

## **Hebden Parish Council Minutes**

### **Meeting held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Present: Cllrs, Joy, Cllr Davey, Cllr Ferguson, Cllr Sykes Cllr Wilson

Apologies: None

The Minutes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

#### Matters Arising:

Follow up on Parking in the Tip with electric charging points. This would need planning consent. Before any expense on this is incurred the Clerk will check with Highways as, in a previous consideration of building houses there, they said access could not be on to the main road. If the Council finds it can proceed Longthornes will need to be informed that they can't rent the Old Tip from next May. While the Govt funds 60% of the cost the balance will have to be found by the Council or a private company. Any charges will incur VAT.

The Chapel as a "Nominated asset of the village". Cllr Sykes had not been able to contact Mr Buckley. The suggestion is it would make workshops and so encourage employment and a younger village occupancy. Cllr Wilson said she thought it was not a viable site for workshops as there is already a parking problem in the village and she wasn't aware of such a need. Cllr Sykes said he's been asked about space for workshops.

All the Cllrs agreed it was a shame to see the building stand empty and deteriorating.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Buckley saying that it was formally raised at a Parish Meeting and that:

The Parish Council considers the building is underused and there is a need for local residential and /or work space to help keep young families here. As such they are interested in his plans for the building.

The Community Orchard and other land issues. There has been lots of support and the Clerk has a grant application form from the YDNPA for more Swinden money. Hartlington Fencing had been unable to give a price for fencing as they are short of staff and are not even considering any new work before the summer. The Clerk has contacted Benson's in Cracoe but they need more information before they can give a price guidance. Cllr Sykes will measure the lengths for the 2 plots and small enclosures. They agreed to also ask for quotes for 2 gates like the one below the toilets.

Before the Land letting it will have to be made clear that Low Bank Side has a slightly reduced area because of the Community Orchard. Cllr Ferguson is looking into tree varieties and will take advice on this. It will not be before next Autumn that the trees will be planted and local farmers and residents will be asked if they wish to buy trees at the same time.

It was noted that the meadow had been mown by Stuart Naylor. Now the nettles are dying back it is hoped to spread some of the cuttings as mulch around the 100 trees in High Green. Next year we might need a cut by Ben White for when the grass is higher and by Stuart Naylor thus having a

combination of cutting.

Prof Grey has not replied to Cllr Sykes so there is still outstanding work to be done on the Beck Project.

The Dark Skies meeting is booked for next Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November with notices having been up on the notice board for a while. The Clerk will ask Pat to send out an email as a reminder. It is hoped to encourage businesses, the Parish and locals to reduce light pollution.

Painting the playground equipment. Clive and Rosemary did a good job painting the kissing gate by the playground and have also cleared the entrance and made it more accessible. They will be asked if they can get the same paint for the playground and the Council will reimburse them. The equipment will need wire brushing first. HEAT have offered to help. The Clerk has been told the new wooden sign should be printed off on the new machine at Colvend shortly. She will see if there are any No Dogs Allowed signs to be had from there. A gate at the Tea Room end is to be considered.

The Eye on the Bog with the Peat Partnership. Update on the Charity Commission response to removing the rights of turbarry. The monitoring equipment has been set up with the help of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership. It will be checked and recorded twice a year. The next visit by the volunteers will be in the spring. Cllr Sykes will design a sign to discourage any vehicles from crossing the moor.

He has received a 4 page reply from the Charity Commission about the Turbarry Rights. We need to make a proposal of wording so the new use of the land is to the benefit of the village.

C/41/142 Hebden Hall Farm planning application. Cllr Sykes has written as a neighbour. The Council has received letters from next door at Crag House and from the Herds. Cllr Joy pointed out that permission has already been given for a new barn as it is a dairy farm wishing to expand its herd. If this was granted they would have to apply for another new barn. Cllr Davey said the condition of the property had been improved with newly painted doors and the area tidied. It was in regular agricultural use. Cllr Wilson said that access on the bend in the road was poor as Highways may yet state.

