

HEBDEN BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 10 October 2013 in Hebden Bridge Town Hall

Present: Andrew Bibby (Chair), Cllr Janet Battye (Minutes), Bob Deacon (Treasurer)

Cllr Jonathan Timbers	Hebden Royd Town Council
Lesley Mackay	Sustainable Transport group
Kim Blackburn	Friends of Calder Holmes Park
Charlie Carr	ditto
Sammy Holland	ditto
Jo Budgen	Sector support Calderdale – North Bank Forum
Dave Boardman	Folk Roots
Brian Boocock	Rotary Club of HB
B and J Cape	members of public
Gary Crookes	Fox and Goose Ltd
Cllr Dave Young	ditto
Sue Day	The Horse Boating Society
Cllr John Dunford	Heptonstall Parish Council
John Frederiksen	HB and District Swimming pool
Nick Wilding	ditto
Stephen Garrod	Calder Valley Youth Theatre
Peter Hirst	HB Community Association
Katherine Wackerbarch	HBCA and AF
Stephen Curry	ditto and Angeldale
Brian Kaye	personal capacity
Andrew Kim	Handmade Parade
Gerard Liston	Hope Baptist chapel
Marja, Dongria Kondh, Rosine	Treesponsibility
Josie McCarthy + 1	Dodnaze Community Centre
Judith Milner	Colden and Colne Rivers Trust
Diana Monahan	HB Local History Society
Susan Quick	Enabling Theatre
Anthony McGovern	escort to Susan Quick
Anthony Rae	Calder Futures
Ray Riches	Little Theatre
Gordon Rimer	HB and Tod Housing CIC
Neil Robinson	HB Junior Band
Jenny Shepherd	Incredible Edible Mytholm
Michael Smith	member of public
Nina Smith	Friends of Hebden Bridge Station
Kate Wileman	Calder Valley Voices
Helen Meller	HB Arts Festival
Carol Hayward	Hepton Singers
Nina Smith	Friends of HB Station
Mo Ludlam	HB Walkers Action

1. **Mayor's welcome:** Apologies were read out from Cllr Karl Boggis, Mayor of Hebden Royd Town Council who had been invited to open this AGM. Unfortunately he was unwell so the Partnership's Chair, Andrew Bibby, chaired the meeting, welcomed local people and organisations.
2. **Introduction to this evening's meeting:** AB reported that this is the 5th year of this event. It has been very successful in bringing organisations together by inviting them to give a brief (3 mins max) account of their activities. This year around 30 organisations have taken this up.

The Partnership is an umbrella organisation – “The Town Team” in current parlance – supporting the economic, social and community life within Hebden Bridge. It was established in 2001 and is accountable to the local community. At the end of these presentations, there will be the formal AGM for which everyone is welcome to stay and participate

3. **“Your Town”** Reports from local organisations on their activities last year and plans for the year ahead.

Calder Valley Voices (CW): a Community Choir, 20th anniversary next year. All ages and abilities. Only criteria for joining – enjoyment of singing. Meet in Methodist church every Thurs at 7.15 (a few more men needed !). A capella. 4-part harmony. 55 members. Wide-ranging repertoire. Public performance every year. Next year – Street Choir network meeting to be hosted in HB, weekend after Le Tour.

Town Council: (JT): Budget of £0.25m. £75,000 spent on community activities, £25,000 on environmental work. Runs the Picture House now includes live streaming performances. New booking policy. Twinning activities with France and Germany – next year, commemoration of 1st World War focusing on peace and friendship. Town Council now working on Neighbourhood Plan. TC aims to be part of the lifeblood of the town in supporting organisations. Meetings open to the public with a Public Question Time.

Swimming Pool: (NW and JF) Committee started in 1896! Now raised nearly £1m and need about another £200k. Planning to build at Mytholmroyd Community Centre. Localgiving sponsored by Civic Society – available from 10am on Tues Oct 15th. Anything donated will be doubled until £0.5m spent.

Friends of HB Station: (NS): 6th year of activity. Gardening organised by LM. Flowers and fruit bushes. More than 16 new members. Big Spring Clean Up. Poetry at station (run by BD). Carol singing before Christmas for Railway Children charity. Book

exchange (rather than “library”). Involved in consultation on new timetable – some changes to accommodate another train through Hudds. Signal box now listed and will be decommissioned from 2017.

