



**Minutes of the meeting held at the Todmorden Vintner
Thursday 28th June 2012**

Present: J Gregory; G Connolly; M Birkett; D Storah; P Cockcroft; S Murray;
Cllrs J Booth; S Sweeney; J Battye; M Holmstedt;
Ms Stephanie Furness (CMBC Housing Services);
D Blenkey .

Apologies: Cynthia Murray; Simon Brearley; Cllr Anne James.

1. Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on 17th May 2012 were proposed for acceptance by Malcolm Birkett; seconded by Doug Blenkey.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered by agenda items.

3. Treasurer's Report

DB reported that the current account balance stood at £8847, of which £2000 was earmarked for work by the Town Artist. This sum has remained unused for a number of years, without any calls upon it. It was suggested that this could be freed up for other project uses. Committee agreed to this proposal subject to a check by Cllr Battye as to any conditions which might have been placed upon its use.

Action : Cllr Battye

DS noted that an invoice had been received for £269 for planter boxes and a further invoice can be expected from Incredible Edible Todmorden related to planting for the Canal Festival Week.

DS also noted that a sum of £3500 could be expected from Community Spaces, in payment of a grant for sustainability of the canal towpath and works at Lever Street. This funding is ring-fenced for future expenditure in connection to these works. This might include an additional length of towpath surfacing, for example.

Committee agreed that, rather than maintain funds in an account attracting no interest, it will be preferable to expend those monies on projects, possibly to be used as match funding for funds from other sources (e.g. Todmorden Town Council)

4. Projects

Pending further discussions relating to joint working with Todmorden Town Council (see item 7 below), discussion on individual small projects in the town was deferred.

5. Supermarket Appeal

Noted that the appeal by Alliance Property against the rejection of the Alliance/ Sainsbury application will be heard during the week beginning 23rd July. Although Sainsbury has backed out of the appeal, and Asda may subsequently take up the option in their place, the appeal will be heard on the reasons for rejection of the Sainsbury-backed application. If the appeal is admitted, the site will then have an approved "use category" for retail development, which could be taken up by Asda, or another supermarket chain.

Todmorden Pride needs to agree or confirm its position on the appeal and decide who, if anyone, should speak on TP's behalf at the hearing. Whoever does so must submit a statement of position by 9th July.

Following discussion, meeting agreed that TP should continue to pursue its previously held position, i.e. to seek dismissal of the appeal.

Agreed that a small group should meet with Lindsay Smales to discuss and agree who should speak on behalf of TP.

Action: James Gregory; Ivor Dibble; David Storah; Gill Connolly.

Noted that if the appeal is admitted, the Abraham Ormerod/Olympia site (owned by Asda) will probably be available for development. Asda has indicated a wish to work with CMBC to find a suitable use. Some further discussion would be needed with the developer on Section 106 funding, to ensure the best result for the town.

If the appeal is dismissed, the Halifax Road site will remain without a user.

Either way, TP needs to consider what its proposals might be for alternative uses.

Action : all members.

6. Todmorden Town Centre Renaissance Board

DS summarised the current situation regarding the town centre site. Estates Gazette and OJ notices have been published and several expressions of interest have already been received. Pre-qualification questionnaires must be returned 70 days after issue with development partner contracts finalised by 31 October 2013. Progress to date is within budget and on programme.

The landscape works (funded through LAGBY) are within budget and becoming established. Ongoing maintenance is being set up.

Market Hall – compensation is under review. Noted that tell-tales will need to be monitored for 6 months after the time when Volker Stevin works are complete.

Hoardings are to be removed for cleaning and tidying up of the site.

7. Cooperation with Todmorden Town Council

TP's proposal to work in close cooperation with Todmorden Town Council is to be considered by TTC and a small working party set up. Proposed that this comprise 2

people each from TTC and TP with the option to co-opt other members for specific projects. Projects at Cornholme have been put forward as possible areas of work and it is now understood that permissions have been obtained to carry out work at Gauxholme arches. MH commented that a figure of £30,000 is in the current development budget for TTC. MH will prepare a draft proposal for agreement initially within TTC and then with TP.

Action : M Holmstedt.

8. A.O.B.

a. Impact of Flooding

Cllrs Battye, Booth and Holmstedt, together with Stephanie Furness from CMBC Housing Services outlined action that is being taken or is necessary in response to the flooding event on 22nd/23rd June in Todmorden and the upper valley. A request was issued for TP members to broadcast the need for temporary housing for affected families, either by acquaintance with landlords or knowledge of empty properties. Surveys are in progress both for available properties and families who need to move out.

Action : all members

b. Town Hall

PC advised of an additional figure of £94,000 which has been approved for roof repairs. DS reported that the work was progressing with stonework cleaning and inspection. The latter indicated numerous holes in the roof lead and that the stonework was also in a poor condition following previous restoration work.

c. TP Annual General Meeting

Noted that the Annual General Meeting for TP is now due. Suggested that the next meeting scheduled for 9th August should be set up as the AGM. Annual accounts will need to be prepared for approval and the appropriate public notice of the AGM published.

Action : Accounts – D Blenkey; Notice – D Storah.

9. Date and Time of next meeting

See 8c above. Date is 9th August – time and venue to be advised by notice and circulated prior to meeting.