

## **Hebden Parish Council Minutes of AGM Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in the Ibbotson Institute at 7.30pm**

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

Apologies: none

The Minutes of the meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

### Election of Chairman

Cllr Davey proposed Cllr Joy and Cllr Sykes seconded. Cllr Joy agreed to stand and was thanked by all. It was also decided to have a Vice Chairman to be elected at any meeting not attended by Cllr Joy. Cllr Davey felt there should be a plan for succession of the Chairman and Clerk. A special meeting will be held in the Autumn to discuss this.

### Matters Arising:

The Old Tip and local thoughts: This issue had raised a lot of interest at the Electors AGM followed by many written replies to the request for suggestions of its use. The consensus is that it is not used for parking, nor as a picnic site but for the time being left as it is for wild life. There had been a suggestion at the AGM that the parking area used by Longthornes drivers opposite the Clarendon be used for village parking at weekends. The Clerk will write a letter to see if they will offer the use of this land and this might help with the parking situation. The Council has tried to fulfil its obligation to consider and resolve the parking problem. As an asset owned by HPC the Tip would continue to hold the ploughs and gritting equipment of the Longthornes but the Cllrs thought it would be improved by the removal of the old vehicles and rubbish.

Money from the beck project: The invoice from Prof Grey has been paid but there is still some outstanding work to be done in cutting an ash branch near the ford and tying it back to lie in the water and create an improved environment for the river life. Cllr Sykes will yet again try to contact Prof Grey to get this done. Also outstanding is work by the bridge and the Clerk plans to do some more digging out of the inception pools while the beck level is low. HEAT has been helping with the beck project and it was agreed that NEF money be used to fund meetings in the Institute where the work is discussed and reported back on.

Discussions with Hettie about grants for the Allotment: The Clerk had been trying to find a grant to replace the 10 year HLS that came to an end in November 2022. The new RPA system will only grant money for large areas of moorland and our 22 hectares of upland bog no longer comply. The Cllrs agreed that they will try to maintain it as a unique environment and would try to block the small stream on the far side to keep it as wet as possible with the use of sheep's fleece discussed. The Clerk had been up to take readings for the Eye on the Bog and to send the results to the Peat Partnership. She was surprised to see the level on the raised section had dropped by about 6cm no doubt as a result of the lack of any recent rain. There were no sheep in evidence with some wall blocking to fill the gaps done by the farmer of the

adjacent field. Since there is no grant money there are no plans to repair the wall at present.

Weeding around the trees on High Green: Cllr Ferguson said that the meadow needs cutting now. Cllr Sykes will ask Gavin Herd if he can mow it and if not Stuart Naylor will be asked to do it. Since Laura Kirton no longer needs the grass it would be best if it is baled and removed. Cllr Joy will use his battery trimmer to clear the nettles from around the seats. Cllr Sykes said he might try to scythe some of the nettles by the roadside. Cllr Ferguson felt that in time the trees will grow and shade out the undergrowth which will die back naturally.

Allen Garth -query about tenancy change: Laura Kirton has sold her horse so would like to terminate her tenancy agreement. Jacqui Pope was regretting not having Whygill Gap so would like to take over the tenancy of Allen Garth. The Cllrs agreed this solved a problem for both and will change the agreement starting 1st July. The rent for this year will be left for the two parties to resolve.

Integrated Transport NY Council & meeting with Cllr Foster:The Council had written a number of letters registering their concern as there is now only one bus connecting into and out of Skipton. Julian Smith had forwarded a letter from Richard Flinton of NY Council who claimed fewer passenger numbers following the pandemic and the £1.6m from the Govt to support rural services that are not commercially viable, is insufficient. Some services have had to be reduced. As a result the 72 is no longer running hourly and the popular 9.08 will not be reintroduced. Cllr Foster was working with Peter Vetch who runs the Venturer to try to get another connecting bus from Hebden to Grassington as the new timetable means there is only the 11.51 from Hebden and the 15.45 back from Skipton that offers a connection. There is the added problem that the 11.32 from Skipton now has a new route coming from Ilkley and is regularly 15 minutes late meaning the connecting bus to Buckden is likewise delayed and this upsets the whole schedule. Cllr Foster says he will try again at the next NYC meeting to address this issue.

#### Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 01/04/23	£ 4147.50
Bank statement s/a@ 01/03/23	£ 18,895.64
<u>Money received</u>	
Orchard grant	£8160.00
<u>Payments for approval</u>	
Patrick Weigand reimburse for Fliss putting up swift boxes	£90.00
Stuart Naylor mowing chapel £50.00 & verge £40.00 April	
£90.00+VAT £18.00	£108.00
G Isaac for internal audit	£60.00

Street lighting 2022-23 £405.07 + VAT £81.01

£486.08

All were approved.

VAT renewal new accounting scheme confirmed. Next Return due 31/03/24 The Clerk thanked Cllr Sykes for his help with the new digital format and inputting.

Internal auditors report. The Cllrs were given a copy of the report. There were no matters arising and the Cllrs all agreed with what Mrs Isaacs had written. All the Year end reports are now on line. She endorsed keeping the grant projects ring fenced. The Clerk listed the amounts still on hand, NEF grant £2166, Nettleton grant £512, Wharfedale Naturalists £176.

#### Any other matters

Future of the village Church: There was a statement from Mrs Davey and Mrs Jowett about the future of our St Peter's church and the costs of keeping it open for the village. The Cllrs agreed to pay for the grass cutting in the new church yard which is open to all residents of Hebden regardless of creed. It was suggested that there will be plans for grants and to raise money with a meeting for the villagers to discuss this in the future. Cllr Davey will liaise with Mrs Davey and Mrs Jowett.

Burnsall School Trustee: John Townsend had contacted HPC as the Trustees of Burnsall School are in the process of updating their 1876 Governing Document. They wish to appoint a Hebden Trustee along with Hartlington once the Charity Commission agrees the new Document. The Cllrs agreed so the Clerk will reply and await to hear the outcome.

Making Space for Nature: The Friends of the Dales are holding a free meeting in Addingham to encourage creating more open spaces, improve and restore habitats and support clean water. It is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 10am to 3pm. The Clerk has booked 2 places for herself and, if free, Cllr Ferguson. Cllr Sykes has already registered for 2. Feed back will be given at the next meeting.

Date of the next meeting will be Wednesday

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

at 7.30pm in the Ibbotson Institute