

Hebden Parish Council
Minutes of the AGM for the Electorate
held Wednesday 30th April 2025 in the Ibbotson Institute at
7.30.pm

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

Mrs C Birtley, Mr R Foster (NYC Cllr), Mrs P Hodgkins, Mr P Ainge, Mr G Coney,

Apologies:Cllr C Davey

The Chairman stated that the Minutes from the Electors AGM 10th April 2024 had been circulated and available to be read. Cllr Joy proposed approval and Mrs Hodgkins seconded. As there were no objections they were signed.

Matters Arising.

There were none.

Chairman's Report:

Cllr Sykes thanked all those who were attending the meeting.

He gave an update on the public toilets. Hebden Parish Council have taken back the toilets from Mr M de Montfort. He had been given many requests to make the alterations and after a final 6 months notice he wrote to say he was giving up the tenancy. Cllr Sykes has been trying to get a local builder to give the Council a quote for the planned work. So far none have been received. The YDNPA will give 75% of the costs. The plan is to make a new entrance from the road into a uni-sex disabled toilet. The other 60% of the area can be used as a communal store and even a small workshop if requested. It can keep the HEAT tools, paint and other village equipment.

Mrs Hodgkins said she would send Cllr Sykes the contact for Grassington builders.

There were now 2 benches near the playground thanks to the Stockdale family and the Sports Committee.

There will be an Information board giving historical and cultural facts about the village.

The Beck Project is on going and has been successful with an increase in aquatic life and a graph from Prof Grey had been displayed showing this improvement. This was as a result of the tree planting and creating eddies in the stream flow. The results from HPC tests had not been uploaded but now given to a new volunteer from the YDNPA.

The Community Orchard is doing well. The trees are flowering and there was some fruiting last year. For a second year there was a celebration of wassailing to bless the trees and it was well attended by the village.

A sycamore had split and fallen across the Public Right of way below the cafe but Webbers had come the next day and cleared the path. They say it is now safe. Thanks to locals for cutting the remains for logs.

Webbers have also cleared the fallen larch off the fence and made it safe

for local loggers.

Cllr Foster has given the Council money for measures to reduce the speed of traffic on the main road. A police van catches speeding drivers but still Highways won't reduce the speed to 30mph. As in Rylstone gates at the village entrance have been considered by the Cllrs but dismissed. They then looked into having a VAS as in Threshfield so had contacted Mr Darren Griffiths from NYC. He agreed that there was a safety issue for people crossing the road with the rise obscuring on coming traffic from Grassington. He looked at where to sight the VAS and could only recommend on the roadside by the bridge. It would have to be tall to activate oncoming traffic and cost £5000 to install. Only Highways were allowed to do this. This and speed bumps were considered not to be an option. He suggested we pay for more SLOW signs with a 40mph reminder to be painted on the road. The plan is to ask for this to be done and to monitor the situation.

There was further concern at cyclists speeding through the village and down the hill. The Clerk had looked for suitable signs to show that cyclists should give way to pedestrians but without success. Highways will be asked about this. Cllr Foster said the 30mph sign half way down the hill could have an Adult with Child sign attached. Cllr Wilson felt there should be some suitable sign on the road near the suspension bridge path.

He also said that there are to be boundary changes. The area is to be increased because of the loss of houses due to second homes and holiday lets. He was in favour of an extension into Nidderdale rather than into a city or urban area. As with the creation of NYC he doubts attention being given to local opinion but suggested contacting the website.

Victoria Benn had sent a query about the mobile network being down since Saturday. Cllr Foster had tried contacting O2 about this but had received no satisfactory explanation.

Mrs Birtley thanked the Cllrs for all their work done.

Cllr Joy said the Council would keep working on the speed problem.

Cllr Sykes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.07 pm.