

# MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF TODMORDEN PRIDE

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Present:** S. Brearley (Chair), Cllr Holmstedt, C. Murray, J. Gregory, P. Cockcroft, Cllr Press, Cllr Miles, D. Storah, I. Dibble, S. Murray, A. Greenwood (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Cllr Baksa, M. Birkett, D. Blenkey, Cllr Battye, Cllr Sweeney, A. Holdsworth

## 1.00 Minutes of the last meeting (8<sup>th</sup> January 2015)

The minute was accepted as a true record. Proposed – P Cockcroft, Second – C. Murray

## 2.00 Matters arising/action points

- A letter has been sent to Mr Farouk; however, a new contact is being sought for Asda.
- Fiona Goldsmith is looking into Derdale Mill and the council are implementing Section 215 notices. David Storah has invited Fiona Goldsmith to attend a meeting of Todmorden Pride. She has agreed to attend a future meeting when action regarding the derelict sites has moved on and she has something to report.
- Asda has undertaken some clearing of the Olympia/ Abraham Ormerod site and a Section 215 notice has been served on Mr Farouk (Halifax Road site).
- Canal Bridge – a letter has been sent to Calderdale Council but, as yet, no reply.
- Todmorden Pride has been invited to speak to the Development Board. David Storah and Peter Cockcroft will attend the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## 3.00 Items for AOB

- Todmorden High School/Ferney Lee School.

## 4.00 Chair's Report

- Development in Todmorden is now on the public agenda.
- The Chair formally thanked the Development Board for their invitation to members of Todmorden Pride to speak at a meeting.

## 5.00 UCVR

- Simon Brearley attended a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January followed by a meeting with Stephen Currie. Stephen Currie will be meeting with Simon's equivalents in other areas with the aim of streamlining meetings and future action.
- The next two meetings are – 12<sup>th</sup> March – Steering Group, 16<sup>th</sup> April – Open meeting to be held in Luddenden Foot. Cllr Press may attend.
- Stephen Currie has been invited to attend a future meeting of Todmorden Pride.
- Other diary dates - 25<sup>th</sup> April – Launch of the Pennine Way Link aimed at encouraging walkers to visit upper valley towns. 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Tour de Yorkshire.

## 6.00 Treasurers report

- As last meeting

## 7.00 Calder Valley Community Land Trust

- There is a meeting of the Trust on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February.
- The scheme at Walsden is moving on.
- The next action to be taken by the Trust is to draw up a business plan.
- There has been a study of the housing requirements for the Upper Valley which has concluded that the main requirement is for 1 / 2 bed houses. At present there are 10,000 people on the waiting list for housing across Calderdale.
- The Trust has had some offers of private land and a private company is assessing potential sites. The Trust will probably look to employ someone to collate the information.
- David Storah is to meet with Hilary Chadwick, one of the directors.

## 8.0 Schemes in Todmorden and progress reports

- **Section 215** – James Gregory updated the group on the Time for Change Petition – a campaign based in Todmorden which comes to a head on Saturday. James emphasised that, although the Council are now issuing Section 215 notices, should the owner of any site refuse to undertake remedial work, the Council will only undertake the work and invoice the owner if they have enough funds. Ivor Dibble, David Storah and James Gregory met with Richard Seaman at the Halifax Road site where Ivor put forward a plan for temporary planting and James Gregory has written to the Todmorden News re the derelict sites throughout the town. Cllr Press intimated that the Development Board at their meeting on Tuesday will be seeking more information on what is to happen at the Asda site. The Board will be pressing for urgent action. She explained that the Council cannot force Asda to take further action but the Board and the Council need to know if they are going to build and when. In respect to the Halifax Road site, a Section 215 is going ahead on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Cllr Press assured the group that she will hammer home at the meeting that the people of Todmorden have had enough of the derelict sites and Cllr Holmstedt said that the Town Council has also renewed its request for Section 215 action.
- **Rose Street** – The Development Board was due to visit the McCarthy Stone development in Hebden Bridge and meet with McCarthy Stone at Rose Street. This meeting has been postponed till 3<sup>rd</sup> March. David Storah has been asked many times what is happening to Rose Street as the general feeling is that it looks a mess. The question has also arisen as to why the fencing cannot be removed and the area used for temporary car parking. Cllr Press was asked to report this to the Development Board. Cynthia Murray said that from a tourism point of view, a hotel in Todmorden would be an important development. Ivor Dibble has been in touch with a number of hotel developers and only one showed any interest.  
**ACTION Cllr Press**
- **Market Hall** – the local Labour Party has pledged funding to repair the market roof if they are in power in May.
- **Lever Street** – The Canals and River Trust are waiting to see if they will get a grant to improve the canal bank and wall. It was pointed out that the wall to the rear of the Halifax Road site was the responsibility of the site owner. The work at Lever Street will begin in March and a tree has already been removed to allow room for the new path.
- **Town centre railings** – the officer in charge has left the Council and the matter is now in the hands of Kevin Crabb. He feels the work is not a priority and is not willing to progress it despite the promise of funding. It was suggested that elected members bring pressure to bear on the department.
- **Walsden Planting** – Northern Power Grid will pay for the replacement plants and other costs and the work will be undertaken by the community team as soon as possible.
- **Derdale Mill** – no further information.

## 9.00 AGM

Simon Brearley has still to speak to the officers.

**ACTION S Brearley**

## 10.00 AOB

- **Todmorden High School** – government money has been withdrawn but £7.4 million of Calderdale Council funds will still be spent on the High School and Ferney Lee School. Peter Cockcroft said that in light of the funding being withdrawn, the whole of the Council monies should be spent on the High School with the 'new' part of Ferney Lee School being demolished and new heating installed. He also queried what is going to happen to the Community College and whether this could provide accommodation for the High School 6<sup>th</sup> Year. This led to a wide ranging discussion including community consultation. Peter Cockcroft (as an individual) is going to write to the Todmorden News to raise awareness of the situation.

- Cllr Press and Cllr Miles asked whether Todmorden Pride meetings could be held on a day other than Thursday as they clashed with the meetings of council committees. Chair and officers will consider this.

**ACTION Chair and officers**

**11.00 Date of next meeting**

**The next meeting of Todmorden Pride will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the Community Room**