

The Council has 18 members, two of which are also members of Calderdale Council.

Committees

There are six committees, Allotments, Environmental Renaissance/Parks & Footpaths, Grants, Staffing, Strategy & Review (recently formed) and Twinning, dealing with the main business overseen by the Full Council.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

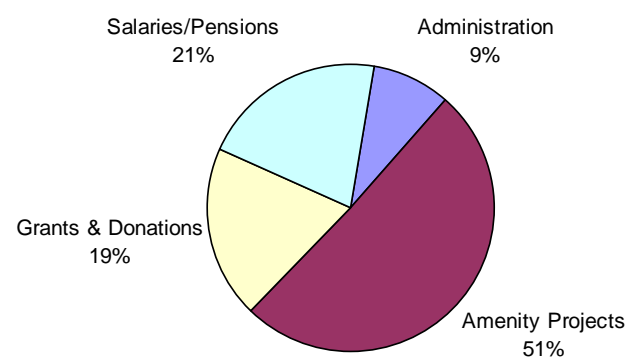
Member	Committees	Full Council Meetings		Committee Meetings	
		Possible	Actual	Possible	Actual
J T Allison	Allotments, Grants, Staff, Twinning	25	12	20	2
C Bampton Smith*	Grants, Staff, S&R	25	22	10	9
J C Beacroft-Mitchell	Allotments, Staff	25	15	9	6
Mrs Beacroft-Mitchell	Environmental, Grants	25	9	5	5
K Boggis	Grants	25	18	5	4
R Dixon	Environmental, Staff, S&R, Twinning	25	23	17	15
N Fekri*	Twining	25	13	6	1
M Foster	Not appointed	25	9	-	-
G Gabbi	Environmental, Finance Monitor	25	18	4	2
C Groves	Allotments, Environmental, Grants, Staff, S&R	25	22	18	11
L Jones	Environmental, Twinning	25	23	10	8
J Oosthuysen	Allotments, Environmental, Grants	25	16	12	7
S Press	All Committees as Mayor	25	24	25	5
C Sawyer	Allotments, Environmental, Twinning	19	19	12	12
J Smith	Allotments, Environmental, Grants, S&R	25	16	13	8
M A Smith	Staff	25	3	6	2
S Trickett	Environmental, S&R, Twinning	25	15	11	2
D Young	Environmental, Grants, Staff, S&R	25	25	16	16

* also member of Calderdale Council

These figures do not show other meetings attended by members on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, casework or other tasks undertaken by ward members.

The Council will have held twenty five meetings this year plus committee meetings as well as working parties and some community public meetings. The possible number of meetings depends on the committees to which a member is assigned and the record is summarised above.

Council Expenditure 2008/09 Total Expenditure £343,668



The Precept, amount collected by Calderdale MBC on behalf of Hebden Royd Town Council, was set at £192,497 plus a grant of £8,431. This works out at £58.21 per year for a Band D household or £1.12 per week. The majority of dwellings in Hebden Royd are Band A paying £38.81 or 75p per week. Expenditure was greater this year as this Council replaced the children's play equipment in Calder Holmes park thanks to grants from the People's Millions (Big Lottery £68,000) and Calderdale MBC (£30,000).

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Hebden Royd Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT



May 2008 – April 2009

Town Mayor

Cllr Susan Press

Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr John Beacroft-Mitchell

Chair of Allotments Committee

Cllr John Beacroft-Mitchell

Chair of Environmental Renaissance/Parks & Footpaths
and Staffing Committees

Cllr David Young

Chair of Grants Committee

Cllr Janet Oosthuysen

Chair of Strategy & Review Committee

Cllr Jade Smith

Chair of Twinning Committee

Cllr Lesley Jones

Other Members of the Council

Cllr Rev James Allison

Cllr Joanna Beacroft-Mitchell

Cllr M Foster

Cllr Christopher Sawyer

Cllr Christine Bampton Smith

Cllr Robin Dixon

Cllr Gian Gabbi

Cllr Dr Michael Smith

Cllr Karl Boggis

Cllr Nader Fekri

Cllr Catherine Groves

Cllr Scott Trickett

Clerk to the Council

Mr David Dempsey



Mayor's Secretary and Clerk's Assistant

Mrs Christine Jackson

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Hebden Royd Town Council

The parish of Hebden Royd lies in the Calder Valley and includes the main population centres of Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd as well as surrounding rural areas, notably, Cragg Vale.

The Town Council, whose members act in a voluntary capacity and are unpaid, has to respond to legislation but is the tier of government closest to the electorate and it seeks to serve by identifying and responding to local needs.

VISION STATEMENT:

The economic, social, and environmental well-being of those who live and work in Hebden Royd will be a major factor in all our decision-making.

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are committed to a better quality of life for all the people of Hebden Royd. We plan to achieve this in association with community groups and the public, private and voluntary sectors. Hebden Royd Town Council will therefore strive to:

- *Be open and accessible in all its decision-making*
- *Be accountable in all its council activities*
- *Be responsive to the needs of the community*
- *Promote equal opportunities*

Wherever possible, individuals and groups are encouraged to work in partnership with the Council to enhance the area to the benefit of the wider community.

Mayor's Report

I was warned when I began my Mayoral year that it would pass in a flash and that has certainly been the case. When I took up office 12 months ago, I set out some key priorities. The first of these was to raise as much money as I could for the Overgate Hospice in Elland and I'm pleased that we've raised over £4000 to help those terminally ill.

