

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Hebden Local Electors
held Monday 24th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Old School Tea
Rooms**

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

Mrs C Birtley, Mr G Coney, Mrs B Maxfield, Ms R Riley, Mr R Foster, Mrs P Kitching, Mr K Longthorne, Mr A Howick, Mrs R Howard, Mr C Howick, Mrs G Isaac, Ms N Bowdin, Mr P Ainge, Mrs A Ainge, Mrs M Kitching, Mrs K Longthorne, Mr L Longthorne, Mr J Longthorne, Mrs H Herd

Visitor: Ms J Swift

Apologies: Mrs M Hargraves

The Chairman read the Minutes from the Electors AGM 11th May 2022.

Cllr C Davey proposed acceptance and Cllr Sykes seconded. There were no objections.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There has been continued progress with the Beck Project with boulders placed in the water below the cafe, further tree planting, and the meadow cut and cleared. The Cllrs were told the Buckley brothers had supplied the stones and the Clerk will write with thanks. Advice from YDMT had been taken for how best to develop the meadow with a time scale of seven years reducing the fertility of the soil to help wild flowers flourish.

The trees planted on High Green had been watered and checked regularly. A group of interested residents had formed HEAT (Hebden Environment Action Team) and they had been helping with the project. The Chairman explained that the money had come from a grant offered to local villages from Swinden Quarry. There was still some money left. The kissing gate had been repaired and painted by Mr C Foster. Money still available from the donation from Mr Nettleton had been used to paint the other gate and the playground equipment. Thanks were given to Mrs R Howard and her team of painters.

Advice had been given by the YDNPA Dark Skies representative about reducing light pollution.

The underpass on Backstone Edge lane had been filled in as it had become a hazard to walkers and cyclists where it had caved in.

Cllr Sykes explained that rescinding the Rights of Turbary with the Charity Commission was proving difficult as it had been set up by Order and had no constitution. It will be difficult to get the new wording to keep the use and benefit of the land to the freeholders the same. It will be a long process.

Chairman's Report:

He referred the residents to the Newsletter that had been circulated as having the main information of the Parish work over the year. He thanked the Clerk for her work. There had been 2 barn planning applications. While CDC has been replaced by North Yorkshire Council

the YDNPA continue to be the contact for Planning. It isn't clear if there will be a change to the role of Parish Councils but at present we continue acting for the village as before.

Cllr Wilson said that the Coronation Street Party on May 6th is progressing with road closure obtained but the bunting has gone missing. Mr Stockdale wouldn't be available to put it up as he has been kicked by a cow. It will be the usual Jacob's Join with Mr Montfort kindly letting the village use the Tea Rooms after 3pm.

Matters of public interest.

The Community Orchard is going ahead with 2 areas identified in Low Bank Side and the grant of just over £8000 from the Swinden Quarry fund has been agreed to pay for the trees, fencing and 2 gates. When ordering the trees it is planned to offer to the village the opportunity to also buy some fruit trees for their own gardens. Addingham has a community orchard so they have given guidance on suitable species for this area. The trees will be planted in the autumn. Mr Longthorne was concerned about vehicle access to the land beyond. The Clerk said she'd put up a plan of the plots on the Notice board and Cllr Sykes put it on the web site.

Mr Longthorne wanted to know what progress there was with the toilet. Cllr Sykes had spoken to Mr Montfort and said there might be grant aid available to remove the asbestos. The asbestos problem was further discussed. There is no time base in the lease but Mr Montfort hoped to make progress this summer with a multi use toilet installed.

The Old Tip was being considered to provide extra parking space as the Council regularly receives complaints about parking problems and had in the past looked into double yellow lines, bollards and no parking signs. Many residents stated that they felt it was unsafe for traffic entering the main road from the Tip as visibility was poor. Mr Foster speaking for NY Council said the cost of a resident's parking scheme would be £100,000. Possibly local villages could get together and have a joint scheme. If HPC were to charge for parking this would require special orders. Other residents were worried that the Tip was secluded and couldn't be monitored and may be abused for illegal parking. It would also disturb birds and bats roosting there. The area used by Longthorne's drivers could be made available for weekend parking and this was agreed with a change to the notice about clamping at the entrance.

The overall decision of the electors was that using the Tip for parking was not a good idea. It was suggested it might make a car free picnic area and that the villagers be asked for ideas of its use.

Swift boxes are being placed on houses around the village as organised by a group, part of HEAT. There is a meeting on Wednesday 26th at 7pm about the birds in and around the village and an invitation was given to those present.

The dog waste bin had been relocated to beside the repaired kissing gate and it was felt an inappropriate place and at times was overflowing while being emptied weekly. The Clerk had asked CDC for an extra bin to go down the lane. Mr Foster said NY Council was providing larger bins so the Clerk will look into this.

The Chairman thanked all present for their time and comments. The meeting was closed at 8.30pm

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