

**Todmorden Pride
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday 8th November 6:30pm. Old Hall, Todmorden**

Present:	James Gregory Cllr Claire Townley Malcolm Birkett Alan Darwin Cllr Janet Battye Chris Edwards Alan Fiddling Cllr Margaretta Holmstedt Peter Cockcroft Anne Lee Cynthia Murray Doug Blenkey	Chair Vice Chair Treasurer
In Attendance:	Louise Castro Patrick Otley O'Connor Mark Fenn Steff Hiscott Ian Cooper Helen Marshall	Stannard Homes Yorkshire Foreward Calderdale MBC
Apologies:	David Storah Cllr David Kirton Cllr Olwen Jennings Simon Brearley Lynn Midwinter	Secretary

Chair: James Gregory	Minute Taker: Louise Castro
----------------------	-----------------------------

	Discussion	Action
70/11/07	Welcome and Apologies	
	James welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Patrick, the new Headmaster of Todmorden High School, Mark Fenn and Lizzie Truscott for attending.	
71/11/07	Minutes of the Last Meeting	
	Proposed: Malcolm Birkett Seconded: Alan Fiddling	
72/11/07	Matters Arising	
	Apologies from Cllr Kirton were tendered Amend spelling of Ian Thompson name	IC HM

73/11/07	Declaration of Any Other Business	
	<p>Peter Cockcroft □ Town Hall Update Malcolm thanked Louise for her contribution towards producing the feasibility study. Todmorden Pride Board acknowledged the support of Todmorden Together.</p>	PC
74/11/07	Financial Report	MB
	<p>Malcolm reported the invoice from Penny Bennett Landscape Architects had been paid leaving a balance of £5800.00 available to Todmorden Pride.</p>	
75/11/07	Patrick Otley-O'connor □ Todmorden High School	
	<p>James welcomed Patrick to the meeting and his invaluable contribution in improving the standards of the High School and raising the young people of Todmorden's aspirations for a better future through improved education prospects.</p> <p>Patrick informed the meeting although he had only been Headmaster for 2 terms things were changing. On his appointment the school had just had an OFSTED inspection that had proved very unsatisfactory with the 6th form only just passing the inspection, this was most unsatisfactory and the young people of Todmorden deserved better. Initially the main drive of improvements was aimed at the sixth form with the remainder of the school following on shortly. There are medium-terms plans to build a new school, however although this would be excellent news the standards of the school are not reliant upon the structure but the drive and vision of the staff to succeed.</p>	
76/11/07	Update	
	<p>James □ Quite apart from the fact that discussions are currently being undertaken that will affect the look of the town centre for the next 100 years, other developments are also currently happening that have a big impact for the town; discussion over the future of the Town Hall, the two proposed developments on Halifax Road and the site of the old Health Centre on Burnley Road.</p> <p>Both the Halifax Road and Burnley developments appear to be to close to the road. Todmorden Town Council unanimously voted to refuse planning permission for the McCarthy & Stone development on these grounds.</p> <p>James □ can we propose that the Board of Todmorden Pride also write a letter stating that the development is too near the road.</p> <p>Claire □ Proposed Margaretta □ Seconded</p> <p>Design is a matter of judgement and considering the centre of Todmorden is a conservation area planning decisions have to improve on what has gone on before.</p>	JG

Despite the last 6-9 months seeing two sets of consultants, and prior to that Sue Leffman spending twelve months, preparing a development brief the question has not been addressed - is it feasible to build commercial and public realm expressive of charm and local popularity with the inclusion of the Healds building and Tipside. Is Yorkshire Forward prepared to fund another set of consultants to produce yet another brief that doesn't reflect the wishes of the town?

Helen □ Tipside; there are issues with accessibility.

Alan D □ Tipside as it stands is worthless

Margaretta □ A valued planning brief is absolutely essential.

Ian □ If I have a concern it is important to ensure the development brief is not a self-fulfilling prophecy. As it stands the brief is not reflective of public opinion. This is the one opportunity we have to get it right and it is important the development does not go ahead promoting only the core scheme.

Steph □ The core scheme was the first step in terms of a development brief that could be promoted to the private sector. Yorkshire Forward has funding to help with this, however any investment needs to be targeted as effectively as possible.

James □ Not speaking to party line. Municipal and publicly funded development for the town centre is absolutely critical. To get the best development that is possible it is essential that funds be found. The acquisition of the Health Centre is crucial to any scheme and the board expects that Yorkshire Forward ensure that they purchase the building from the PCT; this is vital if the residents of Todmorden are to have their expectations of a good development for their town fulfilled.

