

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF HEPTONSTALL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT HEPTONSTALL SOCIAL & BOWLING CLUB, 04 AUGUST 2026

Present: Councillors: J Holt (Presiding) M V Edwards N Dempsey
S Slater (from Minute 63/26)

(Also in attendance: Clerk Hannah Sherriff-Jackson, co-opted non-voting member R Greenwood and 2 members of the public)

60/26 APOLOGIES (AND REASONS) FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jackson, Hughes, Baldwin, Crowther and Cutts.

No request was made for the reasons for absence to be considered as Approved Reasons.

61/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

62/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public attended.

One member of the public wished to speak on Agenda Item 14 (Outdoor Exercise Area). This item was moved to be discussed at this point. The member of the public asked where the funding is coming from for this project and whether it could be extended to include additional children's play equipment. Cllr Holt explained that the project is still in its early stages. A public consultation has been held which was generally positive, and permission has been given by CMBC to install 5/6 items at the side of the existing play equipment. The Parish Council will be funding this project through grants. Cllr Holt is still awaiting information from CMBC regarding health and safety and inspections/maintenance. The Parish Council advised that if the member of the public is interested in the installation of more play equipment, they need to speak to CMBC regarding health and safety and permissions.

One member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its support in objecting to the proposed parking charges in Towngate Car Park. The member of the public informed the Parish Council that, at the recent CMBC Cabinet meeting, it was decided that there would be no charges imposed at Towngate Car Park and it would remain free.

One member of the public wished to speak on Agenda Item 13 (Phone Box). This item was moved to be discussed before the Outstanding Items. Details of this discussion can be found at Minute 64/26.

63/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting of Heptonstall Parish Council were approved as a correct record of the following:

- Monthly Meeting held 07 July 2026

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr Edwards reported that, following the update on Towngate Car Park from the member of the public, it is unclear to what extent the income generated from the garages played a part in CMBCs' decision. The Clerk will write to Councillor Hunt to thank him and Councillor Commons for their intervention in this matter and express how pleased the Parish Council is with the outcome. The Clerk will also request that, should this matter come before CMBCs cabinet again, the Parish Council is informed in good time.

The Clerk reported that she has received a response from CMBC regarding the community garden on Northgate. CMBC confirmed that they have not carried out any work in that area recently, nor would they use weedkiller on a public footpath such as Northwell Lane.

The Clerk reported that she has received a response from CMBC regarding the verges on Longfield, Southfield, Valley View Road and Hepton Drive. These verges are looked after by Together Housing. The Clerk will write to Together Housing to request that these verges are cut regularly to prevent any health and safety issues.

The Clerk reported that she has received a response from Yorkshire Water regarding the road closure on Slack on the day of Heptonstall Festival. The Clerk is awaiting confirmation regarding a representative from Yorkshire Water attending a Parish Council meeting to discuss the recent road closure issues.

The Clerk reported that she has received a response from CMBC regarding the shortening of the light on Hepton Drive. CMBC has confirmed that this will be rectified; however, a timeframe is not available.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council suspended Standing Orders to allow the member of the public to speak during the following item.

64/26 PHONE BOX

The member of the public informed the Parish Council that there is a lot of community interest in the future plans for the phone box.

Cllr Slater reported that herself, along with Cllrs Jackson and Holt have examined the phone box and created a list of maintenance jobs that need to be carried out on the phone box before it can be repurposed. Cllr Jackson has fitted a lock to the phone box for the time being and has stripped the backboard out.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council will form a Phone Box Working Group to oversee the refurbishment, repurposing and ongoing maintenance of the phone box. The group will consist of Cllrs Slater and Jackson alongside members of the community. The member of the public will speak with people who have expressed an interest and a meeting of the Working Group will be organised to discuss next steps.

Standing Orders were resumed.

65/26 OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The Clerk circulated the Outstanding Items List to members prior to the meeting.

The Clerk will request an update on the suggested painted pavement on Heptonstall Road.

