

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd

Minutes of meeting of Management Board, Monday November 2nd 2015 at HB Town Hall

Present: Bob Deacon, Andrew Bibby, Stephen Curry, Lesley Mackay, Cllr Dave Young, Anthony Rae, David Fletcher. Also present: Cllr Janet Battye, Guy Lymer, Phil O'Farrell.

Apologies: Cllr Jonathan Timbers, Susan Quick, Fiona Pattison, Paul Forrest; Cllr Val Wade.

1. Declarations of interest. None given.

2. Election of officers. Bob Deacon was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected Chair for the forthcoming year. It was noted that Bob intended this to be his final year in post. Andrew Bibby was proposed as Secretary but declined nomination at this stage and asked for the election of both Secretary and Treasurer to be postponed until the December meeting, when it was hoped Paul Forrest would be present. Andrew Bibby agreed to continue acting as Secretary on an interim basis until then.

3. Minutes of Oct 5 were agreed as a correct record, without amendments.

4. Guest presentation from Guy Lymer, Bridge Rectifier (HB Hackerspace). The chair welcomed Guy to the meeting. Guy explained that Bridge Rectifier was a new social enterprise based at Hebble End mill, operating as a 'hackspace' or 'hackerspace' on a self-help basis, sharing knowledge and equipment. It currently had 19 members, and needed about 35-40 to cover costs. It was registered as a members' cooperative. Although hackspaces were established in places such as Manchester and Leeds, this was the first such initiative in Calderdale. Bridge Rectifier was holding an open day on Sat Nov 21st (times to be confirmed), followed by a fundraiser benefit at the Blue Pig.

5. Matters arising
 - a. Parishes representative. No communication had been received by the Secretary
 - b. Calder Civic Trust. It was reported that the AGM had attracted only six people.
 - c. Canal works. Janet Battye reported that the Calderdale 'site unlocking' officer is investigating. She has also talked to the Chief Superintendent of the police, and the police are looking into the background.
 - d. 20mph implementation. It was agreed to request that Tim Robinson (Calderdale officer) met members of the Partnership immediately before the forthcoming Ward

Forum to discuss issues we wished to raise (such as the Bridge Mill-Town Hall road section and the top end of Crown Street). Action: **Janet Battye, Anthony Rae, Lesley Mackay**

Anthony Rae advised that he was investigating whether citizen action with radar guns (without legal powers of enforcement) was permitted, as a consciousness raising exercise.

e. Towpath signs. Anthony Rae agreed to chase this issue with CRT. Action: **Anthony Rae**

f. Neighbourhood Plan submission. Andrew Bibby had prepared a draft submission which was discussed. Points raised included: importance of high speed broadband, possible value of live/work space, issue of discouraging commuting, need for spaces for starter businesses to expand into. Andrew agreed to redraft the submission.

Action: **Andrew Bibby**

Janet Battye advised that a consultation meeting on the Calderdale Local Plan would be held at the Town Hall on 16th November.

6. Membership and AGM

a. The following membership applications were accepted: Bridge Rectifier, The Friends of Calder Holmes Park, Hebden Bridge Piano Festival, The Egg Factory, The Heptonstall Village Team, Calder Future, Hebden Bridge Folk Roots Festival.

b. Composition of membership board. The board discussed whether the current complex arrangements for electing management board members remained appropriate. It was agreed that Anthony Rae and Stephen Curry would constitute an informal task group to review the constitution and would report to a 2016 management board meeting. Action: **Anthony Rae, Stephen Curry**

c. Strengthening the Partnership in its work. The chair led a discussion on ways of best bringing in new faces to the Partnership in its task groups. It was agreed that a good way forward was to pro-actively approach individuals who might be interested.

d. Venues for meetings. It was agreed that all Partnership meetings would be held in accessible venues.

7. Disability access.

Andrew Bibby sought permission to withdraw his circulated paper, since it had not been his intention to make proposals for which clearly consensus did not exist. This was agreed.

