

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Hebden Local Electors held Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute

Sixteen 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 D Hoole, Mrs R Howard, Mr R Foster (NYC Cllr), Mrs R Jowett, Mr K Horn, Mr S Naylor, Mrs L Weatherby, Mrs L Hodge, Mr C Linney

Apologies: Mrs M Hargraves, Mrs H Dye

The Chairman stated that the Minutes from the Electors AGM 28th April 2023 had been circulated and available to be read. There were no objections to these being approved and signed.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work for the Parish. He referred to the Village Newsletter for information about the work the Council undertook and their legal duties.

He also thanked the HEAT for their work on the orchard and the meadow which is much appreciated. There is now a Bird Group that had recently presented a talk on Garden Birds. They also set up a Swift Group and have had funding from Yorkshire Naturalists to put up boxes in the village. There is still some of the Swinden Quarry Environment Fund left for the Beck Project and Community Orchard.

Matters Arising

The result of the discussion about the use of the Old Tip, as raised at the last AGM, is that from the feeling that meeting and the written responses it will stay as it is and not be used for parking nor as a picnic area.

Parking is an ongoing problem.

The suggestion for a long bench in the field next to the Playground was considered. It was thought to be a good idea so parents can keep an eye on their children and also its a good place to sit and look at the Orchard. ROSPA does not allow a bench in the actual Playground. Some funding might come from the Sports Committee but there would be no money from NYC available according to Cllr Foster. Rather than one long bench it was decided 2/3 seats might be better and placed on a hard standing. Cllr Ferguson felt that the new Notice Board planned by the Council would be well placed nearby. Mr Naylor said that a recycled plastic seat would be better than wood as wouldn't need painting and was heavy and so not likely to be stolen particularly if fixed down. The Clerk will look up advertisements in the publication she receives and investigate.

The new mats in the Playground need fitting when it is a bit drier.

Cllr Richards said the while NYC would not pay for the bench he did have £10,000 to spend on villages in his area. This will be considered by the Cllrs.

The reduction of speed through the village was discussed at length. The Clerk explained that Highways said the road didn't meet the criteria for 30mph even after an accident at the corner last year. Putting "gates" at the road entrance to make the approach to the village more obvious

might be possible except the location was a problem with lack of verge. Mrs Howard asked about sign that lit up to show the vehicle speed but in the past this was looked into but is very expensive. Apparently the one newly erected in Grassington is causing difficulties with maintenance. Mr Horn was particularly concerned at the danger from speeding traffic and crossing the road. However, it might be possible for the sake of the safety of the villagers to consider the expense of a solution coming from raising a precept. It will be further discussed. Parking was then considered. Using the car park opposite the Clarendon, as raised at the last AGM, was discussed. Mr Longthorne had not replied to the letter sent to him and Lionel who has a lease on the land said he'd only let it be used by local residents. Cllr Foster had previously said it cost £100,000 to make a designated Parking zone. Mrs Weatherby thought that money boxes could be placed on the wall for donations to the village. It is now possible to pay cash to Barclays via the PO Cllr Wilson explained. It will be further discussed by the Cllrs. The wheelbarrow collects about £500 in the year for the Institute so Cllr Sykes will negotiate with Pat about this new idea. Mrs Hodge pointed out that a lot of visitors won't be carrying cash so Bank details could be given as they are in the Town Hall CP in Grassington.

Cllr Sykes updated the meeting on the slow progress on the Toilet rebuild. A grant had been applied for from YDNPA with 50% reclaim by Mr M d Montfort but 75% would be possible if HPC made the claim. It is an ongoing effort.

Cllr Ferguson wanted the white lines repainted and the Clerk said she's asked Highways and it on their list. She will remind them. She has also sent photos showing the large puddle outside the cafe and will remind them it still floods. The old sign in the trees needs "sprucing up" so it can be read. The finger posts have been cleaned.

HEAT have been very useful in jobs around the village and Clive and Rosemary were thanked for the painting of the Playground equipment. There had been a successful wassailing event on January 6th and it will be held again next year to "bless" the upper orchard. There are a few more swift boxes to be housed.

Mrs C Birtley didn't like the location of the Dog waste bin but Cllr Foster is to get a new larger one that sits on the ground and is black so hopefully will be less intrusive and not overflow.

Mrs Jowett asked about what was happening about crown lifting the trees on the right as you go the gill that she said she brought up about 5 years ago. The Cllrs, nor Clerk, could remember this but will look into it.

There were several PROW issues. The path beyond Brook St the Clerk has already reported as being in flood. The difficult stile further on also has been reported years back but wasn't deemed a necessary rebuild. Mrs Jowett wanted a broken stile below her house repaired. The Clerk will go and look at it and send a photo to the new YDNPA Ranger.

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.