

Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd

DRAFT Minutes of meeting of Board members, Aug 19th 2008

Present: David Fletcher, Cllr Dorothy Sutcliffe, Cllr Janet Battye, Polly Webber, Lesley Mackay, Lee Comer, Cllr Lesley Jones, Nicola Milburn-Jones, Steve Murty, Andrew Bibby

Guests: Louise Harrison, Derrick Palmer, Chris Evans, Emma Griffiths, Jason Boom

Apologies: Gwen Goddard, Cllr David Bell, Diana Monahan

1. Declarations of interest. None given.

2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct record.

Matters arising:

a) BW letter sent. Replies received from both regional BW offices.

b) Memorial gardens. Still being dealt with

c) Pitt St. Janet Battye is following up.

3. Guest presentation. Emma Griffiths introduced the work of Calder Future, which was celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. She described in particular the young people's project which Calder Future is coordinating in the upper valley.

Points raised in the discussion which followed:

a) The state of the towpath between HB and Mytholmroyd was seen as poor. Could it be surfaced better? Cyclists were not following the Code and dismounting near pedestrians. Could cyclists be banned from the towpath between Fallingroyd and Calder Holmes, and asked to use the parallel cycle way instead?

b) Lesley Mackay suggested that comments be fed into a Pedestrian Strategy. She saw some possibilities in HB station becoming a dedicated 'green' station. More information about this would be welcome.

c) David Fletcher called for the idea of the upper valley linear park to be maintained

4. AGM arrangements (Oct 7th)

The paper from Andrew Bibby was received, and his suggestions for the 'annual audit' of the town's community life accepted. Groups would also be invited to contribute one side of paper on their activities and plans.

It was agreed that Friends of Nutclough Woods, Dodnaze Community Association and Northlight be added to the list.

Action: Andrew Bibby to book venue, and contact other community groups.

Louise Harrison, Jason Boom and Lee Comer offered to put up posters for the event. Andrew Bibby to write press release

5. Directors' retirement.

It was noted that coopted directors (Diana Monahan, Michael Newton, Susan Quick, Cllr David Bell, Richard Hull, Cllr Fiona Gibbon) would be retiring at the end of the AGM.

It was noted that a third of those directors elected in categories (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) would be required to retire this year, a further third next year and a third in 2010. It was agreed to draw lots to determine this. The results of the drawing of lots was as follows:

Retiring 2008: Polly Webber, David Fletcher, Michelle Dargan-Cole, Dave Nelson

Retiring 2009: Lesley Mackay, Janet Oosthuysen, Gwen Goddard, Stephen Murty

Retiring 2010: Gerard Liston, Lee Comer, Andrew Bibby, Nicola Milburn-Jones.

It was noted that all retiring directors could seek re-election.

6. Membership of the company. The directors confirmed that serving directors were members of the company, and that no other persons were currently members.

7. Planning issues

A discussion was held about the role of the Partnership in discussing planning issues. It was noted that historically the Partnership had discussed new planning applications and had on occasions taken a position for or against a development. Stephen Murty formally proposed that this policy should continue. Carried: 5 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions.

It was agreed that the Partnership would discuss planning issues when asked to do so by a member of the Board, and would not seek pro-actively to monitor all applications.

It was noted that Cllrs Battye and Fekri were calling a meeting on the proposed Garden St development on Tues Sep 2nd at 7.30pm at Riverside school. Garden St was expected to go to CMBC planning committee on Sep 16th.

8. Short reports

a) Jason Boom gave a short report. 23 litter bins were in place, as were new lighting columns in Crown St.

He was awaiting a response from CMBC re this year's Rural Target Fund application. Christmas lights were a focus this year, and an expansion in Crown St was envisaged. HRTC was partially taking over the retailer scheme.

b) Louise Harrison gave a short report. She drew attention to the forthcoming Action for Market Towns event in Skipton on 2-3 Oct. A training day for town teams on applying for funding was being held on Sep 25th in Todmorden, 5pm – 8.30pm. A further training event, on communications, would be held for town teams in Sowerby Bridge in October.

Louise reported little progress on the canal walk and survey initiative. Emma Griffiths offered to collaborate. Action: Louise Harrison to pass information to Nicola Milburn-Jones for the Civic Trust

c) Chris Evans gave a short report. No UCVR update was available.

Helen Marshall was on maternity leave and Lizzie Truscott had left to go to a new job. Mark Humphries were joining as a new member of staff.

Work on the 2009 visitor guide was beginning.

A new version of the HB Town Guide was being planned.

9. Priority projects

a) Council offices. The written report was noted and approved

b) Eco-Museum (The PLACE). The written report was noted and approved

c) Central St. Janet Battye reported on progress. This was likely to go shortly to CMBC Cabinet for approval shortly (end Sep/beginning Oct). About 60% of necessary funding was achieved. The Co-op's response had been disappointing.

d) Market move. Janet Battye reported. A meeting had been held the previous day. There was slow but definite progress. Access by Tribal is the remaining legal issue. Architecture would be subject to public consultation, especially the roof constructions. It was agreed that the holly trees in Lees Yard needed to be kept

e) Park. Lesley Mackay reported that a meeting would be taking place shortly.

10. Issues raised by members in advance

a) Broadband. In Richard Hull's absence, this item was deferred. It was agreed to ask UCVR to consider it.

b) Toilets. The written report was noted and the comments in it endorsed. It was agreed to investigate a Community Toilet scheme. Action: the following would constitute a working party: Janet Battye, Lesley Mackay, CMBC rep, Business Assoc rep (via Stephen Murty).

c) Parking. The written report was noted and endorsed. It was noted that CMBC was carrying out a Parking review, with an interim report due in Oct. It was agreed to establish an informal working group, coordinated by Lesley Mackay. It was agreed to ask Nader Fekri to participate. It was agreed to ask HRTC to support this initiative (Action: Lesley Jones).

11. Treasurer's written report was noted and approved.

12. Correspondence

a) dry dock proposal. A letter had been received from HRTC. It was noted that the Partnership already had its priority projects for the next 18 months.

It was agreed to refer this proposal to CMBC. (Action: Janet Battye)

It was agreed that this was a very sensitive location, and that any new construction would need to be strictly in keeping.

It was noted that flood alleviation work was beginning at the marina.

b) correspondence from BW was not available

13. Announcements.

a) Mon Sep 8th: meeting with Northern Rail at M'royd station regarding rail timetable changes. 7.30pm, Good Shepherd.

b) Next Area Forum meeting: Tues Sep 9th, 6.30pm, Birchcliffe. Followed by police ward meeting

c) Civic Trust meeting, provisionally Weds Sep 3rd.

d) Heritage Day: Sep 13th

e) Friends of HB station. Next meeting Thu Sep 4th, station

Forthcoming meetings of HB Partnership:

AGM: Tues Oct 7th, 7pm. Upstairs room, White Lion

Next meeting of Board: Monday 20th Sep, 7pm, Council offices