

Todmorden Pride Meeting - Thursday 10th July 2014

Present: Simon Brearley – Chair, Doug Blenkey, Cllr M. Holmstedt, Cllr A. Miles, Cllr S. Press, Cllr S. Sweeney, Malcolm Burkett, Janet Battye, Ivor Dibble, Ann Holdsworth, Barry Glenister, Cynthia Murray, Cllr C Baksa(part), David Storah.

Apologies: Peter Cockcroft, James Gregory

1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting (Date)

The minute was accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cynthia Murray, seconded by Malcolm Birkett.

2.0 Matter Arising

- The fishes at Fielden Wharf have been cleaned at a cost of £50 which has been paid.
- Todmorden Pride did make contact with the Council in relation to concern of lost parking spaces on Station Approach.
- Todmorden Town Council has given an initial approval for the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Ferney Lee School** – the current plan for the development of the school and site are somewhat unclear, clarification is to be sort from Calderdale.

3.0 Chairs Report

- Thanks to everyone involved in the Tour De Tod weekend which went very well. Congratulations particularly to the organisers.
- There are a number of long standing matters within the town which seem to be moving forward these will be discussed elsewhere in the meeting.
- It has been established that we have a small under-spend on an existing budget which will allow us to carry out immediate improvement works within the town centre. This item should be dealt with under ‘AOB’.

4.0 Treasurers Report

There is £8,758.09 in the current account, two payments have been made this month - £300 to James Gregory for monies previously paid out for works completed in Todmorden and £300 has been given to the Calder Valley Community Land Trust to give them some initial working capital.

5.0 Calder Valley Community Land Trust

The Community Land Trust has now been formulated and it exists with a bank account and management committee. Several meetings have been held with the Local Authority with a view to finding land which may be able to be transferred into the Land Trust to allow affordable housing to be developed. A further meeting is due to be held with Mark Thompson and initial discussions have also taken place with Pennine Housing to ascertain whether or not they have any sites which may be suitable to be transferred.

6.0 Schemes in Todmorden and Progress Report

- **ASDA** – Asda have confirmed that there has been a delay in the commencement of the development. Further work was needed on the drainage scheme which was to be negotiated with the Environment Agency, planning conditions had to be discharged with Calderdale MBC and Network Rail required a method statement in relation to the development of the site because of its proximity to the railway viaduct. Subsequently it has been established that Asda are anticipating opening the store in Spring 2015.
- **ROSE STREET** – following the presentation by Resilienti to Todmorden Development Board the scheme proposed has been deemed to be inappropriate. A further scheme for retirement housing was also deemed not to be acceptable. At the present time Council Officers are considering how best to remarket the site. Todmorden Pride is to write to the Development Board asking if anything can be done in relation to the condition of the hoarding around the site and whether or not this could be removed and the amount of car parking in the area be increased.
- **HALIFAX ROAD** – James Gregory has spoken to the owners of the site who have indicated that a planning application is to be submitted to the Local Authority within the next month.
- **ST PETERS GATE** – Prinz Developments have now finished the construction of the raised flowerbed thanks to John Pendlebury at Prinz. Anne Holdsworth has arranged for top soil to be delivered following which plants for the flowerbed will be provided by Gordon Riggs Garden Centre and it is hoped that a community task force of volunteers will be set up to carry out the planting.
- **ASSET TRANSFER OF THE MARKET** – Following the report which has been issued, progress in relation to the asset transfer seems to have stalled.

7.0 Any Other Business

- An under-spend of money on the Oxford Street/Lever Street scheme has been identified. The under-spend amounts to approximately £6,000. New schemes are to be looked at and costed to see where this money can be spent, works could include continuing the improvement to the towpath under the tunnel towards Library Lock. Alternatively additional improvement works to the railings around the town centre area could be considered in addition to improved signage, particularly on Station Parade, Fielden Wharf and perhaps a new site in Walsden.
- **CENTRE VALE PARK** - Work remains necessary on the bowling pavilion particularly to improve the toilet facilities and to make the building wind and water tight. It is still planned that the current recreation room will be removed. The lease of the land on which the skate park sits is proceeding through Todmorden Town Council. It was suggested that Todmorden Pride ask Andrew Pitts to attend at the next Todmorden Pride Meeting to discuss the situation in relation to the Park.

- **TOWN HALL GROUP** – The new lift should be installed and working by August 2014. Up to £50,000 of funding has now been achieved to allow the creation of a Heritage Centre. An additional Heritage Lottery Fund bid is also being pursued to allow the next stage of development of the Town Hall to proceed. Andrew Pitts is the Councillor Officer also dealing with the Town Hall and should he be able to attend the next Todmorden Pride Meeting additional information will be able to be secured from him.

Next meeting of Todmorden Pride – August 21st at 6.30pm in the Community Room, Lever Street, Todmorden.

Future meetings on the 9th October and 20th November 2014