

## **Hebden Bridge Partnership**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**Present:** John Ludlam, Mo Ludlam, Barbara Atack, Stephen Curry, Chris Ratcliffe, Geoff Sweaney, Kirsty Hall, Helen Meller, Cllr Jonathan Timbers, Susan Quick, Sheila Wild, Helen Dziemidko, Lili Briggs, David Bartlett, Alison Jones, Anthony Rae, Andrew Bibby, Cllr James Fearon, Bob Deacon, Steve Hogle, Andrew Entwistle, Ian Vickridge, Jenny Shepherd, Dongria Kondh, Carol Hayward, Emily Jones, Graham Joyce, [illegible], Richard Rose, Graham Mynott, Gwen Goddard, Nick Wilding, Hannah Nadim, Janet Lymer, Guy Lymer, Jane Jackson, Heather Stanton, Martin Whittell, Vikki Uttley, Michael Coneys, Cllr Dave Young, Rory Deighton, Amanda Briggs, Rachel Julian, Ben Julian, Paul Knights, Don Myers, Sue Turner, Jan Scott Nelson, Paul Forest, Liz Anstee, Fiona Pattison, Brian Toberman, Cllr Jane Scullion, Giles Dring, Judi Chysenton [?], Peggy Thomas, David Fletcher, Robert Blomfield, Ralf Nimmann, Cllr Val Wade, Cllr Janet Battye, Dave Nelson, Thomas Bull, Steve Garrod, Sue Mellis, Murray Seccombe

#### **1. Introduction and welcome from Cllr James Fearon, Mayor of Hebden Royd**

#### **2. Presentations.**

**Fox and Goose Cooperative (Hannah Nadim):** A member co-op with a paid manager and staff (paying real living wage), reporting to shareholders annually. Volunteers help refurbish the building etc. Socially minded, using local suppliers. Registered with CAMRA and in Good Beer Guide. Well used by local groups. Turnover now doubled.

**White Ribbon Campaign (David Bartlett):** Small national charity based in Mytholmroyd. Campaigning for men to take action against domestic violence towards women. Partnerships with other agencies, nationally and locally. Nov 25 is international White Ribbon Day. 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in House of Commons.

**Civic Trust (Nick Wilding):** Delighted that they have filled the Picture House twice for people to see their new film. 70 new members. AGM on Weds (Oct 14<sup>th</sup>). HB deserves recognition as pioneer of workers co-ops in Nutclough Mill.

**HB Arts Festival (Helen Mellor):** 22<sup>nd</sup> Festival this year, going from strength to strength. 14,000 attendances, 59 events in 20 venues but free and community events important. Now providing more events year-round. Micro-commissioning to get people started. In collaboration with Pennine Heritage and Café culture for Staying Well. Next year: 24 June to 3 July.

**Town Twinning Society (Jane Jackson):** Independent voluntary organisation working with the Town Council. Visitors from twin towns (St Pol and Warstein) stay with local families (and reciprocated). Official visit this year to celebrate 35 and 20 years' twinning respectively. Recent

visit from delegation from N. Italy who want to set up friendship links especially with youth groups. Next year: Warstein in May.

**Trades Club (Michael Coneys):** Well-known institution which contributes to the life of Hebden Bridge, brings an estimated £250,000 into the local economy each year from its 200+ concerts etc. 60% of people come from outside HB. People play because they like it! Venue for community activities. Runner-up in national small venue competition. Not-for-profit, aiming to become a co-op.

**Treesresponsibility (Dongria Kondh):** Next year celebrating 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 9 at the Trades Club. Planted over 0.25m trees, aiming for 10,000 next year. Concern is more than tree-planting, part of the Source project helping to keep valley safe from flooding, including moorland management, river stewardship.

**Folk Roots Festival (Brian Toberman):** First festival last year, 95% of performers local, 7 local venues (one pub broke its own record for takings). Next year: 13/15 May. Get tickets early! Becoming not-for-profit company and hope to become charity.

**Hebweb (Chris Ratcliffe):** 20 yrs old this year. Started before google, facebook, twitter. Exciting to see the internet develop. Plaudits (and some complaints). Successful because of contributions from local people. Use search facility – everything there !

**HB Community Association (Town Hall) (Rory Deighton):** RD has been a Trustee for 2 years of this fantastic facility, amazing resource which includes 30 small businesses. Community groups regularly use the building for their meetings and activities as well as unusual one-off events. Priorities for the coming year: making the building work; developing Staying Well.

**Upper Calder Valley Renaissance (Stephen Curry):** Set up 10 years ago after extensive community consultation which devised a 25yr Masterplan for the Valley. Lost some momentum but relaunched last year with a conference that identified 13 valley-wide issues (Taking Stock and Looking Forward). Aims to link and support community groups and act as a catalyst. Recognised brand and reputation for achieving results. Preparing to become a social enterprise.

**Arts Events at Wainsgate (Dave Nelson):** Grade2\* listed Baptist chapel (used for wide range of musical and spoken events) and an attached Sunday school building (studio space for 10 artists and large hall). Day-to-day management is by the Friends group (Dave is the Chair) which is a constituted group. Building still needs more work doing (especially a second toilet, kitchen refurbished and organ repaired).