Cllr Holt will chase CMBC about the traffic light timings on Lee Wood Road.

66/26 TRAINING/WEBINAR/CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Clerk provides regular details of the availability of training and conferences and invites members to request bookings via the Clerk as already authorised.

67/26 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS TO PAY

RESOLVED: That the Council approved the following accounts to pay:

H Sherriff-Jackson	Salary (net) to 31/08	£691.24
	Home Working Allce	£26.00
	Domain & Mail Basic 25 – July	£13.20
	Email Archiving – July	£7.80
	HP Instant Ink (Printer Ink) (July)	£11.22

	Microsoft 365 – July	£5.80
	Postage – 1x First Class Stamp	£1.80
HMRC	PAYE	£173.00
CROWS	Footpath Maintenance	£500.00
TOTAL		£1,430.06

68/26 NEWSLETTER

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is 1st September 2026.

Mr Greenwood noted, on behalf of the Parish Council, that the newsletter has never been as good as it is now, and the Parish Council appreciates the amount of work that goes into it.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council will give a small honorarium of £100 to the newsletter compiler.

The Clerk will write to the newsletter compiler to thank her for her hard work.

69/26 CALDERDALE WIND FARM

Cllr Slater reported that Calderdale Energy Park is in the process of compiling the responses to the consultation.

Cllr Edwards will start to prepare a list of addresses for a letter drop.

70/26 PLANNING

All Planning matters are discussed by Full Council, including all members of the Planning Committee.

(a) **Planning Decisions:** Details of Planning decisions made by Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council were provided to members.

(b) **New Applications:**

1. **26/00491/LBC** - RESOLVED: The Council had no objections
 - Property Known As The Sunday School, Slack Top, Edge Hey Road, Colden
 - Conversion of building, repairs and internal works to create partial living area (Listed Building Consent)

(c) Appeals:

1. **26/00040/MAT VAPPTIP1 - RESOLVED:** The Council had no objections
 - Greenwood Lee House, Widdop Road, Heptonstall
 - Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) and Condition 4 (Obscure Glazing Details) on application 22/01093/HSE (restoration of cottage to ancillary residential use, including the construction of a first-floor rear extension).

71/26 ST THOMAS NEW CHURCHYARD

Cllr Dempsey reported that the monthly clear up day was well attended.

Scything of the meadow area will be taking place in early September.

Cllr Dempsey reported that the Parochial Church Council will be meeting to agree an application to Leeds Diocese for permission to erect the information board.

72/26 OUTDOOR EXERCISE AREA

This item was considered during the Public Participation item. Details of this discussion can be found at Minute 62/26.

73/26 GRIT BINS

The Parish Council considered the response from CMBC regarding the cost of refills.

The Clerk will send the list of possible locations to CMBC to obtain permission.

74/26 TRACTOR RUN

The organisers did not attend the meeting therefore this item was deferred to the September meeting.

75/26 ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Calderdale Energy Park – Statutory Consultation Close: The Parish Council noted an email regarding the closure of the statutory consultation for Calderdale Energy Park.

Water Leak – Slack Top: The Parish Council noted concerns about the water leak at Slack Top and an accident that occurred as a result of this. Cllr Slater reported that the leak has since been repaired.

Training – Blackshaw PC: The Parish Council noted an email from Blackshaw PC regarding a Joint Council Training Session. The Clerk will contact Blackshaw PC to book Cllr Dempsey on to this session.

Christmas Lights at Hepton Drive Bus Stop: The Parish Council noted an email from HELP regarding the Christmas lights at Hepton Drive bus stop. The Clerk will write to Calderdale to request that these be reconnected.

76/26 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Cllr Edwards reported that the new administration at CMBC is looking into the effectiveness of Ward Forums.

77/26 DATES & TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Clerk advised that matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting should be with her by 24th August.

The Clerk advised the next meeting would be held:

- Monthly Council Meeting at Heptonstall Social & Bowling Club at **7.30pm on Tuesday 01 September 2026**

.....

(Chair)

.....

(Date)