

BUXTON TOWN TEAM

NOTES ON THE DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd MAY 2017

Present: Charles Jolly, Janet Miller, Jim Lowe, Matthew Nuttall, Roddie MacLean, Simon Fussell, Suzanne Pearson

Apologies: John Estruch, Philip Barton, Richard Silson

1. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the meeting of 25th April were approved subject to a minor amendment, once this is done they can be posted on the website.

JM

2. BOARD, DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Jim Lowe and Matthew Nuttall were welcomed as new Directors, having been appointed at the adjourned general meeting on 16th May 2017. Janet will register them with Companies House. Notes of the adjourned meeting had been circulated; Roddie will complete writing up the notes of the meeting held on 11th April.

JM

RM

The venue for future Directors' meetings was discussed. It was agreed that we would be happy to use the Old Hall Theatre Bar if this is available at no cost, alternative options could be the Dome or The Pooles Cavern Schoolroom. Janet will discuss further with Sally when she is back from holiday.

JM

It was noted that Roddie and Janet will both stand down in November 2018 at the latest, and that Roddie will stand down as Chair at the end of this year. It was agreed that a search committee should be established soon to start the process of identifying replacements; Janet also expressed a wish to start handing over elements of the work she does sooner rather than later. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

3. IDEAS & ACTION MEETING

Notes of the meeting on 16th May had been circulated, minor corrections were requested. Attendance was good, with lively discussion, three of those present attended specifically for the discussion on the BID proposal.

JM

4. COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Notes of the meeting on 4th May had been circulated. The group are expanding their analysis of website views and the impact of social media.

5. ACCESS, PARKING, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT GROUP

Notes of the meeting on 9th May had been circulated, there were no queries.

6. SCRUTINY GROUP

The Group had met twice recently, notes of their meeting of 28th April can be posted on the website following amendments to maintain confidentiality on one item. They recommend that the Articles of Association be reviewed with regard to the quorum for general meetings and to ensure no ambiguity.

CJ/JM

Regarding the adjourned general meeting the group suggested that this should have included a repeat of the reports presented to the original meeting, and that the resolutions to appoint/re-appoint Directors should have been dealt with separately from those to appoint/re-appoint members of the Scrutiny Group.

7. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCES

7.1 Current Position

The number of members has increased to 249. In the confusion following the Spring Fair two applications to join the organisation were lost; Janet has tried to track down the people concerned by various means, so far without success, but she will keep trying. Facebook page Likes are 1,400.

JM

Philip had emailed to advise that there is £3,695 in the current account (in addition there is £4,000 in the Credit Union Account and the £3,000 loan held by Buxton Markets). Recent income included a £1,500 donation from Tarmac and payment from HPBC for tea-towels; there had been expenditure on printing maps and posters.

8. PROJECT UPDATES & PROPOSALS

8.1 Project Status Report

No status report had been circulated.

8.2 Talking Signposts 2016

A project Closing Report had been received, this was accepted and can be posted on the website.

JM

8.3 Talking Signposts 2017

A Project Proposal had been circulated. This was approved with a budget of £50. Roddie will act as Link Director.

RM

8.4 Utilising Corporate Volunteer Hours

A Project Proposal had been circulated. This was approved with a budget of £250.

8.5 Market Place Enhancement

Ideas for making best use of the £500 University donation were discussed at the Ideas Meeting. Janet will go through these with Tina, with a view to bringing a Project Proposal to the June Ideas Meeting.

JM

8.6 Open Gardens Trail

The Communications Group had agreed the design for the maps with the project team; these had been printed and Jo is in the process of distributing them. The Correx boards from last year have been returned, Janet will ask if the team want to have A1 posters printed again, and if so make the necessary arrangements.

JM

8.7 Boundary Walk Grand Opening

Plans are going well, we are getting positive responses from VIPs, traders and performers; we have not yet had a list of attendees from those invited by FPD or HPBC.

8.8 Slopes Care Team

Work is coming full circle, weeding and edging the areas where we started last August. With HPBC agreement, moss is now being removed from the urns. It is anticipated that work to refurbish the benches will be carried out as part of the Corporate Volunteer Hours project.

8.9 Litter Picking Group

The group are wanting to clean up an area of woodland off Victoria Park Road, above the railway. Janet and Simon will look into this further, particularly with regard to safety.

SF/JM

8.10 Vision Buxton BID Feasibility Study

The proposal that we contribute to the Vision Buxton Feasibility Study was made. Views on this were divided.

Arguments in favour of the contribution were:

- It supports the concept of the BID as being potentially a good thing for the town
- It demonstrates to the business community that we value them and want to support them
- It is right that the burden be shared by all the organisations whose objectives include the prosperity of the town

Arguments against were:

- It sets a precedent - we have never before made a financial contribution to another organisation's project
- The study has already been commissioned, it will go ahead whether we contribute or not
- It could be contentious, some smaller businesses feel threatened and are concerned about the cost implications

After much discussion it was agreed that in principle a contribution of £250 would be made. Roddie will complete an In Support Project Proposal for formal approval.

RM

Looking further ahead, it had been suggested that our involvement at this stage might support us having a seat on the BID Board and a say on how the money is used; the BID might therefore provide a long term source of financing for Town Team projects. It was agreed that this was not desirable: the BID is paid for by the business community and decisions on spending should be entirely theirs; it is unlikely that we would have enough influence to introduce a policy of using volunteers rather than paid labour; it is better that we maintain our independence so we are in a position to pick up on work that does not feature in the 5 year BID Plan; we do not want to do anything that might compromise our entirely voluntary ethos. We would not therefore seek to have a seat on the BID Board if it is formed.

9. UPCOMING TOWN TEAM MEETINGS

9.1 Ideas & Action Meeting

Dates have been agreed for Ideas Meetings for the rest of the year.

It was suggested that the topic for the June meeting should be the deferred item on Local & Neighbourhood Plans, Roddie will discuss with Joe and Dick.

RM

10. MEETINGS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Crescent Stakeholders Meeting: It was agreed Simon will represent us on this from now on.

SF

High Peak Business Forum: It was agreed Matthew will represent us on this from now on.

MN

Vision Buxton Marketing Meeting: Roddie will discuss with Tina whether she could continue to represent us.

RM

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Paid Advertisements on Leaflets

We have accepted donations to many of our projects, and always included the donor's name and/or logo on our publicity materials. It was agreed that paid advertisement was a very different thing, it would need to be done openly and fairly and the offer made available to all; it is therefore not appropriate without a clear policy being agreed first.

11.2 PSHE Day Enquiry

The Community School had been in touch re the Town Team being involved in a PSHE Day on social enterprise on 5th July. It was agreed in principle this would be a good thing to do, Roddie will make contact, Charles is also willing to be involved as he has run a number of PSHE Days at the school previously as Transition Buxton.

RM/CJ

11.3 Project Leader Guidance Note

Janet will circulate the first draft of a guidance note for consideration at the next meeting.

JM

12. DATES OF NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The dates of forthcoming Directors' meetings are:

Wednesday 28th June at 7:30pm

Tuesday 18th July at 7:30pm

Tuesday 29th August at 7:30pm

The venues will be confirmed.