Todmorden Pride is desperately supportive of a scheme that will benefit the town and form the catalyst for the regeneration of the centre as a whole. The current scheme as drawn up by Donaldson omitted to investigate Healds. Any scheme must be designed to incorporate the Healds building site. Whilst parking is an issue 20 years ago Calderdale MBC investigated turning Tipside into a car park. Simon Brearly, James Gregory and Malcolm Birkett recently met with a Halcro engineer who inspected Tipside and Bramsche Square and e-mailed James the cost of building a light bridge, the price quoted was quarter of million. The proposals by Todmorden Pride for the development of the town centre could be achievable if there was a will.

James □ A traffic review for Hebden Bridge resulted in ¾ of a million pounds being spent on improvements all our members should ensure that Todmorden is not short changed. There isn't any justice for Todmorden and it is essential that if this is

	<p>to be changed officers must be in full support of proposals. A fully integrated scheme for Todmorden is viable □ if the consultants and Calderdale MBC make it viable.</p> <p>Malcolm □ Whilst we support the initial proposals for the core scheme it is essential that the core scheme is added to and includes the Healds building and Tipside.</p> <p>Claire □ Todmorden needs employment-focused development we don't want the least, which is all the current scheme is offering, we want the most.</p> <p>Alan □ The funding of the proposed scheme was reliant on housing. A public building delivers everything everybody wants and could be used as pump priming to pull down a range of funding opportunities.</p> <p>James □ An Innovation Centre would improve employment skill levels and generate economic outputs.</p> <p>Mark Fenn □ Stannard Homes are planning something similar on Halifax Road, not as a competitor but as a partner.</p> <p>James □ it may not be feasible to put an Innovation/Media centre in Bramsche Square, however we must not discount utilising Tipside. The scheme urgently needs a project manager, the art college is bursting at the seams and we need to incorporate this in plans for the future.</p> <p>Any one of the proposals in the feasibility study for the Innovation Centre may fail but each is entirely possible with the right skills allied to a senior level project officer. I intend to lobby Mr Thompson to appreciate the Innovation Centre should be included in the brief.</p> <p>Steph □ There is to be a meeting with Malcolm in attendance with a new set of property consultants and architects, this team should be in post by Christmas.</p> <p>James □ Brutal comment but I'd rather pay for a survey not to evaluate a small core scheme □ but to for a scheme which we can visualise and which is practical and fulfils the town's needs.</p> <p>Malcolm □ Everyone is singing from the same hymn sheet but they need to be written down to avoid confusion.</p>	
77/11/07	Walsden Update	
	<p>James □ What has been achieved has been done in a positive and friendly manor.</p> <p>Alan Darwin □ All it requires an Council officer who is willing to talk and explain things, where for example railings were replaced with stone walls the group were contacted by Graham</p>	

	<p>Dendle who came out and discussed issues.</p> <p>James □ The experience with highways has been the exception and shows how good partnership can be.</p> <p>Alan Darwin □ The appointment of Dave Tee and Graham Dendle was opportune, they were willing to work with the community and we were more than willing to work with them. There is also a new Government initiative that instructs the council to work in partnership with the voluntary sector, but this is only what they should be doing.</p> <p>Ann □ Ann has been asked to talk about Fielden Wharf as it has passed through the first stage of an award.</p> <p>Malcolm □ What has been good is the increased usage of the area.</p> <p>Alan Darwin □ It has increased tourism, people now stop on the boats but also people driving through can see it as an attraction and stop.</p>	
78/11/07	Any Other Business	
	<p>Peter □ Town Hall It should be open during the day with Todmorden Town Council considering a long-term lease. Biggest practical problem with Kirsten England's proposals, and the non-consideration of an asset transfer agreement, is the drawing down of grant funding, such as the Big Lottery, for the improvements. The main priority should be to install a new lift, improve the kitchen to a commercial workable standard and install a dumb waiter so the ballroom becomes more of a function room facility.</p> <p>Margaretta □ We object to destroying the Court Room. 18 Town Councillors need somewhere formal to meet. Politics also means heritage.</p> <p>James □ The Town Hall is a magnificent building, but rooms such as the Court Room are not and need a total refurbishment. The whole building needs lights and life on.</p>	
79/11/07	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>Thursday 17th January 2008 18:30 Old Hall, Todmorden</p>	