

BUXTON TOWN TEAM

NOTES ON THE DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2014

Present: Janet Miller, Joe Dugdale, John Estruch, Philip Barton, Rachel Hoodith, Roddie MacLean, Tina Heathcote

Observing: Charles Jolly

Apologies: Jean Ball, Richard Silson, Sarah Rawlinson

1. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the notes of the meeting on 16th September represented an accurate record, and can be posted on the website.

JM

2. BOARD, DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

It was agreed that the general meeting should take place in late March, but that there should be a special meeting to review the business plan before then. It was agreed that Roddie, Joe, Tina and Philip would take this on, Roddie will arrange a mutually convenient date.

RM

Regarding a ninth director, and aligning retirement dates with the general meeting, it was noted that we can appoint at any time, for approval at the next general meeting.

3. IDEAS & VISION GROUP

Notes of the last meeting on 8th October will be circulated very soon. There were no issues arising.

JD

4. COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The group is meeting again on 14th October, with a special focus on social media. A survey of what members want in the way of communications is in preparation, the link will be circulated before the end of the month. John is sorting a press cuttings file.

5. SCRUTINY GROUP

Charles advised they would be meeting on Wednesday, meanwhile there was nothing to report.

6. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCES

6.1 Current Position

The number of members is still 167, plus some 'pending', and we have 414 'Likes' on Facebook.

Philip had circulated a financial report, current cash assets, including anticipated income, stand at £9,203. The main expenditure in the last month was £536 for 200 tea-towels.

7. TOWN MATTERS

7.1 Nestle Site Proposals

Several directors attended the 'consultation' on 25th September, and discussed the proposals with CPG representatives. Roddie is arranging a further meeting with them, jointly with Vision Buxton, hopefully on 29th October. It was agreed that Roddie, Dick, Joe and Tina should represent us, they will draft a summary of Buxton Town Team's stance on the various issues for circulation and agreement before this.

RM
RM/JD/RS/TH

7.2 Crescent Development

Roddie will draft a letter of support to go to the HLF from BTT directors, and also a list of points that individuals might want to make in their own letters; Janet will post this on Facebook, and include in the next members' email.

RM
JM

8. PROJECTS UPDATES & PROPOSALS

8.1 Market Place Landscaping

A draft project proposal has been produced; the ideas were strongly supported in principle, but the details and costs are not yet sufficiently determined for the project to be formally approved. Tina will ask Mike Badman to proceed with setting up a team to work on the project. Philip will circulate a Land Registry map which shows DCC and HPBC ownership in the area.

TH
PB

8.2 Buxton in Bloom

We were awarded Silver Gilt for the town with a Special Judges' Award for the Serpentine project. Haddon Hall were also awarded Silver Gilt. Roddie will ask Janine to produce a closing report as soon as possible, and a proposal for Buxton in Bloom 2015.

RM

8.3 Merchandise

Tea-towels have arrived and are on sale in various outlets, and Tina is recruiting more retailers to stock them. The jigsaws are on order and will arrive before the end of the month. It was noted that both are standard rated for VAT, so reducing margins to VAT registered retailers. It was suggested that if merchandising is to be an ongoing part of our business, we could benefit from having a separate VAT registered trading arm. The pros and cons were discussed, it was agreed that there are wider implications than simply financial, and that we should see how sales go before making a decision on this.

TH

8.4 Buxton Conference

Caitlin is very supportive of the proposal, and has agreed that we can use the Pavilion Arts Centre free of charge, including provision of tea and coffee. The University will provide the lunch. Of the dates offered, our

preference is for 25th February, Roddie will confirm this. Roddie will also check the extent to which Vision Buxton wish to be involved. Janet and Tina will compile a list of invitees, and circulate for comment. It was noted that the project still needs to be formally approved, Tina will finalise the proposal and circulate.

RM
JM/TH
TH

8.5 Artisan Market Trials

It was reported that unfortunately the October market had to be cancelled due to excessively high winds, this was Denise's decision and not taken lightly. Alan Thompson's written comments on this were noted and Alan thanked for his continued interest in the project. It was confirmed that we will continue to do whatever we can to ensure the success of the market, by promoting it and assisting with signage and setting up on the day; Tina has written to Denise to ask if there is any further assistance we can offer. Denise has advised that several of her long term traders have opted out of doing the Buxton market, some of these cited the choice of location as the reason, but for others the issue was simply the distance from where they are based.

8.6 Market Regeneration

The sub-group met on 24th September and John has written a preliminary project proposal. Roddie has met with Simon and Fiona Bingham (who have been leafleting the Market Place) but they are unwilling to work with us and intend to produce their own proposals. Meanwhile we understand that HPBC is planning a tender exercise for the operation of all the markets shortly, Roddie will ask for a meeting with Terry Crawford to discuss this.

RM

We have also been approached by Devonshire Markets, who are very keen on operating markets in Buxton, Janet will arrange a meeting.

JM

8.7 Christmas Shopping Crawl

Rachel advised that as the crawl has been run successfully twice now, and is financially neutral, the participating traders feel they are now in a position to operate independently of the Town Team. Rachel will pass on our best wishes for continued success, and assurances that if they do need further support they need only ask.

RH

8.8 Other Projects

It was noted that a number of projects (eg Spring Fair, Spring Clean, Market Place Decorations) need proposals drafting and formal approval in the near future.

JM/TH

9. PLANNED TOWN TEAM MEETINGS

9.1 Ideas & Vision Meetings

The current proposal for the November meeting is a focus on communications, Janet will finalise this with Dick.

JM/RS

9.2 General Meeting

It was provisionally agreed this will be held on Wednesday 25th March, details to be confirmed.

RM

10. MEETINGS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

10.1 Meetings with HPBC

Roddie is in the process of arranging a date for the next meeting with Dai Lerner.

RM

Roddie attended the last Community Voice meeting, and spoke about the Buxton Conference.

10.2 Other Meetings

Buxton Festival & Buxton Opera House - Roddie has met with Felicity Goodey and with Simon Glinn, both are keen to pursue fuller integration with the town, and to be involved with the Buxton Conference.

Vision Buxton - Tina attended the recent Vision Buxton marketing meeting.

Buxton Traders - Rachel attended the latest meeting on 6th October, discussion centred on the Nestle proposals.

Derbyshire Retail Help - Tina and Rachel will attend the next meeting at Thornbridge Hall on 15th October.

Serpentine Project - Tina is continuing to chair the steering group, which now meets frequently.

11. DATES OF NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The Old Hall cannot accommodate us on 11th December; it was agreed we will retain the date and meet elsewhere. Sarah has requested that we avoid Mondays if possible. Dates for future meetings were amended as follows:

Tuesday 11th November 7:30pm - Old Hall Hotel

Thursday 11th December 7:30pm - venue tbc

Tuesday 20th January 7:30pm - Old Hall Hotel

Tuesday 17th February 7:30pm - Old Hall Hotel

Wednesday 18th March 7:30pm - Old Hall Hotel

Thursday 23rd April 7:30pm - Old Hall Hotel

Janet will arrange accommodation with the Old Hall Hotel.

JM

JCMM
15Oct14