**HB Business Forum (Giles Dring):** Growing pains in second year. Aim – to advocate on behalf of local businesses. Focus this year – continuing to grow and become established. No membership fees at present. High points – market consultation; increasing social media to extend reach; speed networking event, 50 people talking to each other (to be repeated).

**Calder Valley Community Land Trust (Graham Mynott):** Community Benefit company. Holding land for the benefit of local people. Over 100 CLTs nationally, all different. Locally,

aiming to provide affordable rented housing. Next actions: To acquire the Fielden Centre; asset transfer of land in Walsden from Calderdale Council to build 6 bungalows for older people with John Eastman homes; and completing feasibility study on land at High St in HB which was previously built on (and could it be suitable again ?)

**Elmet Trust (Sheila Wild):** 7yr lease of Ted Hughes' birthplace from CMBC, beginning process of community asset transfer to get 125yr lease and therefore able to refurbish etc. Rented as holiday home which produces income. Next Ted Hughes festival in Feb 2016 and looking forward to 100yr celebration of his birth in 2030.

**HB Woodcraft Folk (Rachel Julian):** Set up 90 years ago, links with the Co-op movement (non-religious etc). Meets every Thurs at 6.30pm in Salem Mill. 30/40 children aged 6 to 13 at present. Do lots of activities (eg Show and Tell/nature boxes). Children like the games. Happy to grow – 13plus Venturers.

**Pennine Heritage (David Fletcher):** Registered charity, established for 40yrs. Supporting social, economic and environmental restoration of HB, such as Nutclough Mill. Recent project on Heritage, renovated Birchcliffe Centre, collected more than 30,000 photos going back to 1840. Open Days to look at and bring along photos to be digitized. Created 16 Heritage walks.

**HB Women's Institute (Kirsty Hall):** Thriving modern WI with 47 members of all ages. Monthly meetings with talks and boozy parties. Interest-based subgroups and regular outings. Website. Raise money for good causes (Smartmove, Women's Centre) through Rag Markets etc. Recently set up a £500 bursary, giving 4 grants.

**Growing Futures (Jenny Shepherd):** Previously Incredible Edible Mytholm. 2013 Planning permission was given for supermarket and hotel on Brown's site. No sign of this being used so the group is getting back into action, aiming to set up a business to buy the site to use it for permaculture, training, food businesses, ecotourism hotel, and various "meanwhile" projects. Applying for outline planning permission.

**Calder and Colne Valley Trust (Geoff Sweaney):** One of 47 Trusts in the UK. Main task is monitoring the quality of water in the rivers. Relying on volunteers. Project on Hebden Water – what people like about the river, improve the habitat, fish catches, showcase the history of the river, education. Also working with the Source to manage upland.

**HB Junior Band (Thom Bull):** Aim to encourage young people to play brass instruments. Two bands: A and B (younger and progress to A). Recent tour of Poland, previously Paris and Germany. Involved in twinning with St Pol.

**Northlight Studios (Don Myers):** Part of vibrant visual arts community. Not for profit. 27 studio spaces. Set up education strand in 2009, in response to demise of Adult Education. Now 14 regular classes this term incl Art for the Terrified. Also wide range of day and weekend workshops. Young Northlight is for 9 to 13 yr olds (and babies). New space in former Chapel of Rest (across the road) will provide gallery and flexible workshop space, accessible and available for groups to hire.

**Mill Pond group (Peggy Thomas):** Not for profit company. The area between Windsor View and Spring Grove. Now a nature reserve. Recent audit of wildlife including 15 types of bird, trees, fungi etc. Funded by Friends. Plans to control Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.

**HB Walkers Action (Mo Ludlam):** Set up in 2007, focusing on developing walking leaflets. Recent achievement is the establishment of a loop of the Pennine Way through HB, 300 people attended launch (filmed by Nick Wilding). HB to Haworth walk booklet launched by three Mayors. Supporting walkers group in Todmorden and development into Walkers are Welcome town (of which there are now 117). Hosting 10yr anniversary in 2017. Walks up to Old Town next.

**Friends of HB Station (Martin Whittell):** More than people gardening in the station on Saturdays. Good relationship with Network Rail and Northern Rail, and meet with Transport Police. Linked with Sustainable Transport group. Projects include making sure buses and trains link, light in bus shelter, carparking. Being given the signal box and lamp room (to turn into small museum). Disability access a high priority.

**HB Local History Society (Barbara Atack):** Formed 1947, part of Scientific and Literary Society. 150 members and many visitors. 2 newsletters, fortnightly meetings in the Methodist church. Updated website. Exhibition in the Town Hall gives a visible presence. Large archive at Birchcliffe available for researchers to use. Family History section. 2 recent books published. Blake Dean stones being researched. Heptonstall graves recorded.

**Handmade Parade (Liz Anstee):** 9<sup>th</sup> year last year, 800/900 people involved in making the lanterns (made of fibreglass and steel, costing about £50,000), 8,000 people attending. Active Board, Creative Director and 4 resident artists. Local, regional (Skipton, Fleetwood, Doncaster, Otley) and international.

