

PROJECTS, EVENTS & CHRISTMAS LIGHTING COMMITTEE
held WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026 at 6pm
GREENWOOD ROOM, HEBDEN BRIDGE TOWN HALL

PRESENT

Councillors Hedges, Fraser, Hoyle, Parry, Turner and Woodhead

Minutes Deputy Clerk - E Andrews
Town Clerk – Emma Green

ABSENT

Councillors Macdonald

MINUTES

26(PE)158	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & REASONS Apologies were received from Cllr Macdonald – owing to a clash with Calderdale Full Council meeting. RESOLVED: To note the apologies and approve the reasons for absence.
26(PE)159	2. MEMBERS INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS There were no members interests reported at this meeting.
26(PE)160	3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16 JUNE 2026 RESOLVED: To note the information.
26(PE)161	4. PRIORITIES FOR THE PROJECTS & EVENTS COMMITTEE Cllrs considered the priorities of the Projects & Events committee and the budget requirements for the 2027-28 budget, and the three-year forecast to 2031. Cllr Hedges referred to Cllr Woodhead to direct the conversation on priority setting. The Committee's Terms of Reference were re-read. The beginning of the conversation was framed around a consideration of the purpose of the committee. All Cllrs contributed a and the following themes were highlighted: Enriching the community, providing / facilitating fun – making making people

happy, providing family focused provision and supporting local businesses.

It was discussed and recognised that the Council has a duty to residents of Hebden Royd first and foremost, but that a balance must be struck between also drawing in visitors and tourists which in turn also benefits the locality in a multiplicity of ways. Cllrs also agreed that the committee has focused on the delivery of events over projects (with the green Network and WOHB being notable exceptions), and that a 3 year strategy may provide a good opportunity for consideration of ways to correct this perceived imbalance.

Opportunities

An open conversation about Projects & Events opportunities followed, with the below ideas being put forward:

- Could Hebden Royd have a unified **brand or more widely recognised identity that could** be attached to an event or festival? Something that puts the area 'on the map'? It was noted that Happy Valley Pride is currently that largest event overall, with a wide reach.
- Areas of unused and **derelict land** were mentioned, what opportunities could these present?
- **A literature event and / or writing prize**, in reflection of the literary history of the area but also to showcase and celebrate current local talent (authors, poets and other creating writers). Cllrs suggested there may be an untapped enthusiasm for literature as indicated by the prevalence of book groups alongside more visible organisations such as The Arvon Centre at Lumb Bank. Delivering such an initiative in partnership with community organisations, book groups and local writers could broaden participation, strengthen community ownership and may also reduce the level of officer resource required.
- **Volunteers and volunteering** were discussed at length, with Cllrs suggesting that there may be an untapped pool of people in the community wishing to volunteer, but perhaps being unsure of where to look and how to get involved. The wellbeing aspect of volunteering was recognised as a means of connecting people and supporting positive mental health outcomes.
Cllrs discussed the idea of developing the What's On Hebden Bridge (WOHB) platform to provide a means of connecting volunteers to volunteering opportunities in the locality. This would be free, and self serve, much like the platform itself. In addition, looking at

	opportunities in existing schemes such as the Green Network, and learning from models like the Friends of the Rotary Club of Hebden Bridge as a more 'light touch' volunteering offer were discussed. - Community safety and anti-social behavior was raised in light of Todmorden Town Council employing a PCSO. Cllrs mentioned anti-social behavior hot-spots such as Calder Holmes Park and routes around the park, which in places are poorly signed and poorly lit. It was again noted that there is less provision for youth groups than in previous years and that this may, at least in part, be a driving factor. - The addition of EV charging points at the Council owned car park on Station Road was also raised as a potential project to consider. RESOLVED: These Minutes will be considered at the next Strategy & Review Committee Meeting and will feed into discussion around the wider priority setting for the Town Council going forward.
26(PE)162	5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC There was no resolution to exclude members of the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of items of a confidential nature.

Meeting finished at 7:22pm