

**Hebden Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held
Wednesday 28th January 2026
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 3rd December 2025 which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Toilet update and fencing problem : The conditions set by the YDNPA Planners were discussed. It was decided that the contractor will be told that no work is to be done that would cause any compaction of the ground around the two adjacent trees. They will be protected so that they are not harmed during the alteration work. Cllr Sykes will discuss the invoice sent by Webbers as their sub-contractor hadn't produced a report as requested by the Planners. He will also be back in touch with the builder, Mr Colin Richards, who quoted £14,000 last year and he will ask for a breakdown of the cost. This more detailed quote can be used for the grant application.

The Orchard and 3 plum trees and an apple tree to be replaced next month: The Clerk will contact Nigel at Hedgerow with the names of the varieties and ask they be ordered and collected when it is suitable time to plant them. (Newton Wonder, Plums: Jubilee, Czar. Laxton's Cropper) The existing stakes and protecting guards can be used. Some tree ties are needed. The gate can be left open at times to allow the sheep to graze below the fruit trees.

The wassailing event was a success with not just Hebden residents attending but people from Grassington and further away. It is hoped to become an annual event with Mr Bamford and his singers coming again next January. Next year Cllr Sykes will email the sheet of words to the Cllrs who can print off some copies to give out to the audience. The Clerk sent a photo to the Craven Herald but as yet it hasn't been printed.

Advice on the meadow: Emma and Eva from the YDMT had come and taken soil samples and now report back that the ground is too rich in phosphorus. She therefore advises that the top layer of topsoil is stripped off and removed from the site. The best time for seeding and replanting would be Autumn. After much discussion it was decided to put this on the Agenda for the ratepayers Annual Meeting that will be in May to get a response from the residents as it will initially be very unsightly and muddy. It might need a temporary simple fence.

Eva suggested the scape be made in the Autumn. As this was a pond in living memory, we will need to check if there is a clay base. There will need to be some careful hand digging at first. Later a digger might be used. The Clerk emailed her our SBI number (107112239) as requested. The new tenant will be informed of this plan.

Playground fence: This has been moved slightly back as recommended by ROSPA and was erected in a day.

Correspondence

A Letter from Caroline Sunter had been received to say she was leaving David Hill at the end of 2025 and the new contact is Amy Rigby.

Sir J Smith wrote about Men's Mental Health Investment programme with a link that the Clrs will look at. There was a suggestion that the spare space in the toilet could be used as a "Man's Shed"

NYC Urban Highway Grass Cutting. The Clrs agreed to let Highways cut the verges for the same safety issues of visibility given last year. It will cost £184.55 and the Clerk will email this decision to the contact, Mr Summerson.

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 01/01/26	£ 3,815.54
S/a	£14,418.63

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

Money received

Mid Tier Countryside	£1426.40
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Payments for approval

Webbers for tree survey as per quote £450 +VAT £90	£540.00
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This is on hold till Cllr Sykes has spoken to Mr J Webber

Tree Tops Forestry Ltd -cutting branches in gill £315+VAT£63	£378.00
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Pay out swift money to Rosemary Howard	£59.00
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Any other matters

The Clerk is to contact the YDNPA to state HPC would like every new build and major conversion to have a swift brick included in the building.

Mrs Dye had complained at the state of the phone box and offered to pay for the paint. Last time expensive specialist red paint was used but this time just one to match will be bought. Pat will be asked to circulate the village to see if there is a volunteer to do the actual painting.

The Clerk is still having a problem with Barclays and the telephone waiver form.

The VAS money and what to do with it was discussed. The Clerk will contact Cllr Foster again to see if the money could be used to slow down the traffic on the road towards the river. She will also contact Mr David Griffiths, who advised against VAS last summer, and who might be able to give advice on traffic calming.

Mrs Howard had requested the Heavy Vehicle Road sign be cleaned. It is covered in green algae and impossible to read. She said there was a problem with drivers of large vehicles realising the Scuff road was not suitable and turning round outside her house. Mr Griffiths will be consulted about this sign.

Mr Ives said he had seen mink in the beck. The Environment Agency has a national framework to eliminate American mink in England. There used to be traps set in the River Wharfe to catch mink but this is no longer done. Any trap

would have to be checked every day. As part of work on the beck biodiversity advice will be sought from Kathryn Lillistone, the Yorkshire contact for the Agency.

Cllr Sykes will get fence posts and erect them at the vulnerable section of the road up the gill.

There was a concern that the new information board might not withstand being knocked by cows. It was decided to wait and see.

Date of next meeting

11th March 2026 at 7.30pm Ibbotson Institute

Other meeting dates were agreed to avoid cricket matches and holidays where possible

Residents AGM 6th May. Other Council meetings 15th June, 27th July, 2nd September, 21st October and 2nd November.