**HB Piano Festival (Jan Scott):** 4<sup>th</sup> festival next year on 22/24 April. 15 events from Friday to Monday. Formal recitals and lunchtime/community events. Very well received. Already booked winner of this year's Leeds piano competition. Next event: fundraiser with Christmas carols with Dave Nelson on the afternoon of 20 Dec (tickets sell fast).

**Calder Valley Voices (Paul Forrest):** 20 years old. Anybody can come along and start singing! Concert in July and new Christmas concert (Tues 10 Dec). Fundraised for Ebola last year (£500) and the Women's Centre this year. Also sing in hospitals and hospice. Try it out!

**Hope Baptist Chapel (Vikki Uttley):** Aiming to provide a community space in the middle of Hebden Bridge and promote spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Anybody welcome to come into the building, look around or sit quietly. Redevelopment work started in 2008, soon the final round. Nearly £1m will have been spent on the building. It is now being used for wide variety of events etc. See the programme.

**UCVR Sustainable Transport Group (Murray Seccombe):** To campaign for improvements in transport. Myra James won award for '20 is plenty'. Particular recent activities include

campaigning for rail electrification, new franchise early December, new service to Huddersfield, Road Safety, Air Quality. New: 13 electrically powered bikes.

**Flood Action Group (Andrew Entwistle):** Part of the local activity to counteract flooding. Community voluntary group. 5 flood relief material containers in place around HB (including behind the Picture House; Bridge Lanes carpark; ATC at Callis Bridge; Murts) with equipment to minimise impact of flooding. Their use will be triggered by Disaster room in Leeds – be prepared

**Calder Valley Youth Theatre (Steve Garrod):** Registered charity, run by parents, rehearsing 2/3times/week for 10 months of the year in HB Town Hall. 65 children, aged 8 to 18. "Play in a Day" aims to get children started, introducing them to performing and fun. Spring concert at Calder High School where everyone does something., then HB Arts Festival. May auditions for next big show. This year – Flashdance in November at Halifax Playhouse.

**Calder Future (Anthony Rae):** River partnership aiming to reduce flood risk by removing vegetation from the river channel. 2014/1 in Mytholmroyd using the Environment Agency's computer modelling. Now awaiting modelling for Hebden Bridge.

**Friends of the Picture House (Paul Knights)** supports the cinema and represents the views of users (linking into the Town Council's Picture House Management Committee) 600 people now on mailing list. Not-for-profit organisation and any monies raised ploughed back in to the Picture House. Helping with the upkeep of the building. Next projects are to restore an original clock for the entrance hall. £3,000 raised primarily from selling old movie posters.

**Hepton Singers (Carol Hayward):** Choir of 40 people, meeting in the Methodist church hall, conducted by Alison West (except for during her sabbatical 3 months last year). Unaccompanied music esp. Modern contemporary music. Concerts last year (2 in Heptonstall church and 2 benefit concerts for victims of torture and CROWS), Completed 9 workshop weekends including choirs from other countries.

**Thefactoryline (Fiona Pattison):** Now in second year. Creative arts online directory, free to people to be included on list. Mentor artists (of all sorts) to be ready for industry. Events incl Summer of Love at the Trades Club. Next easy Christmas concert on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> (music, poets and writers). Next class to encourage artists to work together. Fiona's background in marketing, also linked to Poland and San Francisco.

**Tinderwood Trust (Emily Jones):** Founded in 2011 for pre-school children to encourage them to learn through doing, forest schools, taking them into woods, reconnecting learning with nature. Also mentoring in Primary schools etc.

**Hebden Royd Town Council (Mayor):** £55,000 in grants to local groups. Application process has been simplified. Aiming to give 25% to sporting groups this year especially fledging groups. Town Council also active in developing and providing allotments, bulb planting, and planning to seed wildflowers between HB and Mytholmroyd. Turnover of the Picture House (which it runs after asset transfer from Calderdale Council) now over £400k/year, improvements have been

made and there is a wide programme. Neighbourhood Plan process started, including surrounding village Parish Councils.

### **3. Hebden Bridge Partnership AGM**

This was held during the presentations.

- a. The chair Bob Deacon gave a short verbal report, speaking to the report (circulated) on the Partnership's progress in delivering the Vision 2020 Action Plan objectives.
  - b. Paul Forrest (treasurer) gave the treasurer's report, speaking both to the filed accounts form Feb 2014-Jan 2015 and to an income and expenditure report from Feb – Sep 2015. Both showed deficits, which Paul explained was because the Partnership was in the process of gradually spending the £10,000 grant awarded under the Mary Portas scheme. Nevertheless the management board would shortly be looking for other sources of income to enable its work to continue. One member present asked for a balance sheet also to be included.
  - c. Elections. The following were elected without a vote:  
Thomas Bull (young people's organisations)  
Paul Forrest (environmental organisations)  
Fiona Pattison (arts organisations)
- In an election for the one place vacant in the general category, Andrew Bibby was elected.