HB Walkers Action: (ML). Relaunched a year ago. 2 open meetings. Walks booklet for 906 bus sold steadily. Reprinted 3 walks leaflet. Boards now need redoing. Pennine Heritage’s etrails about to be published by Pennine Horizons. For Tour de France, to liaise on drop-off points. Linked into work on permissive footpaths.

Calder and Colne River Trust: (JM): Small group, concerned with water quality in large catchment area. Do hope to get salmon back. 3 main roles – education in schools, work with EA/DEFRA on structures (weirs etc) and invertebrate monitoring (looking at what’s under stones). Always looking for people to help !

Fox and Goose pub: (DY) Public meetings have been held, constitution written and help from Co-op Enterprise hub. Building declared community asset in Feb 2013. Initial offer to buy rejected but co-op share offer has raised £130k from 262 people. Co-op formed. Landlady bankrupt but pop-up pub being run while negotiations underway with administrator.

Trades Club: (DK) Nominated for 2nd year running as small venue of the year. Finally refurbished seats. Lots of great bands and a successful year.

Rotary Club: (BB) One of the largest charities in the world. International campaign to eradicate polio – last year less than 700 cases remaining. Also supports Peace and Conflict Resolution scholars at Bradford University. 7 Rotary clubs in Calderdale – Courier’s Charity of the Year. In HB, £145,000 donated to deserving causes through 3 main events (Vintage cars, Duck Race, Wadsworth Parish walk) which draw many people into the town. Also participate in some other activities – shoebox. Blood pressure. Children’s trips.

Dodd Naze Community centre: (JM) Group first formed in 2001, took over the former shop in 2004 as Community Centre. Lots of support from Councils and Pennine Housing. Reg charity, Facebook page and Twitter. Activities include skips for Spring Clean, After School Club – 12 – on a Monday. Jumble Sales, disco nights for ygr children.. Hallowe’en party. IE Dodd Naze. Hope to have a trip to the pantomime. Good place to live !

Incredible Edible Mytholm: (JS) Incredible Edible Mytholm: (JS) New group, less than a year old. Have proposals for developing Mytholm Works site (designated an employment site). Business Plan now worked up with support of Plunkett Foundation. Ambitious proposals with a 5 year lead-in time, for an exciting eco-attraction to connect people with sustainably grown food, nature and low carbon living. Plans include a

permaculture market garden, a passive house ecohotel & glamping, children's natural play areas, formal and informal hands-on education, a rain garden to reduce flood risk and an incubator for zero waste businesses, that will bring out the mad inventor in people.

Horse Boating Society: (SD) Horse boating extremely rare – few survived. Followed on from former Calder Valley cruising. People appreciate the living heritage. Part of Rochdale Canal Festival. Next two outings – Bingley to Saltaire; Brearley to Hebden Bridge. Always looking for more help !

Local History group (DM): Year began in September 2012 with 2 events in the Town Hall commemorating the 400th anniversary of The Pendle Witch Trials and the 200 years of the Luddites uprising. Annual programme of 12 lectures had 2 relating to the Great War and 4 very local talks. Publications included City in the Hills (all about Dawson City) and Walshaw Dean reservoir.

Historic environment record for our area has been improved thanks for the work of our small prehistory group. As a member of the Local History Network and South Pennines History group, we have been able to take advantage of various training opportunities which improves the skills of our volunteers who help to look after our accredited archives at Birchcliffe Centre. A microfilm copy of the HB Chronicle was provided for HB library. Last year, also worked with Wadsworth Chapel, Heptonstall Partnership, two dementia groups, Riverside school, the Cubs at Salem Mill. Meeting with Eaves and Mytholm Community groups. Family history group also working with local Council. Continuing projects include the Town Hall and WW1 commemorations taking place next year. Two canal history walks held for Rochdale Canal Festival. Local historians provided for a University group holding a History of Mobility Event in HB and, finally, look out for 2 TV programmes next year – about railways and canals for which we provided local knowledge.

