

Hebden Bridge Partnership
Minutes of meeting held on Mon March 14th 2011

Present; David Fletcher, Susan Quick, Andrew Bibby, Lesley Mackay, Amy Leader, Robin Dixon, Bear, Lesley Jones, Dave Nelson (part), Janet Battye (part). Also present: Jae Campbell (part), Diana Monahan, Jim Rawcliffe (part), Emma Housman, Dave Parry. Apologies: Sally Naylor, Polly Webber, Steve Bates, Dongria Kondh, Michael Newton, Belinda Jones, Polly Webber.

1. Minutes of meeting on Jan 31st agreed as correct record.

2. Matters arising

- a) UCVR noticeboard. A letter has been sent to HRTC.
- b) National Trust presentation will be at May meeting
- c) Town action plan – noted that this was carried forward from the Jan meeting until after the May elections
- d) Residue of Xmas grant, 2009. (Amy Leader retired from the room; Bear declared an interest as a member of Transition Towns group).

Following the discussion at the previous meeting, it was noted that no further progress appeared to have been made by the local economy group in relation to the social enterprise fund from Calderdale. It was noted that the two alternative bids had not been combined into one proposal.

The meeting agreed that both initiatives were worthy of support. After discussion, it was agreed to award the sum of £396, being the residual amount left from the 2009 grant, to the Business Association for the town crier event (subject to CMBC approval). The motion to this effect was formally proposed and seconded and passed nem con.

3. Project updates

- a) Ground Floor. Jae reported that there was no real information available yet in relation to staffing. The project would be likely to know this in May.
- b) Picture House. Robin reported on the public meeting, which had attracted almost 200 people. It was agreed to develop the Friends of the Picture House. David announced that Pennine Heritage wished to join the Picture House consortium.
- c) Other proposed asset transfers. Robin and Emma reported on developments. The Banskfield allotments were definitely coming across into HRTC control. The transfer of toilets required resolution of certain staffing issues and was slightly further off. Lesley Mackay counselled caution. A bid was being developed to take over and transform Mytholmroyd library. The parks was the most complicated potential asset transfer, although the town council remained keen.
- d) Transition towns. Bear reported that general meetings were being held every two months. Individual working groups were hosting meetings on the alternative month. The local economy group hopes to have its showcase event in May. The next general meeting is on 23rd March. The first of a new monthly film club at the Trades will be on Tues 22nd. The vegetable box scheme has been suspended

until Spring properly arrives. The energy group has requested a £120K performance reward grant for an 18 kW hydro scheme on Hebden Water at Dog Bottom. The aim is for HB to become 'the greenest town in the land'. It was suggested that a future meeting of the Partnership could invite Pete Hill (ATC) to lead a discussion on water turbine initiatives locally.

e) Town Hall. Andrew passed around the latest annual report

f) Pennine Horizons. David F said that the project was being downscaled, but was still on target for an HLF stage 2 application later in the year

g) Calder Holmes. Lesley J reported that the skatepark should be completed by mid-April. A planned opening event was being organised for 21st May. Pavilion work was now being undertaken by the tenant, who hopes to open the café shortly.

h) John Fawcett. It was noted that Rev Marcus Bull is no longer in post at Hope Baptist church

i) FoHB Station. A performance reward grant bid of £980,000 had been submitted for lifts at the station.

j) Electric transport project. Lesley M reported that a performance reward grant bid for electric cards and electric bikes had been submitted by the sustainable transport group in conjunction with the ATc and Hour Car

k) International Group. Dave P reported on the recent successful exchange with Warstein, marking fifteen years of twinning. 23 people from Hebden Bridge had travelled to Warstein. Dave added that the International Group were looking for places where Warstein young people could undertake work experience and could be accommodated.

4. Arts and other forthcoming events

Dave N reported that the Wainsgate Chapel concert season would open on May 14th. (Details at www.wainsgate.co.uk). HX7 jazz club was continuing to meet monthly. The Arts Festival had not been awarded £10,000 from the Arts Council, but would cope by selling copies of the programme (£1) this year rather than distributing them free, and encouraging people to look on the website for more information. The programme would not be affected.

An open meeting about the Arts Festival was being held on Weds 23rd March, at the Arts Festival shop.

Andrew reported that he had been advised of a Pennine Prospects/Pennine Heritage conference on Sat April 9th at Birchcliffe centre. The UCVR manufacturing conference had been rearranged for Weds 20th July. The Handmade Parade would take place on June 11th. He also said that he had been invited to give a lecture by HB Lit and Sci Society on Wed 16 March on his recent book on the Pennines.

5. Local Development Framework

It was noted that this document, the successor to the UDP, was important. Closing date for comments was March 25th. There was an issue in that HB was not currently designated as a 'local service centre', which could mean services being located in Todmorden only. Those members who were able to meet

informally to discuss a response to the draft document would do so on Tues March 22nd. Jason Boom would coordinate this.

6. Officers reports

- a) Andrew reported that Steve Bates had advised that he was about to retire. The meeting agreed to thank him for his contribution and wish him well.
- b) It was noted that once again no CMBC representative was present, and no report or apologies had been received. Andrew agreed to contact CMBC officers to seek elucidation.
- c) Town Council. Emma reported
 - the Pitt St footbridge was currently being redecorated (Community PayBack). The bridge will be resurfaced and the pavement to Central St improved using travel to school funding
 - allotments at Sandy Gate/Dodd Naze were progressing
 - the annual Spring Clean would be on 9th-10th April.

7. Partnership matters

- a) In the absence of the Treasurer, no financial report was available
- b) Chair. Following the decision at the last Partnership meeting that David Fletcher would pass the position of Chair to Robin Dixon, this was David's last meeting in the Chair.
He was warmly thanked by members present both for his significant role in the development of the Partnership and more generally for his contribution to the successful regeneration of Hebden Bridge over many years. Members made a small presentation to him as a token of their appreciation for his contribution.