

**MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF TODMORDEN PRIDE**  
**Thursday 9th October 2014**

**Present;** Simon Brearley (Chair), David Storah, James Gregory, Peter Cockcroft, Cynthia Murray, Cllr Margareta Holmstedt, Cllr Janet Battye, Shaun Murray, Alison Greenwood (Minutes)

**In Attendance:** Andrew Pitts, Head of Neighbourhoods, Calderdale Council.

**Apologies:** Doug Blenkey, Ivor Dibble, Barry Lake, Cllr Press, Cllr Miles, Cllr Sweeney.

**1.0 Minutes of the last meeting (21st August 2014)**

The minute was agreed as a correct record. Proposed Peter Cockcroft, Second David Storah.

**2.0 Matters Arising**

- Ferney Lee School – no further information. No planning application. Suggestion that Land Trust might follow this up.
- £2,000 donation from Todmorden Council to the Community Resource Centre is under review.
- Peter Cockcroft has received an email from Andrew Pitts intimating that he is 'cautiously optimistic' with regard to resurfacing the tennis courts in Centre Vale Park.
- Simon Brearley has contacted Neil Brearley re safety of children at Rose Street.
- Simon Brearley has still to contact the Head Teacher at Todmorden High School.

**ACTION S Brearley**

**3.0 Items for AOB**

**4.0 Presentation by Andrew Pitts**

Andrew Pitt's role includes responsibility for parks, street cleaning and public halls.

- Centre Vale Park – with regard to the problem with drainage, there is now an agreement with the Environmental Agency that remedial work should be undertaken. This work should be completed by Christmas.
- Todmorden Town Hall – the small bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful. This will enable a small heritage centre to be established and the employment of one member of staff. This employee will recruit volunteers and develop modest displays and a digital resource. There may be a more substantial bid in the future.
- Scaffolding is to be erected on the Town Hall to allow cleaning and restoration of the statues and the etched windows. Weather permitting; this should take about 8 weeks. This work has been funded by REN and the councils.
- A new lift has been installed in the Town Hall funded by Calderdale Council (£50,000).
- Tennis courts in the park – Andrew Pitts has identified funding from various sources and is cautiously optimistic that the courts will be playable by 1st April.
- The police are to hold three weekly drop in sessions for the public on Thursdays in the Town Hall from October to February.
- A new leaflet has been published – Todmorden Town Hall, Information and Guide – available from the TIC. The content on the Council's website has also been upgraded.
- Library – the building is now wind and waterproof. There are no plans for Todmorden Library.
- Bowling Pavilion – it has been agreed that some work can be undertaken by local volunteers to upgrade the Pavilion e.g. painting and minor joinery work. The Property Department has agreed a schedule of work to be undertaken by the council contractors, local contractors and volunteers. The work should be completed by 1st April.
- Skate Park – The land has been purchased but the Environment Agency has still to give the go ahead. Andrew Pitts will contact the EA to find out when work can start.
- There is to be a Heritage Lottery Fund Bid (Parks for People) by the Council in conjunction with the Friends of Centre Vale Park. The bid for £2million includes a 10% contribution by Calderdale Council. The work to be undertaken would include the restoration of the bandstand. A rebuild would

necessitate agreement from English Heritage as it is a listed structure. At the moment the council will make the bandstand secure and presentable. The bid would also include a café and interpretation centre. However, Andrew pointed out that only 30% of bids are successful! The bid needs to have a strong heritage element. David Storah pointed out that the park is an arboretum with a plan of planting drawn up by the Fieldens.

- Tropical World – the Council is in discussion with a local resident re enhancing this.
- ASDA – the company are working through the planning conditions and the Planning Department have no reason to believe that they will not progress the development.
- Hope Street – the owner has active development aspirations.

