

**Todmorden Pride
Minutes of the Open Meeting
Thursday 24th May 7:00pm. Todmorden Town Hall, Todmorden**

Present:	James Gregory Claire Townley Malcolm Birkett David Storah Alan Fiddling Elizabeth Truscott Janet Battye Alan Darwin Sheila Greenwood Cynthia Murray Dave Blenkey Lynn Midwinter Louise Castro Lindsey Smails Hilary Myers Peter Cockroft Anne Lee David Hill Joyce Campion	Chair Vice Chair Treasurer Secretary
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Chair: James Gregory

Minute Taker: Louise Castro

	Discussion	Action
60/04/07	Welcome and Apologies	
	James welcomed everyone to the meeting, with additional acknowledgment and thanks to the attending members of the interested general public and to Lizzie Truscott from Calderdale MBC.	
61/04/07	Discussion Proposals	
	<p>Mrs Campion – having recently returned to the area felt that Todmorden had not progressed to any great extent and that some innovative ideas might bring additional visitors and tourists to Todmorden, such as a glass roof for Water Street shops; this would give a definition to the area and raise the profile of Retailers in this part of the Town.</p> <p>Peter – Todmorden Town Hall Three years of meetings regarding Town Hall usage had not progressed proposals to solve the under utilisation issues any further it was time that Calderdale MBC gave (or leased) Todmorden Town Hall back to Todmorden, whether that be to Todmorden Town Council or any group wishing to take it on.</p>	

Currently the Conservation Society are looking into the issues of use and funding. A recent Government initiative to look at under used civic buildings and transfer ownership for a nominal amount into the community sector is being looked into.

James – Todmorden Pride should aspire to work more closely with Todmorden Town Council; the group is not a rival to the Town Council, Todmorden Prides function is to support the improvements to the physical look of the Town.

Alan – an intelligent proposal would be for Todmorden Town Council to take more ownership of civic buildings and public realm areas and should look at employing workers, not to duplicate existing roles but to maintain and manage the areas and buildings transferred to Todmorden Town Council to a much higher standard than is currently being delivered by Calderdale MBC.

Hilary – as a newly elected Town Councillor it is the intention of Todmorden Town Council to look after the Town Hall.

James – Is the Town Council therefore potentially moving towards a Town Centre Manager?

Hilary – The majority of Todmorden Town Councillors thoughts are to try and take back what it can into ownership and also to employ staff as stated in the Liberal Democrats' election manifesto.

Lindsay - Community can buy public properties for the nominal value of £1.00

James – Councillor Ford had informed Todmorden Pride that Todmorden was not one of the more prosperous Market Towns in the Market Town Initiative and it would benefit from ring-fenced capital receipts, including Rise Lane and Hall Street. In fact the ring fenced money was not an actual and despite the clear need for investment to be made in Todmorden this has not happened. Sowerby Bridge has had £950k spent on a new market but the lack of the extra capital investment to complete work on the outdoor Market area and stalls in Todmorden and no capital expenditure to upgrade the Indoor market is felt to be an injustice.

David Hill – The meetings and work of Todmorden Pride are not publicised they should be published in the Todmorden News under “Whats On” and an effort should be made to keep the public informed of developments being made under the Todmorden Pride umbrella.

Doug – this does seem to be a particular issue and perhaps somebody should liaise with Tod News.

	<p>Malcolm – Sheila played an active role in Todmorden Pride perhaps we could use the contact more beneficially as well as utilise the Library.</p> <p>Louise – unfortunately Sheila has been unable to attend Tod Pride meetings however we could make contact and arrange for her to publish the dates for us. However all minutes and dates of forthcoming meetings of the Town Teams involved in the Upper Calder Valley Renaissance project are available on the web site.</p> <p>Alan Fiddling – Perhaps a display could be put up in the Library and a press officer be appointed to liaise with Louise to arrange publicity, displays etc</p> <p>Doug agreed to become the press officer.</p> <p>James closed the open meeting by thanking people for attending and showing an interest in the group and the ideas for raising the profile of Todmorden Pride and its work would be taken on board. A programme for meetings would be set and the information circulated to the wider public.</p>	
62/04/07	Date and Time of Next Meeting	
	<p>Thursday 28th June 6:30pm Golden Lion, Todmorden</p>	