

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF TODMORDEN PRIDE
Thursday 2nd July 2015

Present: S. Brearley (Chair), I Dibble, J Gregory, Cllr Susan Press, C Murray, P Cockcroft, S Murray, Cllr J Costello, Cllr S Booth, B Glenister, A. Greenwood (Minutes)

Apologies: D Blenkey, D Storah, M Birkett, Cllr A Miles, Cllr M Hatfield, Cllr J Battye, Cllr M Holmstedt

1.0 Minutes of the last meeting (7th May 2015)

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

2.00 Matters arising

- Unitarian Church tower – No further information at this point.

ACTION AEG - Agenda item for the next meeting.

3.00 Items for AOB

- Changes to the Todmorden Development Board.
- Bandstand

4.00 Chairs report

- The Chair welcomed the new elected members to the group. (See list of elected members attached to the minutes.)

5.00 UCVR

Simon Brearley gave a short description of the role of UCVR for the benefit of new members. There will be a meeting of the UCVR in Luddenden Foot next week. UCVR is now an incorporated body which could have an effect on the future of Bellholme.

6.00 Treasurers report

The balance of funds remains the same as last month.

7.00 Calder Valley Community Land Trust (CVCLT)

- Simon Brearley explained the background to the Trust and the ways in which it can work.
- The Trust had had a meeting with Mark Thompson (Calderdale Council) to discuss some of the schemes under consideration.
- The Trust has applied for the asset transfer of the land next to the C of E School in Walsden. It is hoped that 6 units for the elderly (Alms Houses) could be built on the site.
- Land at Bridge Lanes, Hebden Bridge – the Trust has received a grant of £10,000 to undertake investigation work related to the site.
- Fielden Centre, Todmorden – the Trust has been offered the community aspect of the centre and this is under investigation.
- Hebden Bridge and Todmorden self-build housing (HATS) – have been trying to identify land suitable/available land and are now working with CVCLT to investigate possible sites.
- In order to move forward the Trust needs to obtain land and build up its assets. It is hoped that grant funding may eventually be available from the Community Foundation.

8.00 Schemes in Todmorden and Progress Reports

- **Rose Street**

There was a meeting of the Development Board on 1st July and the councillors on Todmorden Pride had been in attendance. Cllr Press emphasised to the group that there was currently a petition circulating in Todmorden and that this included mis-information i.e. a sale to McCarthy Stone has not been agreed and the land which is on offer is not community land. She referred to the information board on the site. However, the Development Board has said that that any bid from McCarthy Stone must include the retention of some community space. The site will be discussed

again at the next Development Board. She also intimated that Mark Thompson would be willing to talk to any group

ACTION Chair and secretary to consider

Cllr Booth had attended the meeting of the Board and she said that she had raised the question of a possible pre-contract but felt that she had not received an answer.

There was a lot of intense discussion in the group regarding the Rose Street site, the actions of the Development Board and Calderdale Council. It was also apparent that those attending had taken different messages from the meeting. Some members of Todmorden Pride felt that, should the land now be put out to tender, there would be more interest than previously due to improvement in the economy. The general feeling from the group was that there is no awareness that bids can still be put in for the land.

Todmorden Pride had sent a letter to Ian Hughes which a) was not answered for 2 months and b) his reply indicated that he had not picked up on the information requested.

Ivor Dibble felt that the key problem with Todmorden was that it was cut in half by roads. He felt that there was the potential to put in a one-way system and that this should be considered alongside the development of Rose Street. He circulated maps for information.

Simon Brearley asked Cllr Press if she could find out where the funds that remained when the previous Development Board was dissolved were held.

ACTION Cllr Press

Cllr Press told the group that the Development Board has invited a member of Todmorden Pride to sit on the Development Board. Simon Brearley thanked Cllr Press for the invitation. When an official invitation has been received, this will be actioned.

ACTION S Brearley

- **ASDA** – the company are currently dealing with the Japanese Knotweed on the site.
- **Halifax Road** – not enough work has been done by the owner of the site and this has been referred back to Calderdale Council.
- **Cinderhill** – A Section 215 notice has been served on the site.
- **Derdale Mill** – work on this site is moving forward. It is a mixed use site but as yet there is no sign of any commercial development.
- **Bellholme** – Simon Brearley gave a brief background to the situation which has arisen here. As UCVR is now incorporated, they may look at taking over the management of the site.
- **Street railings** – no action.

9.00 AGM

Thursday 17th September at the Fielden Centre, Todmorden

10.00 AOB

- **Bandstand** – the ex-Mayor of Todmorden, Michael Gill is encouraging members of the community to fundraise to repair the Bandstand. The cost is estimated around £25,000. Members of the group suggested that Andrew Pitts could be contacted to find out why the Bandstand (and its repair) does not come under the remit of Calderdale Council.

ACTION – S Brearley

Cllr Press told the group that there has been a suggestion that the bowling greens and tennis courts could be asset transferred to Todmorden Town Council. Some group members also felt that the statue of John Fielden should be moved from the park into the centre of the town where it would be seen by more people.

- **Education including Ferney Lee School**

Some members of the group still had doubts about the wisdom of building a new school at Ferney Lee, feeling that more money could be spent on the High School which is in a worse state. It was agreed to invite the officer responsible for the school buildings budget and the head teachers from both schools to a future meeting.

ACTION – S Brearley

- **SUSTRANS and Route 66**

It was agreed that Peter Stubbs be invited to a future meeting.

ACTION – S Brearley

11.00 Date of next meeting

**The next meeting of Todmorden Pride
will be on Thursday 27th August at 6.30pm
Venue to be notified**

Calderdale Council Representatives to Todmorden Pride

Councillor Alison Miles
Councillor Susan Press
Councillor Barry Collins

Todmorden Town Council Representatives to Todmorden Pride

Councillor Steph Booth
Councillor Jacinta Costello
Councillor Michael Hatfield