

Hebden Bridge Community Association



AGM November 25TH 2010

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting

Present

Janet Battye, Andrew Bibby, Janet Cape, Bruce Cape, Bill Day, Sue Day, Russell Dean, Robin Dixon, Sue Fenton, Peter Hirst, Helen Hosker, Derrick Palmer, Anthony Rae, Kate Rae, Chris Ratcliffe, Sara Robinson, Malcolm Rogers, Trevor Smith, Rachel Smith, Mike Smith, Chris Standish, Steve Sweeney, Geoff Tansey, Steve Welsh, Nick Wilding, Maggie Woods, Representatives of 'North of Watford'.

Apologies

Sarah Rae, Jerry Smith, Sally Martin, Maggie Holborow, Hilary Myers, Liz North and Galyic, Sarah Dawson, Gwen Goddard, Jenny Lynn, Corinne MacDonald, David Nelson, Fiona Goh, Sarah Moss, Linda Patterson, Jason Boom, Sarah Rae, Chris Roberts.

Chair

The meeting was chaired by Peter Hirst, chair of Trustees, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the 2009 AGM and 2010 SGM

These were agreed as true records.

Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Company Secretary's Report

Andrew Bibby said that copies of the report were available on request. The total membership of 'Friends of the Town Hall' had risen to 551. This year there were 5 vacancies for trustee posts and 5 people were standing for the positions; therefore no vote was necessary.

There have been 14 Trustee meetings since the last AGM, these have been augmented by interim meetings of 5 committees – Finance, Governance, Communications & Stakeholders, Capital Build and Building Management.

Financial Accounts

The accounts were presented by Mike Smith. They had been independently examined by Riley and Co, and Angela Riley was present at the meeting. Copies were available at the meeting. The format conforms to the requirements of Companies House.

The accounts were formally adopted by the meeting.

Confirmation of Trustees

This year there had been 5 vacancies and 5 new people were standing for the positions therefore no vote was necessary.

The following trustees were therefore approved: Malcolm Rogers, Sue Day, Gwen Goddard, Nick Wilding, Jerry Smith.

Peter asked for a vote of thanks to all of last year's Trustees who had worked incredibly hard throughout the year.

This concluded the formal business of the meeting and was followed by several presentations.

Asset Transfer

Andrew Bibby gave a brief summary of the process which had led to one of the first asset transfers of a Town Hall in the country, a pioneering initiative which has attracted a great deal of national media attention. He outlined the agreement with Calderdale Council which also provides accommodation for the Town and Parish Councils. Other tenants of the building are the Hebden Bridge Light Opera, Hebden Bridge Youth Theatre, GALYIC, World on Your Doorstep and the Space Bar. Andrew was also able to report that the length of lease had recently been renegotiated from 40 to 125 years.

Injecting New Life into the Building

Project worker Kate Rae gave an overview of the increasing number and huge variety of events which have taken place at the Town Hall since April. These included national, regional and community events, and, of course, weddings.

Refurbishment

Robin Dixon described how the building had been refurbished to provide much more appropriate space for events and a safer and more comfortable environment for users. He gave an enthusiastic and inspirational account of the challenges of the last twelve months.

New Build

Karen Houghton reported that planning permission and listed building approval had been granted for the new build. Community Builders had offered two million pounds, part grant, part loan, and the project was in the final stages of approval for a £1.7 million grant from ERDF.

Peter Hirst commented on the immense hard work and achievement of the last twelve months.

Further Potential Asset Transfers

Robin Dixon, as leader of Hebden Royd Council, spoke of the potential for asset transfer of the Picture House, parks, toilets and allotments. He said that the Town Council were looking at mechanisms for this and it might be that the Community Association became involved. He invited people to be proactive on this issue.

Members' comments and questions

Anthony Rae commented that asset transfer issues should be looked at early in the New Year. Geoff Tansey commented on the low attendance at the AGM and that the capacity to maintain the necessary work would require more people to be involved. Jane Scullion commented that Calderdale Council's involvement should not be allowed to stop with the asset transfer. Trevor Smith expressed concern about the repayment of debt. Nick Wilding expressed his concerns about the new build which he felt were shared by a section of the community who had signed the petitions he had distributed around Hebden Bridge. Steve Sweeney commented that if we went back to Community builders at this stage then all plans would be rejected. Anthony Rae also commented that it was too late and that trust would have to be placed in the quality of the business plan and that Friends were responsible for attending to the detail of the building as it went up. Derek Palmer commented that there had been no objectors present at the meeting of the Planning Board and that if debate was opened up at this point we would lose the funding. Anthony Rae commented on objections to loss of parking and said that this could be addressed in other ways. Trevor Smith reiterated his anxieties about financial viability but assured the meeting of his good wishes and applauded the association for its achievements.

Peter Hirst repeated the invitation for more people to be involved and closed the meeting.