

# **Hebden Bridge Partnership Ltd.**

## **Minutes of meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at Hebden Bridge Town Hall**

**Present:** Robin Dixon (Chair), Dongria Kondh (Treasurer), Polly Webber (Vice Chair), Sally Naylor, Dorothy Sutcliffe, Dave Young, Lesley Mackay, David Fletcher, Susan Quick, Janet Battye, Bear.

**Also Present:** Jenny Sheperd (DCarb UCV), Lesley Jones, Jae Campbell, Carol Horton, Laura Bramley and Chris Goddard (Hebden Bridge Community Self-Build Housing), Mark Humphreys (CMBC), Katie Kinsella (CMBC).

**Apologies:** Andrew Bibby, Emma Housman, Amy Leader, Belinda Jones, Michael Newton, PCSO Mandeep Kaler.

### **1). Declarations Of Interest.**

Robin Dixon - member of Hebden Bridge Community Self-Build Housing

### **2). Composition of Partnership Board.**

Nominated Board members serving in their own capacity:

CMBC - Councillor Janet Battye

HRTC - Councillor Dave Young

Parish Councils - Councillor Dorothy Sutcliffe

### **3). Minutes Of Last Meeting.**

Minutes of 10th May 2011 meeting were approved. No matters arising.

### **4). Main Presentation. Hebden Bridge Community Self-Build Housing.**

(Robin Dixon declared an interest and handed the chair to Bear for this item).

Carol Horton, Laura Bramley and Chris Goddard represented the Hebden Bridge Community Self-Build Housing group. Carol explained the following:-

The need for affordable housing. That the group wanted to create a sense of community through the project, with a communal house, shared meals, food growing and car sharing. That the development would be sustainably focussed. That the group were formally constituted as a Community Interest Company.

She then went on to describe how they had been a group for over two years, and that members were able to contribute to the group's activity by their labour, or "sweat equity". The group had identified some potential sites and negotiations were ongoing. The target for the number of homes on the site would be twenty five, a few of which would be for sale to raise funds.

She explained that they are looking for an organisation to "hold lock" on the property to keep it in community ownership. She concluded by saying that they are looking to the Hebden Bridge Partnership to be supportive to the group.

Councillor Dave Young suggested that the group ask CMBC to donate some land.

Councillor Janet Battye suggested talking to CMBC about eco-villages.

### **5). Developing the Partnership. (Robin Dixon resumed as chair).**

Robin explained that there are currently only seven member organisations actually signed up. He proposed that more groups should be invited to join, and handed round copies of a list of such groups, and also a draft letter to be sent to them. He also has a copy of a plan prepared by Amy Leader which

he will email to the group.

### **6). Projects and initiatives reports.**

#### Local Economy Showcase - Dongria Kondh.

Dongria outlined the project. The idea is to have as many groups and organisations that operate in a sustainable, ethical and environmentally responsible way to band together to promote themselves in one event. This will take place in Holme Street, both in the street and in Riverside School. A booklet is being prepared to promote the groups and organisations, and twenty have signed up for this. Groups are still able to apply for a stall or to do a presentation. The Hebden Bridge Times is dedicating its front window in Crown Street to the event that week.

#### Transition Town Hebden Bridge - Bear.

Bear reported that numbers are still a problem. It is difficult to keep people on board. People are often willing to join in and work with an existing project, but going to meetings and trying to get projects started seems less appealing. Suggestions are welcome. On a positive note, the Local Economy Showcase event looks very promising, and people are working hard on this. Also, Hebveg has re-started its veg box scheme after the break during "the hungry gap", and is looking to become a community supported agriculture project. The Waste Group have just had a Summer Clothes Swap event at the Trades Club. The Energy Group still has aspirations to install a water turbine in Hebden Water, and is seeking an agreement with land owners. Also a project to get people to switch to electricity suppliers generating from renewable resources is being developed. The Transition Town committee has also been trying to get HRTC to set up a Sustainability Committee. The council felt this was too much to staff and widened the remit of the Environmental Renaissance, Parks and Paths Committee to cover matters of sustainability.

