

Hebden Bridge Partnership

Minutes of management board meeting, held on Mon 7 November 2016 in Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

Present: Cllr Dave Young, Anthony Rae, Andrew Bibby, Lesley Mackay, David Fletcher, Thom Bull. Observer: Janet Battye.

Apologies: Cllr Jonathan Timbers, Mark Simmonds, Paul Forrest

1. The meeting elected Dave Young to the chair.

2. The minutes of October 10 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

a. Empty unit. Dave Young reported on recent email exchanges he had had with Angela Whiley, Calderdale officer. He suggested that this could be an issue the future Town Board might want to pursue.

b. Traffic lights. No further developments since the October meeting were reported.

c. Market relocation. This was now scheduled to take place in the New Year. Janet Battye said that she thought that the markets officer John Walker might welcome the establishment of an informal HB Markets Forum.

d. Valley Rd. David Fletcher reported that he was in negotiations to lease the former fire station site on a licence agreement and for initially six months. This would enable the site to be used for parking, particularly over Christmas. He was thanked for this valuable freelance initiative.

David then declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting. Dave Young reported on the meeting he and Bob Deacon had recently had with Cllr Barry Collins, and on his understanding of the developers' current thinking regarding the site.

4. AGM post mortem.

This year's AGM had, it was felt, gone well. Lesley Mackay suggested that the meeting should have been press released. Andrew Bibby reported that he had sent the minutes to the full Partnership mailing list, and was also in touch with those groups who had participated who were not yet Partnership members, with a view to inviting them to join.

5. Town Board

The work of the Partnership in the year ahead was discussed in the context of the likely creation of a Hebden Bridge Town Board shortly. Dave Young advised that a Shadow Board was likely to be set up by Calderdale early in the New Year, and to begin work in the Spring.

Andrew Bibby reminded members of the previous discussions of the Partnership on the Town Board, in December 2015 and January 2016. Many of the Partnership's initial concerns had been satisfied and he was in principle supportive of the Town Board concept, provided it adequately represented community views and concerns. Janet Battye said that the terms of reference of the Board were key and that it was important that the community helped drive the Board's agenda. Other town boards' practice suggested that non-members could struggle to participate.

David Fletcher said there was merit in the Town Board approach, although he was worried that the Board could be top-heavy with councillors. It would be preferable for councillors not to be in a majority.

Anthony Rae asked how representatives of the Hebden Bridge community would in practice be selected.

Andrew Bibby suggested that the Town Board might usefully be launched at a Public Meeting, with the Partnership helping to bring this about.

It was agreed that board members would try to sit in on existing Town Board meetings in other towns to have a sense of how they were working in practice.

Anthony Rae agreed to attend the forthcoming Todmorden Town Board. Andrew Bibby agreed to circulate dates to other members.

It was also agreed to invite Robin Tuddenham, as the Calderdale director overseeing the establishment of the Hebden Bridge Town Board, to the December Partnership meeting.

#### 6. Officers

Andrew Bibby was nominated and seconded as the Partnership's Secretary for a six month period. Paul Forrest was nominated and seconded to continue as Treasurer, though it was noted that Paul now had a demanding full-time job out of the area and had advised that he wished to step down from this role after Christmas. It was agreed as an interim measure to appoint chairs for meetings.

7. Access initiative. The report from Chris Cammiss, access auditor, was noted.

#### 8. Flood initiatives

Anthony Rae reported on the launch of the action plan. He remained concerned about the short-term risks to the town and asked if enough was being done to mitigate these risks. David Fletcher expressed disappointment that the detailed Hebden Bridge flood works programme was not yet published. It was agreed that Anthony Rae would take over the leading role previously played by Bob Deacon, in relation to Partnership involvement in flood issues.

#### 9. Ward Forum grant.

It was noted with pleasure that the Ward Forum had made a £500 grant to the Partnership. Paul Forrest was thanked for his work in putting in the application.

#### 10. Thom Bull

This was Thom Bull's last board meeting. He was warmly thanked for the contribution he had made. He offered to try to encourage another young person to take up his position.

11. Confidential item. The management board at this point met in camera. Janet Battye withdrew from the meeting.