

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF TODMORDEN PRIDE
Thursday 7th May 2015

Present: S Brearley (Chair), D Blenkey, I Dibble, Cllr J Battye, M. Birkett, J Gregory, P Cockcroft, B. Glenister, A. Greenwood (Minutes)

In attendance: D Midgley (Todmorden Civic Society), S Curry (UCVR)

Apologies: Cllr Press, Cllr Holmstedt, Cllr Miles, Cllr Sweeney, A. Holdsworth, C. Murray, D Storah

1.00 Minutes of the last meeting (12th February 2015)

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

2.00 Matters arising

3.00 Items for AOB

Bellholme Playing Fields

4.00 Chairs Report

Simon Brearley welcomed Stephen Curry (UCVR) and Darren Midgley (Civic Society) to the meeting and expressed the hope that the three bodies would be working together in the future.

5.00 UCVR

Stephen Curry gave a description of the way in which he became involved with UCVR and outlined his hopes for the future. A 10 year celebration of UCVR had been held recently and at this conference, which was attended by around 70 interested parties, 13 issues had been identified. These included linkage, coordination and support for small groups along the Upper Valley. The website has been revamped and will be updated by June. Future issues to be considered by the group include transport and health and social care services. Stephen's input was followed by comments from the group members. The question of the future of UCVR Linear Group was raised by D Blenkey. This group seems to be losing steam although it still involved cooperation with the Canals and Rivers Trust and Calderdale Council. It was felt that the group needed to involve more interested parties with time available as the Council has funding available to undertake work on the canal towpath etc. in the Upper Valley. Stephen Curry agreed to liaise with Anne Holdsworth and take this forward asap... It was noted that the work at Lever Street that was to be assisted with funding from Todmorden Pride is currently on hold i.e. anti-slip surfacing.

6.00 Treasurers Report

- Balance at bank - £8752. There is also £5000 from the underspend on the Lever Street work which is being held by the Council. These funds were ring fenced for the work at Lever Street.
- It was also noted that the Council were no longer taking action on railings throughout the town (see minutes of Feb meeting).
- The group felt that it is necessary to look for other potential schemes. J Gregory suggested that the group might look at assisting to fund the lighting of the Unitarian Church tower and gave some background information. The quote for the installation of the lighting is around £4200 plus VAT and James is approaching Todmorden Pride and Todmorden Town Council for a contribution towards the installation and some minor repair to the fabric of the building. He will also raise the possibility of funding with Anne Holdsworth. D Midgley said that the Civic Society would be in favour of illuminating the tower.
- **ACTION** – It was **AGREED** that at the next meeting of Todmorden Pride there would be further clarification of the scheme and further discussion.

7.00 Calder Valley Community Land Trust

- Land in Walsden (next to the old C of E school) - The Trust has started the formal process of asset transfer.
- Grant funding has been awarded for the Hebden Bridge site (next to the Fox and Goose). This will allow site investigation work which it is hoped will lead to asset transfer.

8.00 Schemes in Todmorden and Progress Reports

- **Rose Street** – S Brearley updated the group on this site. A sale has been agreed to McCarthy Stone subject to planning permission for the ¾ acre site. The sale was agreed by the Town Centre Development Board on 6th March. He has written to Calderdale Council querying why some previous issues have been ignored and previous rules no longer seem to apply. Also, the under bidder does not seem to have had an equal opportunity to make a further application. (Resilienti had put in a mixed use application with tenants identified and this bid seems to have been ignored.) Simon is waiting for the Council legal officer to answer the complaints but time passes with no contact. If there is no reply from the Council, other action can be taken. Following a wide ranging discussion the following action was agreed.
ACTION – The Chairs of Todmorden Pride, UCVR and the Civic Society will send a joint letter to the media with a copy to the Council with the aim of educating the public as to what has happened re Rose Street and describing the alternatives that were/are available.
- **Asda** – A planning application has been submitted for the demolition and clearing of the site. There is no indication when any future build will take place.
- **Halifax Road** – No action in relation to Section 215 notice served on 1st February.
- **Bellholme** – The Civic Society, which is a non-incorporated organisation and therefore legally unable to hold land, currently own this site which has previously been administered for them by a group of Trustees. As the members of this group are now deceased, the Civic Society now need to make a decision as to the future organisation taking over the management of the site. Discussion covered various possibilities including Calder Valley Land Trust or Todmorden Pride taking over the management. P Cockcroft suggested that Catherine Emberson could be asked if Todmorden Town Council would be interested in taking over responsibility for this site together with the skate park on Centre Vale Park. The Civic Society would like to explore other options first so that the land still belonged to the community.
ACTION – it was agreed that Todmorden Pride would hold any decision until the next meeting when further discussion could take place.

9.00 AGM

The AGM will take place in September, date to be notified.

10.00 AOB

- **Ferney Lee School (formerly Todmorden Grammar School)**
P Cockcroft has written two letters to the Todmorden News and spoken to Mr Tudenham but there has been no action. There was some discussion of the pros and cons of building a new school and demolishing the old school, also with regard to the very small number of local residents surveyed for their views. No action was agreed.

11.00 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Todmorden Pride will take place on

Thursday 2nd July 2015 at 6.30pm

in the Community Room, |Lever Street, Todmorden