

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd  
Minutes of management board, held in Hebden Bridge Town Hall, 15 Aug 2017

Present: Cllr Dave Young, Andrew Bibby, Lesley Mackay, Paul Forrest, Anthony Rae; also present Helen Dziemidko, Geoff Wood, Graham Mynott. Apologies: Mark Simmonds, Jonathan Timbers.

1. The meeting appointed Cllr Dave Young as chair for the evening.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 25 May were agreed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising
  - a. Tourism leaflet. Noted that three local businesses had still to pay their invoices for adverts. **Action: Anthony** to chase.  
Noted that stocks were running low. **Action: Anthony** to check
  - b. Pedestrian crossing, West End. Noted that this appeared to be progressing. There was expected to be consultation with shop-keepers. Work was also being done to improve pedestrian crossing at the Fox and Goose junction.
  - c. Foster bridge. Dave Young reported that the bridge repairs were anticipated shortly. A separate bridge for wheelchair users had been discussed, but no firm commitment appeared to have been made.
  - d. Central St adoption and works. Noted with pleasure that this work, long a priority of the Partnership, was now being undertaken.  
Lesley Mackay commented on the importance of ensuring that York Stone was replaced after road and pavement work. It was agreed that this was an issue which should feature in the Neighbourhood Plan. **Action: Anthony**
  - e. Market move. The market appeared to have bedded in.
  - g. Empty unit update. Dave Young reported that Edwin Baker, Calderdale business support worker, was making further enquiries. The meeting reiterated that its main concern was with the lack of usage of the space, not with the original financing arrangement.
  - h. Car park at Bridge Lane. Members were very concerned to find out that the lease on car parking places at the east end of this car park had been renewed until 2022.  
**Action: Dave**
4. Presentation from Geoff Wood.
  - a. Eafrd  
Geoff drew attention to the Eafrd fund, currently underspent by £2.8m. He was exploring putting an application in for HB and Mythomroyd (expressions of interest needed by Jan 2018). The funding request would include signage in HB, and a Ted Hughes trail in Mytholmroyd. Voluntary organisations could receive 100% grant funding.  
Geoff is also discussing possible ideas with HB Business Forum.  
Andrew mentioned the pressing need to improve the Calder Holmes tennis courts.

#### b. Bus shelters.

Geoff suggested that architecturally exciting 'must-see' bus shelters could be used in HB and Mytholmroyd, to help remove the stigma sometimes associated with bus travel. The idea of an architectural design competition was discussed. It was agreed that the Town Board might be the vehicle for launching the competition.

#### 5. Access initiative.

Andrew reported on the successful conclusion of the access initiative. Grants could still be applied for until the end of August, although access audits were now completed.

Andrew commented that the Business Forum's new website [www.hebdenbridge.com](http://www.hebdenbridge.com) were potentially interested in having a dedicated section of the site for information on accessibility in the town.

Andrew reminded members that the Partnership had offered a £500 grant to the Business Forum when it was first established. It was agreed to make this grant available now, specifically for the access pages on the website. **Action: Andrew, Paul**

#### 6. Future of the Partnership

Andrew, as secretary, began by outlining the acute issue of capacity currently facing the Partnership. To continue into 2018, a new Chair and Secretary would need to be recruited, he suggested.

Anthony drew attention to the progress in meeting Vision 2020 priority actions, and said that other agencies (including the Town Board, the CLT and the Neighbourhood Plan group) were now advancing some of the Partnership's agenda.

Graham, Executive Director of HB Community Association, was asked if there were possible synergies between the HBCA and the Partnership's agenda. His trustees were currently about to discuss the future strategic objectives of the Association. It was agreed that Anthony and Lesley would meet Graham, to discuss possible ways that the Association could develop Partnership objectives. **Action: Anthony, Lesley**

It was suggested that the Partnership would be unable to continue its work into 2018 without active new members and if the discussions with the Community Association failed to reach an effective outcome. The Secretary indicated his view that, in that situation, his proposal would be that the Partnership should formally become a dormant company. A management board meeting would be held on Monday 6 November at 6.30pm, at which the outcome of the discussions between the Partnership/Community Association, and the Secretary's proposal, would be reviewed.

#### 7. AGM

Andrew undertook to organise the AGM on Mon October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm. His notice would also draw attention to the discussions being held on the future of the Partnership. **Action: Andrew**

#### 8. Treasurer's report.

Paul Forrest reported that there had been no expenditure or income since the previous meeting. Funds, particularly when the tourism leaflet adverts were received, were sufficient for any likely expenditure.

#### 9. Town Board

Andrew, Dave and Anthony reported on the two Town Board meetings which had been held. Geoff and Graham were also Board members.

It was agreed that there remained a problem that the Town Board was currently remote from the communities it was serving, but that Board members had felt that a public launch would be premature before the Town Board had any achievements to its name. It was noted that the Partnership website was now indicating the date of future Town Board meetings, which are open to all.

#### 10. Other business

Hebden Bridge Literary & Scientific Society was formally admitted as a member.