

**Hebden Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held
Wednesday 3rd December 2025
at 7.30pm at the Ibbotson Institute**

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

Apologies: None

The Minutes of the meeting held 15th October which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Toilet update and tree survey Webbers had said they would arrange the tree survey in accordance with the YDNPA Planners and the Clerk had phoned for an update but had no reply. She will phone again. There is an extension of the initial 21 days to January 9 2026. Cllr Sykes will have to make another application for the Sustainable Development Fund as the previous one is out of date.

Orchard and trees to be replaced this month: Cllr Ferguson will check to see which trees have died. The Clerk found only one apple tree in the top area but there are said to be 3 dead in the lower section. They will be replaced with the same variety to match the map and labels. The Clerk will order them from Hedgerow and hope to get HEAT to help plant as soon as they arrive.

Cllr Sykes will ask Mark Bamforth to organise another Wassailing event.

Advice on the meadow: Emma and Eva from the YDMT had come to look and collected soil samples from over the area. Until they get the result they can't give us any advice. Emma did think we might have a "patchwork" where some grass is totally removed and some just scarified. At least access is good she said.

Playground fence: The Cllrs agreed to accept the quote from Benson's and the Clerk will email him of this decision. She will explain the extra 0.2m beyond existing is only necessary behind the swings but the fence could cut back at the corner to avoid the steep slope. Cllr Wilson and the Clerk will look again at the toddler swing as they had found no problem with the chains.

Correspondence

Sir J Smith sent 3 letters –

- Retrofit Strategy to improve energy efficiency. This was to improve insulation of houses to reduce costs and save energy.
- There is new funding opportunity of grants in rural areas to help people stay active with grants starting at £3000. The Clerk will contact Pat so the residents might like to suggest what they feel might help reduce isolation and improve mental and physical wellbeing.
- Create a new directory of support for women suffering domestic abuse. Also to include help for boys and men.

The Parish is asked to comment on the consultation on Police and Fire precept.

Cllr Davey took these letters to scan and send on to Cllr Sykes who will put on the Hebden website.

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 01/12/25	£ 312.21
S/a	£16,868.44

Beck balance £1755 Orchard balance £2247 Swift balance £59- to be paid out - VAS balance £1330

Money received

BT wayleaves	£105.36
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BT wayleave	£ 3.00
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Payments for approval

Cloudnext new host for our .gov domain £50+£10VAT	£60.00
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Stuart Naylor 3 verge 3 playground £150+VAT £30	£180.00
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Stuart Naylor churchyard 3 cuts £90+VAT £18	£108.00
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Allsignage for the notice board mounting £64.30 +VAT £12.86	£77.16
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Figures for precept

The Clerk had sent the figures to the Cllrs so they could look at them in advance. They all agreed that the problem now is the lack of income from the land letting and Defra grants. All have reduced while expenses continue to rise. It will be time for the next 3 year tenancy the end of January 2026 and it is doubtful there will be bids for all the fields. They all have to be grazed, some to fulfil the grant regulations. The Clerk will promote the "sealed bid" arrangement and advertise the land letting in Hebden and Grassington in January. There will be a need for money to get the Toilet open hopefully this summer and although applying for grant money HPC will need to provide 25% of the costs. There will then be unknown ongoing costs. After some discussion all the Cllrs agreed to request a £4000 precept, the same as last year so with no % increase. The Clerk will inform NY Council.

Any Other Matters

J Bentley had requested permission to put cameras down the sewers in land owned by Hebden behind the Cafe for a survey they are undertaking in the village. The Clerk will email the council's permission. It is hoped that it will result in only fresh water going into the River Wharfe and not sewage overflow in wet weather.

The tree plantation in High Green is to be kept for wildlife. It was thought that the Old Tip could be improved for wildlife. It was decided to ask HEAT to come up with ideas to improve the natural environment of the village and come back to the Council.

Date of next meeting

28th January 2026 at 7.30pm Ibbotson Institute