed to apply for an exemption as the income was less than £25,000 and the form was signed. The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement and the Cllrs agreed the safeguards had all been met. The Clerk also referred the Cllrs to the governance statement she had written earlier and given to all the Cllrs. She then handed out the Year End Summary and they studied it. From those figures the Accounting Statement was checked and agreed. The statements were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. All the books and relevant papers will be given to Mrs Isaac for the Internal Audit when she returns from her holiday.

Any other matters:

Cllr Joy said the broken bench should either be repaired or removed with perhaps a new replacement. Cllr Sykes thought it should be repaired. It was decided to ask the Sports Committee if they would pay for a replacement. The Clerk will contact Phil Richards at Colvend to see if they might have a use for the unbroken parts.

The query about the old seat at the road junction and the rotten boarding will be passed to the new group. There may be a spring behind.

Cllr Wilson wanted the orchard to be at the bottom of Low Bank Side but the Chairman explained this would be for the new group to discuss and to come back to the Council.

Cllr Ferguson said his tree ready to plant on Friday June 3rd would need staking and a stock proof guard as it is 20 years old and quite large. This will have to be organised before the official planting.

**Date of next meeting
Wednesday June 22nd
in the Ibbotson Institute at 7.30pm**