Hepton Singers (Carol) Going for 35 years. Sing unaccompanied – Renaissance and Contemporary music. 40 members. Meet on Tuesday evenings. Directors tend to rise from the ranks. 4 concerts/year – July/November in Heptonstall church – plus 2 others for benefit. Quakers in Manchester shortly. Strong history of choir exchange eg Holland, Italy, Budapest. About to be part of Pan European project – 9 choirs getting together – to be hosted in Hebden Bridge in April.

HB Partnership (AB) Recent focus on Action Plan 2020 Vision for Hebden Bridge. Previous plan written in 2005 from which came developments such as pedestrianisation, Town Hall. Time now to take stock and take a new strategic view – takes time. May: consultation on draft Action Plan with workshops. 60 individual responses. Final version published today. 9 priority areas and small task groups (Visitor Economy; Traffic and “shared space”; Housing; Energy and low carbon).

Enabling Theatre: (SQ) Based on Theatre of the Oppressed. Now a registered charity. Recently held a challenging workshop. Performance in Bradford to mark Mental Health Awareness Day today.

Youth Theatre: (SG) Now registered charity with 10 volunteers, 84 yp aged 8 to 18. Rehearsal rooms in the Space in the Town Hall. Last Sept, 12 yp under 11 did a “Play in a Day”, and an Open Mic night. Older members rehearsing 3 times/week for performance of Grease in November at Halifax Playhouse. Aiming for high quality theatre. In total over 240 yp have performed with Y Theatre at a variety of venues including Ted Hughes theatre at Calder High.

Handmade Parade (AK) 6th Annual Parade this year, involving about 12 local artists. 3 weeks of open workshops in preparation. 28 different groups. Parade Day involved over 1,000 people. Now up-and-coming artists as well as international ones. Arts organisation of the year last year, and Valley of Lights won the APSE award for excellence – after the floods, the night-time fire performances helped to turn the town’s reputation round to more positive. Next event – Lamplight in Todmorden on Nov 23.

Folk Roots Festival (DB) Event from 8 to 10 November at the Trades Club, promoting local bands. Look out for the pink flyer.

Hebden Bridge Community Association: PH Chair for 4 yrs since its inception. Welcome to the Town Hall ! This has its roots in HB Partnership with the aim of saving this Grade 2 listed building and funding for extension. Services and organisations based here include the Town and Parish councils, Calderdale Council, 35 small businesses incl HB Arts Festival and Youth Theatre. Activities include exhibitions in the cafe, voluntary groups meeting (Alzheimers, Woodcraft Folk etc). Wedding venue in Waterfront Hall. Open for a year. Community Association more than the Town Hall, also a Development Trust eg taken the initiative on the Police station. Involved in JRF Trust work on Informal Care.

Sustainable Transport group(LM) Primarily a lobbying group on transport issues – rail, bus etc. Meet quarterly and most communication by email. Reps sit on various bodies including Calderdale Council’s Transport group, WYPTE consultative group, DCarb. Working on 2020 vision: integrated transport hub at rail station, parking especially at the station, use of “Shared Space”

Tressponsibility and The Source: (DK) In middle of IVS planting. The Source is a partnership incl Tressponsibility, EA, CMBC, Blackbark etc. Meet once every 3 months to report on and co-ordinate activities. Looking after headwater of River Calder, helping to reduce flooding and erosion, thinking about carbon management. Over summer, series of learning activities around the river – more than flooding. Report just published – “Understanding the Hebden Water catchment”. Next – continuing programme. Meeting

on Nov 9th in the Town Hall with landowners. Grabagrid initiative with Pennine Prospects, surveying the upland areas.

Friends Calder Holmes Park: (CC) Small but busy group. Actively seeking to regenerate the middle section of the Park (tennis courts etc) and the old bowling green with a performance space and bandstand. See the outline plans ! Parks are one of the remaining public spaces and Calder Holmes Park needs more recognition. Moving fwd: using mailchimp to keep people involved and informed – 2 yp leading on this. Looking at possibility of asset transfer.

Hope Baptist chapel: (GL) Next phase of renovation work underway funded with £250,000 from English Heritage. Scaffolding around the chapel. Discovered more work which needs doing which will limit extent of current work. Info sheet handed out – describing Hope Baptist as a valuable community resource, rooted in Christian belief, and is concerned for the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of all, a safe place for reflection, discussion, and spiritual development, and a space that brings people together and helps to build community. The garden space is being developed, especially now that the bus shelter has been replaced. The chapel is a unique space for wide variety of events (such as the Blues Festival) complementing the other venues in town.