I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has helped, including local councillors, members of the local community in Hebden Royd and particularly the staff at Il Mulinos, White Swan, Trades Club and Mytholmroyd Working Men's Club who have helped me organise a wide variety of fund-raising events over the year. Thanks too to the individuals who gave generous donations, the businesses who had collecting boxes. Every penny will make a difference and Overgate is a cause which I know means a lot to many people in the community who have lost loved ones.

This year has also seen the realisation of several schemes and projects of great benefit to the local community. They include the opening of the new children's playground last July, which was made possible thanks to the £68,000 funding from the People's Millions and £30,000 from Calderdale Council. More recently, we've seen the opening of the water-play feature in Calder Holmes Park which has already proved a real hit with our youngsters. This was possible due to funding from the Green Business Network Landfill Communities Fund and hard work of Friends of Calder Holmes Park. There are now plans in the pipeline for an extension of the skateboard park which gives our young people a much-needed leisure facility.

Year in, year out, our Town Councillors offer their time on a purely voluntary basis and I think it's sometimes underestimated exactly how hard they work for us. The same can be said of our officers and I would like to thank Town Clerk David Dempsey and Mayor's Secretary Christine Jackson for her unstinting help. Thanks too to Project Officer Naomi Goddard, Environmental Community Warden, Jason Boom and our latest recruit, Project Officer Jude Wadley. Jason and Jude have helped us attract funding for all kinds of initiatives including the beautiful hanging baskets which do us proud in the spring and summer.

One of the most exciting developments of the year has been the work put in by those who are aiming to transform the Council Office building into a thriving community space. It's a long-term project but I was delighted to be there at the start and will continue to be supportive, as will my fellow councillors.

Hebden Royd is a place renowned for its community spirit and that spirit extends internationally to our twin towns in St Pol sur Ternoise and Warstein. I was pleased to travel over to St Pol just before Christmas and enjoy the hospitality of the townspeople there at the opening of their new Christmas market. Thanks too to our friends from Warstein who joined us there.

It's been a real privilege to visit so many local schools, community groups and take part in the key events of the year including the Civic Service and Remembrance Day parades and services organised by our churches and the Royal British Legion. In conclusion, can I say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made my Mayoral year so enjoyable. I wish my successor, John Beacroft Mitchell, all the very best for his year in office.

Work of the Council

During the last year the full council has met on 25 occasions and made over 600 decisions plus considered and made recommendation to Calderdale MBC on 170 planning applications including the controversial proposed Garden Street development.

The Town Mayor, in her address mentioned some of the more outstanding achievements of the Council, however, much work goes unreported.

Committees

Committees are where issues are examined in detail and six have been appointed this year.

Allotments

Formed to address the demand for growing land from residents, over 100 at last count but the demand is difficult to satisfy in a narrow valley with steep sides. Several sites have been evaluated and all but one have been eliminated. The one possible remaining site is feasible but considerable work and funding will be needed to bring it to fruition.

Community Funding

With a budget of £75,000 last year it was one of the biggest funders in the Calder Valley. All grants awarded directly benefited residents of Hebden Royd. It would not be fair to single out awards on the basis of size as all grants are important to those organisations that applied for them. Any formally constituted group may apply for funding and in certain circumstances even running costs can be funded.

Environmental Renaissance

Seeks to improve the environment of the area. Much planting has taken place and hanging baskets have improved the appearance of Hebden Royd. Self seeded trees which were beginning to threaten the structure of the river wall supporting Keighley Road were removed with the additional benefit of allowing more light into the water. Clean-ups in spring and autumn are among the more mundane activities of this important committee.

Staffing

Looks at employment issues affecting the Council and its employees.

Strategy and Review

Formed late in the Council year to decide and recommend on, Strategy of the Council, Finance and Budgets, Procedure and Standing Orders, Police Liaison, Representations and Reports and other matters not specifically allocated to other committees.

Twinning

Considers all aspects of international relations particularly with our twin towns of St Pol sur Ternoise and Warstein. Assisted and participated in a visit to the Christmas Market in St Pol sur Ternoise in December.

Working Parties

500th Anniversary of Bridge

Established to prepare for formation of a committee in next Council year, this WP has assessed interest in the celebrations and liaised with community groups, developed ideas, drawn up draft plans and recommended a budget to Council. Planning work will increase in the next year in the lead up to the celebrations in 2010.

Central Street

Formed several years ago to address the squalor of this neglected town centre area, the WP persuaded Calderdale MBC's Regeneration & Development Committee to recommend an improvement programme only to have it rejected by the Cabinet Committee on the grounds that there was little evidence of support from landlords. Eleven out of twelve landlords in the area have now confirmed their support for the scheme and Calderdale MBC has been asked to review its decision.

Traffic Issues

Main considerations have been follow up to the Hebden Bridge Traffic Review and the review currently taking place for Mytholmroyd. A number of issues have been identified in Hebden Bridge and a full report is available, on request, from the office.

Upper Valley Councils Cluster

An association of the parish and town councils in the Upper Calder Valley, formed in October 2008 primarily to seek a role for Kerbside in the Calderdale MBC revised waste collection system. Unfortunately unsuccessful in this instance but the Cluster decided to meet when necessary to consider issues of mutual interest.