

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd
Minutes of General Meeting, 23 March 2017
Held in The Terrace Room, Hebden Bridge Town Hall

Present: Mark Simmonds, Cllr Dave Young, Lesley Mackay, Anthony Rae, Andrew Bibby, Dave Bell, John Walker, Geoff Matthews, Jo Bird, Mark Simmonds, Alexa Kerr, David Oakley, Cllr Carol Stow, Andrew Entwistle, Val Cryne, Jane Jackson, Ginny Mansouri, Cllr Jane Scullion, Janet Cape, Bruce Cape, Maggie Woods, Cllr Sue Fenton, Geoff Tansey, Diana Monahan, Bob Deacon, Peter Lord, Geoff Wood, Barbara Atack, Michael Coneys, Sue Mellis, P & J Pemberton-Clarke, Ralph Nimmann

Apologies: Paul Forrest, John Ludlam, Helen Dziemidko, Mike Troke, Eileen Kelly, Cllr Ali Miles, Cllr Josh Fenton-Glynn

1. Cllr Dave Young welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Great British High Street Award

Geoff Matthews (Chair of HB Business Forum) gave a lively account of how Hebden Bridge has successfully been chosen for the Great British High Street award. This was an award, begun in 2014, which had grown each year. In 2016 there were 900 entries and 42 finalists (in all categories). Hebden Bridge was shortlisted for the Best Small Market Town award as one of three finalists (the two other towns were Thame and Chipping Norton).

The award required extensive use of social media, which Eileen Kelly had coordinated.

At the awards ceremony Hebden Bridge was not only announced as the winner in its category, but also won a second award as the People's Choice. 40,000 votes had been received online for the town!

Heart Gallery had also been shortlisted in the separate category for best Twitter shop.

Geoff added that places were still available for a Digital Training event being held on 5 April in the Town Hall.

3. Hebden Bridge Market

Calderdale's markets officer John Walker introduced this item. He pointed out that Hebden Bridge had had a market for over a hundred years. There had been talk of relocating the market for a very long time, and the move was now happening in two weeks' time.

Thereafter, the market would be in Lees Yard. The traditional market would be on Thursdays, as at present. The Weds market would move to Friday. A new market, focused on local products and art work, would operate on Saturdays and the farmers market would be on Sundays. Book fairs were another possibility.

John had established a small market focus group, to feed in comments and suggestions. Dave Young represented the Partnership on this body.

The new market building included toilets for the traders, and storage space for the stalls. There was a possibility that it could have a green roof.

4. Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd Development Board

Cllr Jane Scullion explained the background to the new Town Board, which would meet for the first time the following week. Its remit would be to coordinate the

approach to regeneration locally, by working with local communities. It would meet in public and be composed of seven councillors (three from Calderdale and four from the town council) and seven community representatives (two each from HB Partnership and Royd Regeneration, one from HB Community Association, one from HB Business Forum and one place (jobshare) from the business community in Mytholmroyd). There had been a competitive process for the community places, following an advert in the local press. Two Cabinet representatives would also be members.

Jane said that the Board would hold four meetings a year. Its themes initially would be infrastructure development (including digital infrastructure); placemaking, sustainability and economic viability; flood resilience. The first meeting would be on Thurs 30 March, 5pm, in the Erringden Room, Mytholmroyd.

Jane responded to questions from the floor, including questions over whether the Board required extra taxpayers money and the need to elect community representatives democratically. The problem of slow upload speeds in the town was raised.

5. Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan

Anthony Rae briefly explained the progress of Calderdale's Local Plan, and the Neighbourhood Plan covering Hebden Royd and the four rural parishes. The government had set a requirement of 17,500 houses (13,500 sites) in the borough by 2032. Calderdale was proposing in the Local Plan that the overwhelming majority of these would be in the lower valley. Hebden Bridge it was proposed would have just 150 houses. Callis Mill and Valley Rd were among the sites identified. The Neighbourhood Plan, which would require a local referendum, would be published very shortly after the Local Plan.

6. Making HB Accessible for All

Andrew Bibby gave a progress report on this joint HB Partnership/Community Foundation project. The Foundation had funded an access audit of local buildings, shops and outdoor spaces, which had been undertaken by Chris Cammiss. Around 30 shops had taken part. Grants of up to around £3,000 were available to fund work identified by Chris in his reports, and Andrew urged local businesses to apply. A seminar to report on the project would be held on Mon May 8, 2pm-4pm in Hebden Bridge Town Hall, and all were welcome. There was also a forthcoming disability awareness training day being staged on April 3rd, 6pm-8pm in the Town Hall.

7. Flooding update

Anthony Rae gave a short report on the work being coordinated by the Environment Agency. He said that the EA would be holding a consultation in late April or May. Since some of the remedial work would not be completed until 2020, there was a window of vulnerability until then, he said.

The issue of moorland drainage being undertaken on the Walshaw and Lancashire Moors estate was raised. There was concern at the actions of the landowner which could mean that the moors retained less water.

8. Other news and information

a. Mark Simmonds mentioned the event being organised by Calderdale Bootstrap on May 5. This was a business network event for cooperatives and other businesses in the 'solidarity economy'. More information online.

- b. Jane Jackson mentioned the Town Twinning exchange to St Pol on 25-28 May. A few places were still available.
- c. Andrew Bibby reminded those present of the Community Land Trust consultation on Saturday (11am, Methodist Church hall) on the proposed High Street development.
- d. Dave Bell mentioned the Rotary Club annual Easter duck race and encouraged those present to buy tickets. The Boundary Walk would be on June 6 this year.
- e. Ralph Nimmann mentioned that the HB Dance Festival would be held this year from 20-22 October.
- f. Geoff Tansey suggested that an exhibition held recently in Todmorden on the moors could be booked for Hebden Bridge. Barbara Atack mentioned the forthcoming Local History exhibition, 700 Years of Floods

The meeting was formally closed.