

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd

Minutes of the Meeting of Management Board

Monday 7th December, 2015 at HB Town Hall

Present: Bob Deacon, Cllr. Dave Young, Anthony Rae, Susan Quick, Fiona Pattison, Lesley Mackay, Paul Forrest, Cllr Rob Spencer. Also present: Phil O'Farrell, Cllr Janet Batty,

Apologies: Andrew Bibby, David Fletcher, Thom Bull, Stephen Curry

1 BD (Chair) welcomed Cllr. Rob Spencer (representing Wadsworth Parish Council and the other hill-top parishes) and Fiona Pattison (rep for arts organisations).

2 Minutes of 2 Nov 2015

Accepted as a true record without amendments (proposed DY, seconded AR)

3 New officers

PF (Treasurer) and AB (Secretary) were proposed, seconded and accepted. As previously noted, Chair and Secretary intend to stand down in 2016. AB will be writing to HBP member organisations to invite them to the general meeting on Mon 18th January. AR proposed including a mention of the need for new Board members and officers for 2016 AGM. Action: AB to include in the letter.

4 Matters arising

5d) Market relocation – JB reported that the process of approval and implementation by CMBC of the move to Lees Yard was on track. Public, shopkeeper and trader consultation would be going ahead. The timescale suggests a vote to approve the move would be held by Cabinet in February. Confirmed that up to £3,000 of the Mary Portas fund granted to HBP is available to spend on this but it was hoped that this might not need to be drawn on. A likely request by CMBC for spend on leaflets was approved in principle by the Board. Key issues highlighted by the Board comprised: whether the four working days proposed (Thurs-Sun) would be matched by demand; parking restrictions as a result; FP raised the issue of local residents' waste collections being disrupted.

5e) Towpath signage – AR reported on a consultation for a Calderdale Cycle Super-Highway from Sowerby Bridge to Todmorden, which is planned to open by 2017. Action: **AR** to include signage issues in submission to the consultation and also to ask canal and river trust to install in HB route 66 notices advising cyclists to give way to pedestrians in the meantime.

5f) BD's re-drafted submission to Neighbourhood Plan consultation was noted.

5 Canal Works

The Board approved the letter drafted by AB and BD to site owners, previously circulated. Action: **BD** to send. JB explained investigations she has undertaken through CMBC and police channels. Board agreed she should continue to try to unlock this potential community space.

6a Calderdale Local Plan consultation

BD introduced the background to the CMBC Local Plan, which is open to consultation till

Friday 18th Dec. He then ran through a series of six recommendations to the Board, made by AR and previously circulated. These put HBP's position in the context of a HB Town Council report which lays out its position over all sites proposed for development and a sample of sites 'filtered' (rejected for development) in the Local Plan.

- i. Agreed that the HRTC Neighbourhood Planning Committee's view should be supported and that HBP's aim – outlined in the 2020 Vision - to see brown field sites set aside for development before green belt land is considered, should be emphatically re-stated.
- ii. Agreed that HBP should both (a) make a submission to CMBC *and* (b) contribute to the HBTC consultation process. Its response to the HRTC consultation would be to support the HRTC view on the listed sites. (It was noted in this context that the lower part of site LP1501 would be recommended for removal when next considered by the HRTC).
- iii. It was not possible for HRTC to review all the filtered sites but a statement of principle will be made by the HBP and the sample and some other filtered sites also commented on by the HBP, following the example of HRTC. Submissions over the Local Plan can ask for filtered sites to be brought back into consideration. AR will also request CMBC to undertake an 'Urban capacity study' to assess whether use of brown field sites is being optimised. PO'F agreed with this position (obo Civic Trust) and added that small incursions into green belt are likely to lead to further developments in the future. PO'F suggested it might be better to encourage one larger mixed use development. It was agreed that this view could be returned to at a later stage.
- iv. Agreed that individual responses, from HBP trustees as well as member organisations, are important. Action: AB will circulate minutes and make members aware of the consultation, available at: <http://calderdale-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>. HBP considers that promotion of the process has been poor. The library holds a copy of the map and site listing and a series of meetings have been held. Action: **BD** will establish a discussion thread on HebWeb and ask for paperwork to be posted in the Town Hall.
- v. Agreed that the response of the HBP to HRTC agreed above would be prepared for the Neighbourhood Planning Cttee by 11 Dec and would also address the specific issue of housing density raised in the Local Plan consultation document. Action: BD to submit a statement obo HBP by 11 Dec.
- vi. Agreed that a response to the Local Plan from HBP should be submitted to CMBC by 18 Dec. Action: **BD and AR** to prepare and send.

