

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT Councillors; Fearon (Chair) Boggis, Bampton Smith, Cammack, Crosland, Davenport, Daber, Dixon, Dunford, Fraser, Hodgins, Scullion, Stow, Timbers, Yorke & Young.

plus Anthony Rae, Bob Deacon, Janet Battye, Gwen Goddard and HRTC Officer Emma Green.

Clerk – Jason Boom, Hebden Royd Town Council.

361. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Trickett.

362. MEMBERS' INTERESTS' RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS.

Cllr Bampton Smith, Boggis and Scullion as being affected by the floods.

CALDER VALLEY BOXING DAY FLOODS 2015

363. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC REPORTS

Anthony Rae spoke asking that the Town Council look at the process behind the revival not the causes and solutions. He wants to see increased certainty that vulnerability is reduced which has not yet been achieved, there is far too much uncertainty.

Anthony felt that in the short time since the flood the knowledge gap had started to narrow and be bridged with the publication of a CMBC report outlining planned schemes, quantification of benefits and the associated funding position.

He felt that there would be a residual risk for communities but recommended five actions to take forward.

- The Town Council on behalf of the community - and also with the three Calderdale ward councillors – establish a formal partnership relationship with the Environment Agency and Calderdale Council so that it is able to judge whether sufficient progress is being made to increase certainty and reduce vulnerability.
- The Town Council should have on its agenda at every meeting a standing item on flooding progress report, reflecting the urgency of the issue and the scale of the threat to Hebden Royd.
- Every quarter there should be a progress review undertaken by the partnership of the Town Council/EA/CMBC, reporting on progress in the last three months and targets for the next three. These progress reviews should be published and may need to involve public engagement events so that it and community can understand by April 2016 what has been established in terms of flooding causation and solutions; and by July 2016 (that is four years after

the 2012 floods) that there is a definitive and adequate plan and programme of interventions in place, properly funded and also with implementation dates.

- In view of the Calderdale Council information that the two future flood alleviation schemes in design for Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd at a total cost £21.85m are £11.45m or 52% unfunded, that representations be made to the Secretary of State for the Environment that she will 'ensure that those are sufficient as part of the review we are conducting' *Hansard 5th January 2016*, and therefore that full funding be provided as a matter of urgency.
- That a meeting be arranged with Craig Whittaker MP for Calder Valley to urge his support for the full funding of these flood alleviation schemes.

A detailed discussion took place with councillors asking that duplication with CMBC's Flood Commission not take place, that if the Neighbourhood Plan Committee was the correct vehicle for the Town Council to explore issues, that the 'is a 100 year flood' mentality be changed, is the West Yorkshire Combined Authority able to assist, is the DEFRA formed committee following the 2012 floods to be reformed or replaced and should the two CMBC wards within the Parish affected mean that all six CMBC Councillors be represented on the CMBC Flood Commission.

Bob Deacon reported on how business had been affected with 80% of businesses in Hebden Bridge closed and 100% in Mytholmroyd. It is estimated that 400 jobs are at risk in the short term with the length of closure being seen as significant. Monies awarded and supporting were not meeting the costs of the flood and the immediate economic consequences of the flood need to be addressed.

The following recommendations were made:

- Proactively allocating some of its financial support to community organisations who have been affected.
- Cooperating on a more formal basis regularly with the other agencies in town contributing to the flood relief effort (HBCA, HBP, HB Business Forum etc). An example of this is the joint sponsorship of the HBP, HRTC and HBBF Public Meeting on January 16th. The suggestion by CMBC to establish a Town Board might be a way forward if it could be made to work transparently.
- Ensure all HB business are aware of the CMBC resource and the new Business for Calderdale "Calderdale Rising" funding campaign.
- Making a big shout both to CMBC and Yorkshire and Government for more funds.

Further discussion followed with thanks to the HB Partnership for the report which had been circulated to CMBC. Councillors reminded the meeting of the Mytholmroyd Business Forum, its surveys and its regular meetings, the loss of Beehive Mill, the need to remember the manufacturing sector and the potential loss of employment due to relocation, the need to challenge the Government backed insurance scheme, the Neighbourhood Plan desire to not forget valley bottom sites in favour of greenfield hilltop sites, the need for the EA and Planners to support developers and be responsive and the lack of a CMBC led Emergency Plan.

Cllr Janet Battye Spoke and asked that the schemes developed need to be brought forward and that all sources for funding be examined with local, regional and national agencies to bridge the funding gap. EU funding should not be excluded. She reminded the meeting that some new schemes since 2012 had been successful i.e. Nutclough and Todmorden. She encouraged residents to be resilient.

Appointed groups should act swiftly and work with the CMBC Flood Commission helping the dire situation faced by local schools which must be mended and protected for the future. Road works need to be completed in a timely manner and the canal must not be forgotten as well as the rail line. The Town Council must stand up and the Town & parish Councils Liaison Committee involved.

364. OFFICER REPORTS

Robin Dixon – Flood Warden.

Cllr Dixon stated that this had been a difficult time with both businesses and residents equally affected but the work goes on and the support for the community goes on. The Wardens Plan remains the same but it is clear that communications need to be improved and the membership of the groups widened.

It was confirmed that the flood stores stock was being replenished with the Clerk confirming so.

Cllr Bampton Smith reported on the ‘Kindness of Strangers’ and the amazing logistical support of the flood hubs, she would recommend a Working Party on Flooding.

The Town Clerk reported on the work of the Town Council supporting groups with information and equipment along with the Picture House.

365. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

It was moved by Cllr Young

Seconded by Cllr Timbers and

RESOLVED: to adopt the five points as raised by Anthony Rae adding that Liz Truss is the current Environment Secretary requesting a reply by the 1st July 2016.

It was moved by Cllr Scullion

Seconded by Cllr Young and

RESOLVED: to adopt the points raised by Bob Deacon adding in Royd Regeneration, Mytholmroyd Flood Group and other relevant Mytholmroyd groups.

It was moved by Cllr Dixon

Seconded by Cllr Bampton Smith and

RESOLVED: to commit to work with the established DEFRA Flood Committee and seek it to be restarted.

It was moved by Cllr Scullion
Seconded by Cllr Fearon and
RESOLVED: that the following be adopted:

Resilience and recovery

- Donate £10,000 to Calderdale Community Foundation, earmarked to local postcodes, which will be matched by government. This funding to be made available by reallocating unspent monies previously committed to the Calder Valley Club.
- Strategy and Review to be the main committee tasked with keeping the Town Council up to date with developments. The 2016/17 Budget reworked with flood related costs in mind.
- Arrange a bigger spring clean for 2016. Emphasis on making place Parish good.
- Allotments, both private and council assessed for support with a report to be submitted for consideration.

Other

- Express our thanks to twin towns for sympathies and monies.
- Support for promotional weekends once shops back.
- Consider community service awards for Best Practice training and Hebden Bridge Community Association as organisations.
- Ensure thanks from the Mayor are sent to individuals and organisations.
- Issue a Press Release from the Mayor.
- Lobby National Government on extension of flood reinsurance scheme to businesses.

It was moved by Cllr Timbers
Seconded by Cllr Young and
RESOLVED: that the DWP be asked how many people have lost their jobs as a result of the flooding and what support they are receiving.

The Meeting finished at 9.05pm