

Hebden Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday December 4th 2024 at 7.30pm at the Ibbotson Institute

Present: Cllr Sykes, (Chairman), Cllr Davey, Cllr Joy, Cllr Ferguson, Cllr Wilson.
Apologies: None

The Minutes of the meeting held 16th October 2024, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Village "gates" and follow up from Highways: There was a considerable discussion about having a reactive speed sign instead of the "gates" as Cllr Sykes had found a solar powered one costing £2700 + Vat. If Cllr Foster would pay for this from his offered £3000 in next May from the supplier found it might be a better safety solution.. Possibly there may be smaller village entrance sign as seen by Cllr Davey where there is a black circle with 30mph recommended speed. It can be further discussed after the Clerk has consulted Cllr Foster.

Whereas Mr Cairns told Cllr Foster he had asked for the white lines to be repainted this will now not happen till NEXT spring. The excuse given for not doing it this year is that it has rained too much. There is also a need to clear the fallen leaves so the lines are visible. While this is a Highway matter the clearing vehicle never comes when the road is clear of parked cars. Cllr Ferguson will be in touch with HEAT to get a village sweep organised. The Clerk will email Highways.

Orchard and tree labels: The Cox's Pippin apple tree supplied from Hedgerow was planted to replace the dead one in the Top Orchard. Mr Charles Goodwin gave the Council his potted fruit trees and 2 crab apples were also planted in this area. There are further ones to be planted. Cllr Sykes and the Clerk also planted the birches and specimen beeches up the gill. There are alders and willows still in need of planting near the beck and at the moment the bare roots are protected in double bags. Cllr Ferguson will help with this. The Clerk will go to Hartlington Fencing to buy 30 1" x 1m stakes. There are guards that can be re-used.

New Trustee from HPC for the Fountain Trust as Mrs E Sandoe has resigned:

Mrs Fiona Hoole has accepted the position and been invited to meet the Trustees at the December meeting when the Clerk will give her the Induction pack.

Problems with driving on the meadow: Recently a car had been bogged down and had to be towed off. Efforts to replace the grass had been taken. Cllr Wilson reported that Mandy Geldard has been recently taking her 2 ponies to eat the grass up the gill. She has been asked to keep off the meadow and to let them graze only by the road side. The Clerk suggested she bid for a field in the next round of vacancies where ponies would be permitted. The Soft Ground signs need repainting. It was suggested placing some canes with white tops about 1m in from the road to deter cars crossing on to the grass. The Clerk will buy some canes.

Cllr Sykes said he couldn't cut back some of the branches overhanging the road as requested by Mr White. Cllr Joy will speak with him plus remind him to fill in the hole opposite the gate.

Toilet update: Mr M Hargraves says he can't find a plumber to quote for the toilet and basin. Several plumbers were mentioned. Cllr Sykes has organised the switch over of power and is having an on-going battle with Eon to have a nil account as no electricity has been used so therefore there should be no standing charge. In the past the Toilet was used a lot and is much required to stop human fouling up the gill.

Correspondence

Protected tree decision: There is now a weekly list published by YDNPA and this has to be checked for any decisions in Hebden. There was one in November to fell 3 cypress trees and prune a sycamore at no 1 Brook St. The Cllrs had no objection.

Area 5 new Parish Portal: North Yorks Council is introducing a new Portal format. Cllr Sykes took the email to read. The Clerk will continue dealing directly with Area 5 Highways.

Rt Hon Sir J Smith. The Clerk had received a letter about keeping the communities informed about his work and his surgeries. He gave his email julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk. The Cllrs decided HPC should explain about our road safety concerns and how they are being ignored by Cllr K Deane, the executive member of Highways and N Yorks Transport and also the local Highways dept.

The quote for the fence repair up the gill was considered too much considering it wouldn't stop a car from going off the road and down to the beck. Highways are to be asked to look at this as a road safety matter. They will probably place plastic bollards as they did lower down the road but this at least alerts drivers to the road edge.

Gary and Michael are to be thanked for replacing the hand rail that was destroyed by the fallen sycamore. "Fliss" will be asked to make a protection for the oak tree to be planted below the cafe.

Accounts

Bank statement c/a@ 01/10/24	£ 828.52
Bank statement s/a@ 01/10/24	£ 13,170.89

Beck balance £2140 Orchard balance £3204 Swift balance £59.39

Money received

Powergrid wayleave	£104.66
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Payments for approval

Swift project reimburse T Flynn for housemartin cup	£139.96 pd
P Parker (Fliss) for fence up gill	£193.34 pd
Mrs G Isaacs Internal audit	£ 60.00

York UK Hosting who don't take chqs (nor answer emails or their phone)		
£59.50 + VAT £11.90		£71.40
Stuart Naylor grass in churchyard	£30 + VAT £6	£ 36.00
Stuart Naylor grass verge	£25 Playground £25	
VAT £10		£60.00

These payments were approved.

Next year's precept to discuss.

Cllr Sykes was concerned that our income is reduced to about £3000 while we now have expenses over £6000. The RPA grants have halved in the last 3 years and the rent from Land Letting has also fallen. Certain ways to raise money were discussed. Asking for donations for parking in the village and perhaps sharing with Pat's collection used for the Institute was considered. A Tourist tax might be charged in the future as being discussed by local authorities. It will be further discussed. All the Cllrs agreed to asking NYC for £4000 precept. This will have to be reviewed next year.

The residents will be informed in the Winter Newsletter that the Clerk and Cllr Sykes will write plus at the Spring Residents AGM.

HPC will have to pay for 25% toilet development. Cllr Wilson wondered if the Swinden Quarry might help pay for this. It is granted via the YDNPA so we can only ask.

Any other matters

As requested, our YDNPA contact has made 3 No Dog Fouling signs in wood that will need varnishing. It was decided to put one at the end of Brook St. one in Brayshaw Lane and the third where seems most necessary. Cllr Sykes said he would arrange this.

Cllr Joy has spoken to Chris Foster who wants to involve J Gardner in the wording and lay out of the village information board. Subject areas will need to be agreed.

The Clerk is still waiting for the quote for this board. We are told YDNPA will help with the design.

Cllr Wilson reported a branch hanging from a tree above the road opposite her house. Cllr Sykes said it was too high for him to lasso and thinks it will fall into the field should it be blown down. Another solution would be to place a bollard on the roadside.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday January 22nd

7.30 in the Institute