

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd

Minutes of management board, held on Monday 9 May 2016 in HB Town Hall

Present: Bob Deacon (chair), Andrew Bibby (Secretary), Stephen Curry, Susan Quick, Anthony Rae, Paul Forrest, David Fletcher

Also present: Katie Kinsella (Calderdale council – part), David Sheard (part), Kate Drury, Nina Smith, Janet Battye, Hilary Chadwick, Cllr Fay Blackburn, Cllr Alan Wright (both Erringden PC)

Apologies: Cllr Dave Young, Cllr Jonathan Timbers, Hazel Scriven, Tony Hodgins, Lesley Mackay, Fiona Pattison

1. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of 7 March were agreed as a correct record. Minutes of 4 April (short board meeting) were agreed as a correct record with one amendment (Paul Forrest had given his apologies for this meeting).

3. Matters arising

a. 'Historic development'

The police had been unable to find any documents relating to this issue. Janet was thanked for her efforts in pursuing this.

Andrew pointed out that the issue of an empty property in the centre of town remained and needed addressing. It was agreed to ask **Dave Young** to follow this up with Calderdale officers.

b. 20 mph roll-out

Anthony reported initial tests with the radar gun.

Andrew encouraged the Sustainable Transport group to implement the proposed community campaign in support of the 20 mph initiative.

Katie reported that a Calderdale colleague had access to resources. **Katie** undertook to follow up.

c. Market relocation

Members heard that a meeting of the task group would be meeting this week.

Stephen said that, due to work pressures, he was struggling to attend these meetings. It was agreed that, in order to ensure continuity, **Janet** would attend the forthcoming meeting, acting on the Partnership's behalf.

d. Neighbourhood Plan

Anthony described current developments. More publicity for the questionnaires and consultation sessions would be appreciated.

4. Matthew Sheard and Sons coal yard

David Sheard and Kate Drury explained that expansion of the station car park could affect their business, which had been trading locally since 1860 and today served 1000 local households. They occupy land belonging to Network Rail, on a 3-year renewable lease. There might however be ways that the car park could be expanded, while still enabling Sheards to continue.

Members agreed that the Partnership's position would be to support the maximisation of new car parking at the station while supporting the continuation of Sheards as a local business on part of its existing site. It would convey this preferred position to Network Rail and the Combined Authority responsible for developing the car park.

5. Visitor economy strategy

Katie Kinsella gave a presentation introducing Calderdale's current visitor economy strategy. A new three year plan had been approved by Cabinet last August.

Calderdale had received 5.6m tourism trips in 2016, bringing £276m into the local economy. Perhaps 4500 FTE jobs locally were based on the visitor economy. She drew attention to the visitcalderdale website, which received 7000 discrete visits a month.

Nina and Stephen suggested that Northern Rail's marketing budget could be used to promote rail trips to Hebden Bridge.

It was agreed that the Partnership's own strategy for the town should be informed by Calderdale's strategy.

6. Valley Rd

Bob introduced this matter, speaking to the paper from the Partnership task group which had been circulated before the meeting. He stressed the urgency of the issue,

given that the developers might shortly be working on their own revised planning application. Hilary presented a set of drawings showing a flexible design plan for the site.

In the ensuing discussion, a number of points were made. Among other contributions, Nina suggested researching the possibility of a car park at the Hebden Vale centre site (off Market St). David called for the possibility of underground car parking not to be ruled out at this stage. Andrew drew attention to the challenge of any negotiation with the current land owner.

It was resolved that, before any vote, the Partnership would seek to reach a collective position by consensus.

Declaration of interest: Stephen Curry declared an interest, since he wished to have the opportunity to pursue a separate initiative for the site. He withdrew from the discussions leading towards consensus.

Declaration of interest: Anthony Rae declared an interest, as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan committee. He said that he would not seek to influence the decision reached.

The management board reached by consensus the following decision as representing the Partnership's position:

- a. To accept the overall aim of an integrated development of the Market Sq and former fire station, based on the vision set out in the flexible design proposal from Hilary Chadwick. This included an open space immediately opposite the Town Hall, with direct public access from the open space to a first floor courtyard above an extended ground floor carpark.
- b. Not at this stage to decide on any particular usage of the space created on the first and second floors, where it was agreed that proper community involvement would be appropriate. It was also agreed at this stage to delete the section of the circulated report which had referred negatively to underground car parking.
- c. To accept recommendations (b)-(e) of the circulated report. These are
 - to present the Partnership's vision for the site to the current Neighbourhood Plan consultation
 - to seek a meeting with Calderdale council and the owners of the site to explore their response to our proposal
 - to seek to obtain feasibility funds to work up more detailed plans

- to work with the Neighbourhood Plan committee to set up a town consultation on possibilities this summer, with a view to a preferred town option being converted in due course into a planning application.

It was agreed to minute formally the Partnership's thanks to Hilary for the work she had undertaken in producing the flexible design plan documents.

7. Flood matters

It was agreed to defer substantive discussion of this item until the June meeting but to delegate to the chair the power to continue in discussions with the EA and the Flood Commission on our behalf.

8. Governance matters

It was agreed to hold the Partnership's AGM on Monday October 24th, at 7pm, in the Waterfront Hall, and to follow the same format as in past years.

The issue of board composition was deferred until the June meeting.

9. Access initiative.

It was agreed to hold a substantive discussion on this issue at the June meeting.

10. The Treasurer's report, previously circulated, was noted.

11. The Secretary reported that the Friends of the Picture House has sought membership of the Partnership. Their application was accepted.

12. AOB

a. Following the ward election result Janet Battye had indicated to the secretary that she would be withdrawing from active engagement in the Partnership, but that she welcomed the fact that – in line with Partnership policy on admission of the public to all meetings – she would be able to attend meetings.

Bob as chair praised the contribution which Janet had made to the life and activities of the Partnership over many years, and this was echoed by other board members. It was agreed that the Partnership's thanks to Janet should be formally entered in the minutes.

There was no other business.