The chair tabled papers received from Jonathan Timbers, including "Questions to ask before starting an access group", and details of legal action being taken elsewhere against a pizza outlet for inadequate provision for a wheelchair user. A

paper “Creating reasonable adjustments for disabled people” from the www.equalityhumanrights.com website was also tabled by the chair.

A useful discussion followed. There was general desire to find the best way forward to develop this part of the 2020 Vision Plan.

Anthony Rae asked whether another body other than the Partnership might be a most appropriate body to take the lead role. Lesley Mackay asked that the needs of pushchair users also be taken into account. It was discussed whether Hebden Bridge’s status as a conservation area had any relevance legally in regard to access issues under the Equality Act.

Dave Young advised that the town council was already progressing with painting white lines on the cinema steps, which would be a successful outcome for one of the issues raised at the Partnership’s meeting with Craig Whittaker in 2014.

Andrew Bibby said that he thought that Jonathan Timbers’ paper on ‘Questions to ask’ was very helpful in suggesting ways forward, and he proposed that Jonathan’s suggested options (1) and (3) be taken on board and implemented. This decision did not preclude other steps being taken at a later date, including option (2). Option 1 was ‘Approach Calderdale Access Group and ask them to do an access report’. Option 2 was ‘Approach a number of specific impairment groups and adult and social services (including Mytholm Meadows) to see if they can arrange consultation sessions’. Option 3 was ‘Work with the town council to create an access reference group for the neighbourhood plan’. Andrew also proposed that the decision to proceed with Options 1 and 3 should be subject to review at the December meeting, were either Susan Quick or Jonathan Timbers to disagree with this proposed strategy. Andrew’s proposal was seconded by Dave Young and was agreed unanimously. The methods of implementation would be discussed in detail at the December meeting.

It was noted that there were a number of local people who had already indicated their interest in engaging with the Partnership in this aspect of its work. The Partnership would need to ensure they were kept informed of developments.

8. Valley Road. It was reported that the Valley road task group had taken initial steps to sketch three alternative uses of the site (underground car parking, housing, training hotel), but were unsure how to proceed in terms of approaching the developers again if the Judicial Review into the Sainsbury planning application failed, and unsure also on how best to consult the town. It was agreed to make this a major item at the December meeting, which would be held a few days after the Judicial Review hearing.

David Fletcher advised that he had, as a personal initiative, commissioned work on possible alternative uses of the fire station site which would maintain parking

provision and which he believed would also be commercially viable. It was agreed to ask David to bring his proposals to the next meeting. Action: **David Fletcher**
Anthony Rae noted that the town council's proposed work towards a parking strategy for the town had been postponed.

9. Market transfer. Janet Battye gave a detailed report of progress in discussions to move the market. It now seemed likely that all the current market could be accommodated in Lees Yard. It was also possible that the costs of the market transfer might be able to be found from funds held by Calderdale. It was the highest priority being tackled by Calderdale's markets working party. A meeting was being held on Friday to progress plans further.

10. Financial strategy for the Partnership. This discussion was deferred.

11. Next General Meeting, Jan 17th. It was agreed that the focus would be on the Local Plan. Action: **Anthony Rae** to ensure a speaker was invited. Action: **Andrew Bibby** to arrange the venue.

12. Other business

a. Email protocol. The meeting clarified its approach to the use of email. All members were encouraged to submit written papers for discussion at forthcoming management board meetings, papers normally to be mailed out by the secretary with the agenda. Members were also welcome to circulate other matters of potential interest for information, but were asked to use email sparingly.

Members were asked to refrain from any online debate or discussion of papers in advance of meetings. However members who felt more comfortable making observations on circulated papers in writing rather than verbally were invited to communicate their comments to the chair, who would ensure that the points they made were raised at meetings.

b. Air pollution. Lesley Mackay and Anthony Rae drew attention to the consultation currently under way, details of which had been circulated. A further West Yorkshire consultation on air quality has just started.