Little Theatre (RR) Started in 1924 in the Carlton. Now in own building with extra space for rehearsal rooms, more versatile, extra toilets, own wardrobe space. 90 yrs old in 2014 – big production “Accrington pals”. 5 plays/year.

Heptonstall Parish Council (JD) Similar to the Town Council, but Parish Councils have Chair instead of Mayor. Currently particularly concerned about traffic management (forced to look at because of impact of damage to roads) and bus services. Important relationship between Hebden Bridge and the hilltop villages.

HB Arts Festival (HM) Charity run by volunteers. Annual celebration for local people and visitors. This year, 20th Festival – statistics include 3,300 tickets issued, over 200 artistes performing at over 26 different venues. Included young people-led arts Festival. Street theatre with 140 local people performing. Partnership working from the Town Hall including Handmade Parade.

Planning underway for next year when the world’s spotlight will be on HB because of Le Tour. Dates just announced – ending with Sat 5 July.

Junior Band (NR) Successful year with 323 concerts and a tour of Paris. Increasing number of organisations supporting the band.

Apologies from:

Alternative Technology Centre

Camera Club

Pennine Horizons

WI

Wadsworth Parish Council

Blackshaw Parish Council

HB Piano Festival and Wainsgate Chapel events

4. Annual General Business Meeting:

Apologies:

Cllr Karl Boggis	Jason Boom (HRTC)
Dave Nelson (Piano Festival)	David Fletcher
Cllr Mick Davis (Blackshaw PC)	Caroline Burton (WI)
Polly Webber (ATC)	Frank Woolrych (Pennine Horizons)

4a: Elections to the Management Board: There are about 29 member organisations and we want to encourage more local organisations to join and participate – there is no charge ! It is important that the Partnership is inclusive and representative of the activities within the Town. The Management Board meets monthly and needs to be strong. Partnership meetings are quarterly and open to all to attend. At the last meeting, we discussed the Local Plan with the Principal Planner from Calderdale Council responsible for this work. The next meeting will be in January.

Nominations.

Andrew Bibby reported that he had received ten nominations for Management Board places. He invited further nominations from the floor, but none was forthcoming. The following were therefore declared elected to the Management Board to serve a three year term, representing the following constituencies:

- (a) local business associations and organisations: Stephen Curry
- (b) local arts and cultural organisations: Dave Nelson
- (c) local faith groups and community organisations: Bob Deacon
- (d) young people's groups or schools: Charlie Carr
- (e) environmental organisations: Polly Webber
- (f) sporting organisations: vacant
- (g) local organisations representing the disabled community: Susan Quick
- (h) general category: David Fletcher, Anthony Rae, Lesley Mackay, Marc Collett

Andrew Bibby reported that the following Board members were nominated by other bodies.

However the members served in a personal capacity.

Cllr Janet Battye (Calderdale MBC)

Cllr Jonathan Timbers (Hebden Royd Town Council)

Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe (representing the 4 Parishes)

4b: Treasurer's Report: Bob Deacon introduced his report (copies available) and noted that, in the financial year to end January 2013, there was £602 in the Bank account (£690 at the same time last year). £88 had been spent on room hire and this was the only expenditure during the year. With a grant of £10,000 for the Portas Town work and some funding from the Town Council (for the Action Plan), the accounts next year will show more funding and more activity, he said.

These accounts were accepted by the meeting and BD thanked for his work.

4c. Questions:

Are the Management meetings open ? Yes. The dates are on the website, along with the notes of meetings.

5. Any Other Business: Two announcements were made:

Rochdale Canal Festival: (DM): next year this will be a Transport Festival in the 100 days leading up to the Tour de France.

Disability Access: (SQ) Ideas are needed for improving disabled access within Hebden Bridge.

Andrew Bibby is now retiring as Chair, having reached the maximum length of time permissible on the Board. He was thanked for his hard and successful work for the Partnership.

Cllr Janet Battye
Minutes Secretary