

Hebden Bridge Community Association Ltd

Minutes of rescheduled AGM, held on Thursday January 12th 2012 at 6.30pm in Hebden Bridge Town Hall

Present: Jerry Smith, Chris Standish, Stephen Curry, Maria Heafford, Graham Heafford, Peter Hirst, Dai Hallgarth, Nina Smith, Colin Fisher, Mike Troke, Rachel Rickards, Gwen Goddard, David Groves, Diana Monahan, Judith Clayton, Myra James, Susan Press (HR Town council), Sarah Rae. In attendance: Sarah Lister-Blow. Apologies: Jane Scullion, Fiona Armer

1. Chair's welcome

Peter Hirst welcomed members present. He reminded them that this was the rescheduled AGM, as the AGM originally scheduled for November 24th had been (just) inquorate. As established under the Association's Mem and Arts, this meeting was quorate.

2. Trustee report

Andrew Bibby introduced the trustees' report to members. He reminded members that at the 2010 AGM a little over a year earlier the Association had been running the Town Hall for only eight months. Although planning permission had been secured for the new building and the Community Builders investment of £2m had been confirmed, the ERDF funding had not at that stage been agreed.

Andrew described what he described as a nerve-racking period in the Spring of 2011, as the Community Builders deadline of April 1st approached with ERDF still unconfirmed. Fortunately, the funding was finally agreed in late March. Less satisfactorily it was about £200,000 less than had originally been hoped, necessitating some reductions to elements of the design and further fundraising. He thanked members who had sponsored stone slabs for the courtyard.

He reported that the contractors were making progress for an opening of the new building in May 2012. He reminded members that the development would provide a new public hall, a new rehearsal room, two new meeting rooms, thirty small enterprise units, a hotdesking area, a café and community lounge, new exhibition space and a new foyer.

Andrew also reported on the management of the existing building. The Greenwood Room next door was getting significantly more use than it did in Calderdale days, he said. He thanked Robin Dixon for refurbishing the downstairs kitchen. The trustees had been particularly pleased at the take-up for weddings and civil partnerships, the first civil partnership having taken place during the year.

He described the relationship with Calderdale council as a productive one. Calderdale had extended the Association's leasehold term from 40 to 125 years during the year, and the Association also now had the right now to acquire the building for £1 if the council wished to dispose of the freehold at any time. Calderdale remains the Town Hall's anchor tenants, and through them the town and parish councils also have accommodation. He said that the Association had also been pleased to offer office accommodation to Gay & Lesbian Youth in Calderdale, and there was disappointment that their funding had run out.

Trustees met normally every month, Andrew said, although during 2011 a number of extra meetings had been held at the start of the year. There were six sub-committees, and these also met regularly. The details were in the introduction to the audited accounts which had been distributed, he said.

Andrew concluded by thanking Kate Rae, who had worked as project office until September and the Association's administrator Sue Graham. He introduced Sarah Lister-Blow, who had begun as the Executive Director in January 2012.

3. Financial report

Andrew Bibby introduced the audited accounts for the financial year Sep 2010-August 2011. He also spoke to a briefing note on the accounts which had been prepared by Fiona Armer. He pointed out that it was gratifying to be able to say that the Association had ended the year with a small operational surplus.

The audited accounts, already approved by the trustees, were formally endorsed by the meeting.

4. Motions for discussion

The trustees reported that, since the original AGM in November had been inquorate, they were recommending that they be allowed to withdraw the motions presented for discussion. This was accepted by the meeting.

5. Board of trustees

Peter Hirst reminded members that following the Autumn election Mike Troke, Chris Smith, Chris Standish, Stephen Curry and Rachel Rickards had joined the board. Peter Hirst, Andrew Bibby, Gwen Goddard, Sarah Moss and Jerry Smith remained trustees.

6. Discussion and Q&A

Peter Hirst closed the formal part of the AGM. This was followed by a lively discussion on a range of issues. Questions were asked about the arrangements for booking the new facilities. The trustees were asked to ensure that the facilities were affordable. Discussion of arrangements for suitable launch events took place. The trustees were thanked for the work they had undertaken.

The meeting closed at 7.21pm.