6b HBP General Meeting on Mon Jan 18th, 7.30

Phil Ratcliffe (Principal Planning Officer at CMBC) will address members at the HBP general meeting, to be held downstairs at the Hope Baptist Church.

7 20 mph Limit

AB had previously circulated a proposal for £175 to be spent on increasing awareness of – and popularising – the proposed 20 mph limit to be set for HB in 2016. LM agreed that the Sustainable Transport Group of Upper Calder Valley Regeneration was in the best position to take this forward. A proposed design for posters/stickers had been included by AB, and other suggestions were made, including bumper stickers with a common message, hi-viz branded tabards for children in 'walking bus'. The costs might be met by CMBC not requiring the HBP offer of £175

SQ suggested monitoring of road speeds. BD and AR reported that a radar gun held by Jae Campbell will be requested for use by volunteers.

AR raised two sites for action -

a) Albert Street/Commercial Street junction – a proposed assessment for improvements is supported by all ward cllrs. It should also be lodged with both the 20mph development process and the relocation of the market. LM strongly recommended assessment was done without the involvement of transport engineers.

b) Station car park – AR spoke to Head of Transport at CMBC, who agreed that the car park could be used for general parking during weekends. Action: **AR** to write to him, formally requesting this is put in place.

8 Valley Road Site

BD reported - Judicial Review called by site owners has been heard but judge reserved his/her position and put on hold for a while. If the review upholds the objections, a new inspector will be appointed and the process will start again. If the review rejects them, the development as proposed will not go ahead and HBP will be in a position to negotiate alternate uses with the owners. Action: when a decision has been announced, **BD** will reconvene the working group. Sets of drawings of alternative uses for the site (from Hilary Chadwick and David Fletcher) were not available. David's will be available at a later date.

9 Disability Access

JT's recommendations at the last meeting were on agenda. JT was not present .LM – a lot of delays and HBP should push ahead nonetheless. The 'Getting About' report needs to be revisited. Action: **JB** to contact Geraldine Rushton (CMBC Disabilities officer) to discuss options for a survey of access within HB. Action: **AR** to ensure Lindsay Smales (Neighbourhood Planning officer) is addressing local access issues and is involving people with disabilities in the process.

10 Proposed HB Development Board

Agreed that the document drawn up by AB and BD and commenting on the proposed establishment of a Town Board is appropriate. It states that HBP is supportive in principle but has concerns over details of: transparency; the Board's actual powers; and the ability of local community organisations to negotiate how it is constituted and run. JB reported that HB Board proposal had been called in for scrutiny for similar reasons but that she had not been able to attend. The proposal had not been opposed. DY stated that a Board would improve HB community's ability to gain access to funding and that there would be flexibility in how it was set up and run. Action: **BD and AB** to discuss HBP's concerns with Robin Tuddenham and Mark Thompson (CMBC).

11a Applications for membership

Noted

11b Finances

PF reported on financial spreadsheet previously circulated. Little change since the previous meeting's report. A need to apply for funding – HRTC grants highlighted by DY – will be addressed by the officers. Action: **BD, AB and PF** to meet to discuss HBP's financial sustainability and funding opportunities.

12 Events

SQ – Carols at HB Railway Station on Wed 16th December, 5.30-6.45, in aid of the Railway Children Charity.

PF – Calder Valley Voices concert at HB Methodist Hall on Thurs 10th Dec at 7.30 for 8pm start, in aid of St Augustine's Centre in Halifax.

13 AOB

LM - HB Station lift – Mike Troke has successfully negotiated for the ramp to Platform 1 to be retained.

Next Meeting

General Meeting, Mon 18th January at 7.30pm, Ebenezer Room, ground floor, Hope Baptist Church.

Mon 8th Feb 2016.