

Minutes of the meeting of Todmorden Pride

Thursday 10th October 2013

Present: Simon Brearley (Chair), David Storah, Doug Blenkey, Ivor Dibble, Cllr S Sweeney, Cllr Chris Baksa, James Gregory, Cllr Janet Battye, Cynthia Murray, Malcolm Birkett, Sean Murray, Alison Greenwood (Minutes)

In attendance Peter Stubbs (Calderdale MBC) Anne Holdsworth (Calderdale MBC)

1.00 Apologies: Peter Cockcroft, Kate Moreton-Deakin.

Resignation of current Chair and appointment of acting Chair.

James Gregory welcomed group members to the meeting and intimated that he had sent a formal letter of resignation from the position of Chair of Todmorden Pride to the secretary and requested that the Vice-Chair, Malcolm Birkett chair the evenings meeting. M Birkett accepted J Gregory's resignation and expressed his heartfelt thanks together with that of the group for all the work James had undertaken for Todmorden Pride. J Gregory will remain as a member of the group as his input is greatly valued.

M Birkett intimated that he was currently unable to take over the position of Chair of Todmorden Pride and that an acting Chair would be needed until the AGM when the position would be ratified.

Simon Brearley was proposed for this position by M Birkett, seconded by David Storah and accepted unanimously by the group.

Simon Brearley then proceeded to chair the remainder of the meeting.

2.00 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.

The minute of the last meeting on 11th July was accepted as a true record.

3.00 Items for AOB

- Todmorden Development Board
- Tour de Tod
- Todmorden Market

4.00 Chairs Report

There was no report on this occasion. Simon Brearley thanked all members for their support.

5.00 Treasurers Report

There has been no movement on the accounts. There is currently £8,200 at the group's disposal.

6.00 Schemes in Todmorden and Progress Reports

Sites.

- Cllr Sweeney reported that the Halifax Road site has been purchased by Springs Garage. Group members asked if the new members were going to tidy up the site and Cllr Sweeney agreed to raise this query again. The group hopes to be able to raise dialogue with the new owner.
- Cinema site. There is still the possibility of a supermarket and petrol station.
- Water Street. It is intended to retain the pedestrianisation in the short term following the completion of works. Public consultation will be undertaken to find out whether this situation should become permanent.
- David Storah raised the problem of the current lack of waste disposal facilities in Todmorden and the increase in fly tipping. Cllr Sweeney explained that there is no alternative site available as the Rose Street site is still being used by Volker Stevin.

Gauxholme

- Anne Holdsworth reported that nothing has happened, or will, involving Volker Stevin. There have been suggestions that the site is contaminated. It has been suggested that the Highways Department make representation to Network Rail expressing fears that the trees are causing problems which could encourage action. The group felt that removal of the trees would only expose the waste. It was suggested a) that a different contractor could be employed to clear the site. b) it could be a Health and Safety issue which could be taken up by the Environmental Health Department c) a local developer who has recently obtained a licence to remove asbestos may be employed. Details of this developer will be given to A Holdsworth by M Birkett.

Transport Hub Programme

Peter Stubbs from Calderdale Highways Department reported to the group about the trial of a new

transport hub in Todmorden and asked for comments.

- This is a joint scheme with Metro. Metro is tasked with improving information and street furniture at the bus station.
- P Stubbs circulated 3 maps to illustrate the proposed improvements by the Highways Department.
- **1. Improved pedestrian facilities on Station Approach.** These include widening the footpath at the rear of the White Hart and resurfacing parking areas. Part of this scheme will include a traffic regulation order.
- Comments on above. 1) Use of setts rather than tarmac. 2) Disabled access to the station should be improved. 3) Parking in Ridge Road should be managed.
- **2. Improvements to Princess Mary Walk between Station and Bus Station.** There is a planned diversion from Princess Mary walk to the pedestrian crossing and dropped kerbs in Rise Lane to assist disabled access.
- Comments on the above. 1) I Dibble commented that highways could look at using Back North Street rather than Princess Mary Way as access to/from bus station. 2) Lighting needs improvement.
- **3. Improve (widen) the highway behind the bus station to improve the joint highway between Central Garage and the cycleway.** To widen the footway behind the bus station on to Stansfield Road for the cycleway and improve the lighting behind the bus station.
- Comments. It was suggested that this part of the work be deferred and more money spent around the train station. Currently cyclists use the canal towpath and do not use the route behind the bus station.

S Brearley thanked Peter for his input to the meeting and hoped that he would attend a future meeting.

Todmorden Park

D Storah had received an email from Jane Halliday of Groundwork Leeds, agents for Leeming Associates. An open consultation event will be held in Todmorden Town Hall on Tuesday 22nd October from 3.30 - 7.30. They are looking to develop a scrapbook of memories/ideas for the park to support a Heritage Lottery bid and other smaller bids (up to £100,000) for funding to improve the park.

7.00 Future meeting dates and venues

The next meeting of Todmorden Pride will be on Thursday 14th November in the Community Room, Lever Street.

8.00 AOB

Todmorden Development Board.

There is now a new Todmorden Town Hall Development Board. Community members are Cynthia Murray, Peter Cockroft and Darren Midgley together with Cllrs Andrew Hartley, Jane Booth and Janet Battye. This board has proposed to the Todmorden Development Board that £2000 be made available for a feasibility study re lifts to be carried out by the council. The council's architects have looked at previous feasibility study which was made when a previous Heritage Lottery fund grant was being considered which identified locations for 3 lifts. This current feasibility study would only consider one location. They are also looking at spending a further £2,000 on a feasibility study into the Heritage Centre. M Birkett queried why a teaching space (Todmorden College) was being used for offices instead of the Town Hall. Cllr Battye explained that at the moment the Town Hall accommodation does not allow for office.

The next meeting of the Town Hall Development Board will be on the 14th October.

Tour de Tod

Cynthia Murray gave a description of what action is taking place locally.

1. There was a public meeting in May with 50 people attending.
2. Committee elected to oversee events in the town.
3. It is hoped to have a handmade parade, children's Tour de Pants, Todmorden in Bloom overseeing look of town with giant bicycles full of plants in strategic locations, IET Tour de Plants, Big screen to show events in Pollination Street and the Hippodrome, banners and flags, children's sculpture competition, concert with fireworks in the park, late night opening of the market.

4. The TIC is coordinating accommodation. The cricket field will have spaces for 70 tents plus some caravans. Belholme will have motor home parking.

C Murray asked if the group would consider making a donation of £2,000 to the cost of the big screen. This led to a discussion about whether Todmorden Pride should support events as normally donations were only given towards 'something permanent'. D Storah and C Murray pointed out that in the past donations had been made towards event.

J Gregory proposed that £1000 be donated from the canal fund and focussed on something which would improve the look of the canal towpath during the event. This was seconded by D Storah and carried. It was also suggested that the question of a further donation could be brought up at a future meeting.

Anne Holdsworth suggested that C Murray submit a bid to the Rural Grants Fund.

Todmorden Market Futures Board

The final report is to be issued to the council in mid November.

The next meeting of Todmorden Pride will be on
Thursday 14th November in the Community Room Lever Street,
6.00pm for 6.30pm