

Hebden Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 11h October 2023 at 7.30pm at Ibbotson Institute

Present: Cllr Joy, Cllr Davey, Cllr Ferguson, Cllr Sykes, Cllr Wilson
Apologies: None

The Minutes of the meeting held 30th August 2023, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Update on the Community orchard:

Mulberry and crab apple trees had been added to the list. £650.00 approximately 25% of the cost has been already paid to Rogers to secure a November delivery. It is planned to ask HEAT to help plant the trees and before hand to make a start in preparing the top enclosure. The Clerk said she had space in her garden where the trees could be heeled in while it is decided where they should be planted. They will come labelled. Lee Johnson from YDNPA will be asked to help with this. Cllr Sykes will phone the nursery first week in November to check delivery date. Photos of the planting event will be sent to the Craven Herald for some media coverage. Buying a press was considered for making cider in the future with any money left.

The access problem around the bottom enclosure is on hold. There has been no reply to the letter to Longthornes asking for the Deeds to prove vehicular rights before the Council even considers some protective path work. At present by driving over to the "garden" Parish property is being damaged.

Car parking payment suggestion: A resident had contacted the Clerk with the suggestion that charge be made for roadside parking similar to the Grassington Town Hall Car park. Cllr Sykes said he couldn't get the phone system to work. The Clerk didn't want the VAT implications. It was decided to continue with the wheelbarrow collection for the Institute. There had been no reply from Longthornes about using their car park at weekends. However, it is part of Lionel Strub at the Clarendon's lease. Cllr Sykes will talk to him about making the space available for village parking as well as Patrons at weekends.

New buses to connect with Skipton: After various HPC representations to NYC Transport it is now possible on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to catch the 09.00 74A Ilkley bus to Grassington. There one stays aboard till it leaves for Ilkley at 09.15 before transferring at 9.32 to the 72A which runs in term time. Returning on the 72 leaving Skipton at 11.37 the 74A is waiting at Grassington to take the passengers on to Hebden. On the afternoon bus return from Skipton the 72B will now wait up to 10 minutes for the arrival of the Skipton bus. Other councils have been trying to get NYC to reinstate the 09.08 daily Skipton bus but so far without success.

Work on playground and ROSPA report: Cllr Ferguson had placed the safety mats in the playground the day before the inspection. HEAT will be asked to help "bed" them in. Cllr Sykes will cut off the projecting bolt. The fence needs some repair which is said to be too close to the swings, as it should be 0.2m

further back. This only constituted a medium score hazard. All other equipment scored low level risk. The wood on the seesaw is decaying and requires routine inspection. Cllr Wilson said there was mention in the Report of table and chairs on site and they should be removed. Visitors over 14 had been seen using the swings but the sign is clear so it was decided HPC's insurance of Public Liability would exclude any claims. There is a need for a gate from the cafe foreground to keep out dogs. Cllr Sykes will tell Mr de Montfort and the Council will consider asking "Handy Lad Service" (Fliss) to make the gate and look at the fence.

Trees on Tip: Cllr Ferguson had been and looked at the ash trees and considered 2 on Orchard Lane at the back of the Tip needed inspecting. Branches overhanging the track from the road had been cut back by Webbers previously to allow vehicular clearance and was paid for by Mr K Longthorne. Since it appears Webber was asked to report on the Tip trees the Council will ask to see if it was done and to see it. Meanwhile all the village trees need inspecting and the Clerk will ask Lee Johnson if it could be part of a YDNPA Tree Inspection Course. Cllr Davey knows of a NYC tree inspector "Trevor the Tree" This will be followed up at the next meeting.

C/41/133A approval: The works on the side of Bridge House were given approval by the Cllrs.

Correspondence

Back British Farming. This was from Defra and it might mean better grants for upland farming by cutting red tape and they will "recognise the challenges faced". After listening to small abattoir owners they will "cut unnecessary burdens" They will accelerate payments and indeed HPC has had an early interim BPS payment. (See below) The Council approved these measures.

Letter from Mr Ives: It was discussed but it is not a Parish matter. Chapel Lane is an unadopted road so the residents may put their bins at the top of the lane for collection. The Cllrs were not in a position to agree to a hard standing along Brayshaw Lane as it is not Council land. It was agreed small children should be supervised if out on the lane. Mr Ives may put up a traffic mirror should he want to improve visibility. He may wish to contact Highways about increased numbers of delivery vehicles causing a hazard to cars leaving Chapel Lane. The Clerk will reply.

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 01/09/23	£ 2,684.21
Bank statement s/a@ 01/09/23	£ 15,971.16

Money received

Rural Payments BPS Advance payment	£ 462.40
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Payments for approval

S Ely salary for 6 months to 31/09/23	£ 500.00
Expenses for same 6 months including ink cartridges and paper	£ 73.44

Stuart Naylor Verge £100, Playground £80, Graveyard £100	
£280.00 + VAT £56.00	£ 336.00
Playsafety Ltd playground inspection £75 + VAT £15	£ 90.00
Nigel Fairbank wall repair Allen Garth	£100.00
David Hill C Sunter advice and submit mid tier stewardshp	
£360.50 + VAT £72.10	£432.60
David Hill C Sunter advice BPS	
£275.50 +VAT £55.10	£330.60
Already Paid on account for trees RV Rogers	£650.00

These payments were approved.

After many emails, telephone calls and the letter to NYC Head of Finance that was not answered, in the last week the Clerk has heard that the overpaid lighting invoice is to be repaid in full by BACS. When this is done the Council will pay the correct new invoice.

Problem with UK Hosting and the HPC domain due 25/11/23 The Clerk has finally got her email address and password accepted. As yet she has a "ticket" but not an invoice.

New Charity Commission rules and need to set up an account. The Clerk is still trying to set up the required new account. It would appear that before she may send in the Returns for the 2 charities the Cllrs may be contacted to give their approval that she may do this !

Any other matters

Election costs will not be incurred by HPC until we have another election for Councillors in 4 years time so the many pages of costs from NYC can be ignored for now.

The succession of council positions was raised by The Chairman as he intends to stand down next May. Cllr Davey regretted he could not accept the proposal from Cllr Sykes as he will be unavailable for some of the coming year. Cllr Wilson said she would be Vice Chair till then.

The Clerk has received a 4 page letter from NYC about the Precept. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

There were 2 YDNPA zoom meetings on the 19th and 25th October. Cllr Sykes said he would attend the Parish Forum on the 25th so the Clerk will let them know. The Clerk might attend the Planning meeting on the 19th if she felt there was anything new to be discussed.

Mr Gavin Herd will cut the meadow when it is dry enough. He does not have a small baler and nor does Mr J Metcalfe in Linton when contacted. Gavin said he'd try to keep the risings together to aid raking up.

Cllr Joy said that it was a good thing the email from Mr K Longthorne was not on the public domain as it was libellous. The Council will not reply.

A letter will be sent to Mr de Montfort to state the Toilet building is not being maintained and this invalidates his lease. He will be told he has 6 months to comply.

The Clerk will ask Nigel to make the necessary repairs to the wall opposite.

Cllr Ferguson said that the telephone wire is lying across land in Low Green and has been since since the storm in November 2021. The Clerk will contact Open Reach again.

Date of next meeting

MONDAY 20th November

Ibbotson Institute at 7.30pm.