

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING OF
HEPTONSTALL HELD AT HEPTONSTALL SOCIAL & BOWLING CLUB, 14 MAY
2024**

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor J Crowther.

12 electors of the Parish were **present**, 1 public member attended, as did the Clerk to the Parish Council Hannah Sherriff-Jackson.

1) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the previous Annual Assembly held 16 May 2023 were approved as a correct record.

2) ANNUAL REPORT OF HEPTONSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

The Chair of the Parish Council presented the following Annual Report:

Good evening and welcome to the Heptonstall Assembly of the Parish meeting.

This will be the first of these meetings for 60 years that has not been presided over by the legendary Roger Greenwood, our retired Clerk. To mark this phenomenal achievement, the Parish Council hosted a fabulous community event last September here at the Bowling Club. This was enjoyed by all!

Roger's onerous role has been very efficiently and professionally filled by our new Clerk, Hannah Sherriff-Jackson, who has just passed her first anniversary with us at the beginning of May. Well done Hannah for fitting into Roger's shoes so well.

The Parish Council held 11 Monthly meetings and 1 Planning Committee meeting during this past year.

In January, we held both our Staffing and Finance Committee meetings where grant applications were scrutinised and the Parish Council precept was discussed. It was decided to not increase the precept you will be relieved to hear. These recommendations were then ratified by the Full Council at the February meeting.

During this past year, we have introduced individual Parish Councillor email addresses for Members. These new details can be found on the Parish Council noticeboards.

We welcomed 3 new Council Members.

Councillor Colin Jackson is now in his 12th month. Also in September, we co-opted Councillors Joanne Holt and Nicholas Dempsey.

During the past 12 months, we initiated and hosted the very first combined Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposed Calderdale Windfarm, bringing together a forum from all the surrounding communities and we are continuing to keep a close eye on any developments. A public meeting is planned for 7.30pm tomorrow (15th May 2024) at the Birchcliffe Centre in Hebden Bridge. We have received an update today that the developers are still no nearer to submitting a planning application.

We are also currently looking at road safety concerns in both Lee Wood, Cross Lanes and Smithwell Lane. We hope to facilitate a reduction in the speed limit on Slack, a speed review has been carried out by Calderdale as requested.

Following the closure of the public toilets in Heptonstall during the covid pandemic, the Parish Council, eager to rectify this situation, facilitated talks between Heptonstall Community Assets and CMBC to move forward an asset transfer of the toilets in Townfield Lane. We will be giving this aim our continued support.

We assisted the Bowling Club in resolving a long battle to renew their contract with CMBC to be able to continue to offer free parking during the day for both residents and visitors in the Bowling Club car park.

Another successful evening of free training on how to use a defibrillator in an emergency was conducted here at the Bowling Club last week. This was supported by the Bowling Club, White Lee First Aid and organised by the Parish Council as we are now in an enviable position of having 3 defibrillators in our Parish for free use.

Amongst others, we have had 2 excellent presentations, one by the Picture House and also the Swimming Pool Association. We continue to support and promote all local organisations.

Thank you to our Members for all their continued efforts and for their support during my Chairmanship and best wishes to our new incoming Chairman.

3) PRESENTATION OF DRAFT ACCOUNTS

The draft accounts of Heptonstall Parish Council for the year to 31 March 2024 were presented by the Clerk of the Parish Council, and copies were distributed, with the opportunity for questions.

4) ANY OTHER PARISH BUSINESS

- A member of the public congratulated the Parish Council on their work over the last 12 months. He also thanked the Clerk for her work over the past 12 months.

The member of the public praised the Chair for her Chairmanship and expressed how nice it is to see new Parish Council members.

- **Unadopted Roads:** An elector expressed concerns about the amount of unadopted roads in the village that are falling into disrepair. This is causing accessibility issues. The Parish Council will add this to their July agenda for further discussion.
- **Blocked Pavements:** An elector expressed concerns about the pavements on Town Gate and Smithwell Lane being blocked by various protective measures put in place by property owners. This results in pedestrians having to walk in the road to get by. The Parish Council will add this to their July agenda for further discussion.
- **Windfarm:** An elector asked the Parish Council whether they are aware of the levels of opposition or support for this proposed development. It was felt that generally there is a level of support for renewable energy, however the proposed location is where the objection lies. The elector informed the meeting that, due to new planning legislation, developers have to show the level of local support for the development, not just the level of objection.
- **Cobbles outside school:** An elector raised concerns about the condition of the cobbles/sets outside the school, mainly the level of sinkage. Another elector confirmed that this issue started when the school was built. He also explained that it is Calderdale's responsibility to maintain the road, but they have a criterion for works, which could be a long wait. The elector will contact Calderdale to report this issue. The Parish Council will add this issue to the July agenda for further discussion.

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(Chair)

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(Date)