### **Points/issues from the membership**

- The canal towpath retaining wall to the rear of the Halifax Road site is in danger of collapse especially if there is a severe winter. This wall is the responsibility of the site owner.
- Cinderhill – the planning application is progressing. Delay caused by 2 main issues – car parking and land stabilisation. Todmorden Council had an issue with the proposed number of houses and whether there was play space for children.
- Section 215 – James Gregory felt that the Council could use Section 215 to improve several sites in the town. He commented that Rochdale Council seems to make more use of Section 215 than Calderdale Council. He emphasised that the derelict sites were not a good advert for the town.
- Calder College – Andrew Pitts was not aware of any decisions regarding its future.
- Cllr Holmstedt asked if any work would be done to the toilets next to the Bowling Pavilion. Andrew said that probably one toilet would be repaired.
- Recreation Room – Andrew said that the Toddler Group will use the Recreation Room till Christmas and possibly beyond. He said that there is no reason to demolish it AT PRESENT as currently it is not a development site. However, no repairs will be undertaken.
- The membership asked if CCTV for the park could be included in the Heritage Lottery Fund Bid. Currently CCTV only monitors the sluice gate but this means there is a feed in. Andrew Pitts is looking into mobile CCTV.
- Recycling Centre – SITA and the Council are waiting for the metalwork to be ready for installation. SITA is currently paying for the security guards.
- James Gregory and Shaun Murray queried the infill of paving stones with tarmac. This is Highways responsibility.

Simon Brearley thanked Andrew Pitts for attending the meeting.

## **5.0 Chair's Report**

## **6.0 Treasurer's Report**

## **7.0 Calder Valley Community Land Trust (CVCLT)**

The CVCLT is now a co-operative and following 2 public meetings many members of the public signed up to become 'A Friend'. There will be a further 2 public meetings on 15<sup>th</sup> November. From 11.00 – 1.00 at the Methodist Church, Hebden Bridge and from 2.00 – 4.00 at Central Methodist Church, Todmorden. It is hoped that the CVCLT will soon have its first site and can move forward. Cllr Battye and Simon Brearley felt that this first site should be suitable for social/low cost housing. This would then get the ball rolling. In the future it could take the position of a holding body and may eventually take control of site such as Rose Street and the Community College.

## **8.0 Schemes in Todmorden and Progress Reports**

- It was suggested that Todmorden Pride offer some funding for the renovation of the Bowling Pavilion. Cllr Holmstedt will ask the bowlers to approach Todmorden Pride for matched funding. Simon Brearley has also spoken to Sarah Pennie. It is also possible that Todmorden Pride and the bowlers could make a joint bid for funding to Todmorden Council.
- James Gregory emphasised that the state of the park is an issue for Todmorden Pride.

- It was pointed out that the park is now covered by the Reservoirs Act and therefore any work needs to be agreed with the Environment Agency.
- **St Peter's Gate** – the Council has donated topsoil, plants and labour and the work should be done by the end of November. A small grant had been awarded through Rural Development and this funding can now be used for another environmental project.
- The transportation team is meeting with the Canals Trust to look at improving the towpath from Lever Street to Key Sike Lane and also investigate the possibility of a gateway feature at the canal bridge on Key Sike Lane. Possibly the grant from St Peter's gate could be put towards this.
- **Pedestrian barriers** – all the railings in the town will be improved as agreement has been obtained from the Highways department. Highways and Todmorden Pride will fund. Simon Brearley will contact Todmorden Council to ask them to become involved and assist with funding. This request will need to go to the Amenities Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. **ACTION Simon Brearley.**
- David Storah is to meet with Matthew Wiltshire of Highways and Drainage regarding the flooding in Lever Street Car Park.
- **Market Asset Transfer** – the Council and the market traders are working well together.
- Golden Lion is now open
- Pizza restaurant will have soft opening sessions in the week following staff training on 16<sup>th</sup> October.
- **Rock site** – Ivor Dibble will report back at the next meeting. **ACTION Ivor Dibble**
- **Gauxholme Arches** – no action.
- **Lamplighter Parade** – are looking for a venue in which to build their lamps with the children of the town. It was suggested that the Town Hall might be a possibility.
- **Upper Calder Valley Renaissance 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference** – will be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 2.00 – 5.00 in the Town Hall, Hebden Bridge.

#### 9.0 AOB

#### 10.0 Date of next meeting

**The next meeting of Todmorden Pride will be on  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
at 6.30 in the Community Room, Lever Street, Todmorden.**