Councillor Steve Sweeney from HRTC is to represent the council on the Transition Town committee. David Fletcher and Lesley Jones suggested that Shepherds Garage in Valley Road should be asked to start selling LPG fuel. Robin Dixon suggested that HRTC in its new sustainability role should lead in asking garages to take this on.

#### Picture House - Robin Dixon.

Robin reported that HRTC are working on the asset transfer being sought from CMBC.

#### Pennine Horizons - David Fletcher.

David reported that due to costs Youth House was no longer a viable option for the organisation to operate from. Pennine Horizons wishes to thank CMBC for its offer of the building. The "hub" would now be its website, with its physical space being at the Birchcliffe Centre. There are plans for mobile displays and a classroom at the Birchcliffe Centre.

#### Park Initiatives - Lesley Jones.

Lesley reports that CMBC have provided funding for a PA for community groups to hire, and wishes to thank the council for this. The PA is to be based at the Birchcliffe Centre, and can be booked through Sue Hamer. There is a sliding scale of fees, ranging from free for youth groups up to full commercial rates for businesses.

There is need to work out the partnership details between HRTC and Friends Of Calder Holmes Park. The AGM of Friends Of Calder Holmes Park takes place on 21st July.

Friends Of Calder Holmes Park wish to thank CMBC for the new bins which will be arriving at the park.

Lesley is keen to ensure that the problem of littering is not laid at the door of young people.

The police are suggesting that a discussion takes place about removing the picnic benches, as they are not being used appropriately.

### Town Hall.

Andrew Bibby was not present to report, but Robin Dixon reported that the concrete piles are curing.

### Other Initiatives - David Fletcher.

David reported that X-pert Health, a company specialising in diabetes, is operating at Linden Mill. The company is registered as a Community Interest Company, and operates on a not for profit basis.

### **7). Arts Round Up.**

Dave Nelson was not present to report.

### **8). Issues raised.**

#### Youth House - Councillor Janet Battye.

Janet reported that CMBC will sell Youth House, but wish to look at any potential community use for the building.

Lesley Jones is interested in potential adult education use for the building.

David Fletcher is willing to share the plans which Pennine Horizons had for the building.

#### Low Carbon Charter - Jenny Shepherd.

Jenny explained the DCarb group to the meeting, and announced that Councillor James Fearon will be taking part in that group.

She then explained the Low Carbon Charter. This is a pledge which communities, organisations and businesses can sign up to, to work together to create a low carbon, sustainable Hebden Royd. The idea is that people can do something about climate change themselves whilst waiting for the government to do something. (A copy is attached with these minutes).

She then explained the Energy Royd project. This is a social media website currently under construction. It's aim is to enable at least 2000 homes and businesses to easily measure their carbon footprints and try out low cost or no cost ways of reducing them. The site will have an advanced, easy to use carbon calculator built in. This will enable "Citizen Carbon Reduction" to take place.

Anyone with comments or suggestions should email [\*\*dcarbucv@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:dcarbucv@gmail.com) with them.

### **9). Officer Reports.**

#### HRTC.

Councillor Dave Young had left the meeting earlier to attend a council meeting, and so was unable to give his report.

#### Police.

The police were not represented at the meeting, and so did not give a report. However, Lesley Jones reported that the police were generally pleased with everything at the park.

### **10). Partnership Business.**

The treasurer, Dongria Kondh reported that there was approximately £1200 in the bank account.

### **11). Information.**

Attention was drawn to the information which had been circulated to members with the agenda. These were the Calder Civic Trust newsletter, and notice of the forthcoming "Pulling Together" event organised by Voluntary Action Calderdale.

**Date of next meeting:- Monday 5th September 2011 at 7pm.** At the next meeting Katie Kinsella, principal officer for Tourism at CMBC will be talking about tourism in Hebden Bridge.