Hebden Parish Council
Minutes of the AGM for the Electorate
held Wednesday 6th May 2026 in the Ibbotson Institute at 7.30.pm

Thirteen 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,Mrs R Howard,Mr I Geldard,Ms R Lilley,Mr C Linley
Apologies:Cllr C Davey, Mrs J White
Cllr Syke read out the Minutes from last year's meeting held on 30th April 2025 and all present agreed to their being accepted and signed.
Matters arising:
The speed of 40mph on the B6265 was again discussed and Cllr Ferguson thought that there had been some improvement. Cllr Sykes explained that after a meeting with Mr Griffiths from Highways it had been decided that the only possible position of a VAS was on the bridge and this was not viable. An extra SLOW sign had been put on the road at no cost to the council. Recently there has been a problem with builder's vans parked on the roadside outside the bungalow on the hill and forcing vehicles going west to cross the double white lines. This is illegal parking and could be reported to the Police. If it continues residents will ask the owner to move their vehicle or the police will be contacted.
There are now larger numbers of cyclists riding through the village at speed down the hill towards the river. Hebden Parish Council had asked Highways to put a SLOW sign on the road but this had been turned down as there are many similar roads in the Dales and they can't all have SLOW on them. The Clerk had looked into a warning sign to be attached to street furniture but failed to find a suitable one. She had talked to Phil Richards of the YDNPA and asked him about putting an extra finger post to point pedestrians to the footpath up the side of the beck. As yet nothing done. Cllr Foster said he would ask Highways to come out to discuss the problem and hopefully find a solution. Mr Linley wanted the narrow road access signs to be made more prominent as large vehicles going down through the village have to turn when the driver sees the narrow section below his house. It would not be possible to make it a Large Vehicular No Access sign as deliveries have to be made to Rainlands Farm.
Cllr Sykes said that th Toilet refurbishment to a single disabled toilet should be finished by the end of the month. There is a problem in locating the stop tap and water supply which from a map should be just in front in the road. Asphalt layers are now over this area. Mr Gardener has a metal detector and this might help in the location. To have a door that needed cash to open was abandoned as it cost £8000 so there will be a volunteer donation of £1 card reader and no cash to be collected.

Mrs Hodgkins said that the cash collected in a box on the wheelbarrow had never been vandalised. It will be monitored.
The space to the right of the toilet was considered with thoughts to use it as storage and also a work area for the village. Mr I Simpson's work bench has been donated and HEAT could keep tools there. It would have to be locked with a key box with a number only known to local residents.
Mr T Herd had this evening approached the Clerk suggesting a milk vending machine be installed. There was a query about using raw milk which can only happen from a farm outlet. It would be better placed where the public has access and a position in a lean- to on the south side might be possible. It requires more thought and discussion with Mr Herd.
There would need to be a paid cleaner. Mrs N Bowdin had rejected the offer. Cllr Wilson said that Liz cleaned the toilets for Mr Daggett and might do ours. It can just be hosed down. It is thought it used to be cleaned only once a week but this will need monitoring. It is hoped the income will pay for all the costs.
The orchard looks good with blossom on the trees and a few that had died have been replaced. It needs grass and nettles cutting as no sheep have been in this year. Mr Linley offered to use the strimmer of Cllr Sykes to cut back around the fruit trees. There should be some mulch put round the base of the trees. The wassailing had been a success again and Mr Mark Bamforth and Jane are writing a book about wassailing and ours will be included.
HEAT had nothing to report. Ms Ros Lilley reported the activity of the bird group telling us that there were 24 active swift sites in the village. Two were active in boxes erected. They are working with YDNPA and Millennium Trust for more boxes and cups for housemartins. Only 3 active housemartin nests have been identified. Swallow population seems to be doing better. Some swift boxes could go on the back of the toilet. Mr Sutcliffe,who lives next to Clr Sykes, is able to make swift boxes.
Mr Linley has very kindly offered to repaint the telephone box and he will be reimbursed for the paint, sandpaper etc. All present thanked him for taking on this task.
Next the future of the meadow was discussed. Cllr Sykes said that after soil testing there was too much phosphate and the remedy given by the representative from the Millennium Trust was to completely remove the top layer of soil. It could be possible to strip some areas in a patchwork fashion before reseeding with wild flowers. All agreed that making a wild flower meadow was not easy and it needed work to maintain it. Finally it was decided to leave it as it is and use it more for recreation and just cut twice a year. Possibly the bench could be moved and a picnic table installed.
Cllr Sykes keeps bees and will talk to Mr G Longthorne about refurbishing the nearby greenhouse for village use. Names of those who

might like to use it will be collected.
Mrs Hodgkins asked about clearing dead leaves fom the roadside as was done in Cllr Hodges time. Mr Linley has been doing a bit and keeping the drains clear. It was decided it was a job for HEAT.
Mrs C Birtley was concerned about the amount of spraying on nettles in fields in Hebden. The tenants have to keep the weeds down and are allowed to “spot spray”. Cllr Ferguson said you had to spray when they are in seed to kill the plant and stop them spreading. Spraying in autumn is too late. Mrs Birtley said that in the past they were cut. Ms R Lilley has a scythe she will donate so it might be possible for HEAT to cut them. She asked if a white board might go up in the bus shelter to record birds seen in the village and could be updated regularly. There is money from the Millennium Trust and YDNPA available to plant hedges to increase bio-diversity. Replacing the fence round the orchard was considered.
The muddy section of the footpath going down the beckside needs attention with flags or quarry bottoms. The YDNPA have for a number of years been going to replace the stone step stile with a gate but this hasn't been done yet. The Clerk will contact Mr P Richards to see what can be done and offer volunteers to help.
Cllr Sykes thanked the residents for attending and Mrs Birtley thanked the Cllrs for their work.