None of the Cllrs wanted it to become another holiday let and Cllr Joy said it as an open ended application regarding future use. All the Cllrs objected to this application and the Clerk will draft a letter to the Planning Dept for their approval before posting it on the YDNPA Portal.

Communication from Mr J Gardner about the Hebden History Site and use of memory sticks plus ancient Parish Correspondence he has given to the Clerk. This has been resolved between Mr Gardner and Cllr Sykes with the memory sticks kept in a metal waterproof box. He will have it updated every 6 months.

The Clerk showed the Cllrs one of the boxes of papers Mr Gardner had left with the Clerk. They had come from Mr K Longthorne who has been returning Parish papers he had at his home. For the present they will go in the Archive cupboard until such time as they can be looked at more thoroughly. The Clerk had not been able to find a suitable fireproof cupboard nor place to store it. She will ask neighbouring Parish Councils how they store their records. It could

be possible to have a Community Archive storage cupboard for Upper Wharfedale. The Sustainable Grant from the YDNPA might be considered to pay for it.

The Clerk backs up HPC records about once a month on to 2 separate memory sticks.

#### Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 01/11/22	£3014.16
Bank statement s/a@ 01/11/22	£10,876.07
<u>Money received</u>	
Northern Powergrid wayleaves	£103.85

#### Payments for approval

Stuart Naylor grass cutting verge x2 Sept £48	
playground x2 Sept £30.00 plus VAT £15.60	£93.60
Stuart Naylor for mowing the meadow and part of High green	
£144.00+VAT £28.80	£172.80

The Precept figures for next year for NYC ( not CDC) wanted for 31/12/22 had previously been sent to the Cllrs for their consideration. It was agreed that there was some uncertainty about future grants and the income from the new 3 year letting tenancies. However they decided that for the coming year no precept would be requested and the Clerk signed the new form.

#### Any other matters

The rpa and AG 00412213/202 The Clerk had received a phone call from a Mr Neil Thompson who had been asked by Natural England to look at our fields. He originally thought we had applied for an agreement extension but when told HPC had been refused this he had to go back to Natural England. The Clerk said that the grant terminated at the end of this month so she was rather confused as to why he should be wanting to make an appointment now to see her and to be shown the fields. He said he had his instructions so we agreed next Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm by the Institute. The Clerk will contact Hettie at Hill's to see if she knows what is going on!

Future of St Peter's Church – how to keep it as the village church. Mrs Davey had sent a letter round to the residents asking their opinion regarding the future use of the Church. Since Covid there have been no regular services. The suggestion being that there are at least 4 services a year with weddings plus funerals and organ recitals. The organ is a wonderful example of its period and is listed. Organists come from Newcastle and beyond to play it. If closed and named a Historic Church it will be locked and never opened again and left to deteriorate. It comes down to costs as the Dioceses pays nothing for the upkeep. Cllr Ferguson felt there should be a meeting in the Church to try to get more services for those residents who were attending before. It might be possible to involve more villagers. He said it needed to be a personal contact as the elderly don't access the internet. It was stated that HPC could contribute

with costs of mowing the new churchyard and HEAT could possibly help Mr Simpson look after the old churchyard. Cllr Davey will report this back via Mrs Davey to the PCC. If a formal letter is needed the Clerk will write.

Cllr Wilson said there was a gap in the wall on Allen Garth. Laura Kirton will be asked to repair it before the next land letting. The Clerk had written to the Stockdales about the damage to the wall in the middle of the village and Mr Robert Stockdale said he intends to repair it himself but is busy at the moment.

Cllr Ferguson thanked Cllr Sykes for moving the dog waste bin. The Clerk will inform CDC of its new position.

Further to the attempt to show the new Cllrs Standard Garth Cllr Ferguson had seen a sign about arborist students at Craven College who might come and look at the trees and come up with a proposal of some ideas as to what to do with the plantation at no cost to the Parish.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

at 7.30pm in the Ibottson Institute