

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2017
at HEBDEN BRIDGE TOWN HALL, HEBDEN BRIDGE**

MINUTES

PRESENT Mayor Cllr Tony Hodgins (Chair) plus 21 members electors from the parish.

Also present Jason Boom, Town Clerk, Hebden Royd Town Council

A buffet and light refreshments were served prior to the meeting.

The Town Clerk explained the statutory role of the Annual Town Meeting to the audience and how as electors in the parish they could use it as an opportunity to ask questions of the council and seek actions on their behalf.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Hazel Scriven, Pat Fraser, Luke Daber, June Cammack, Paul & Diana Monahan.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk to the Town Council reported that the Public Notice of the Annual Town Meeting had been posted on the Town Notice Boards in accordance with statutory requirements and also on the Council's and the Hebden Bridge websites as well as social media outlets. Editorial had been sent from the Hebden Bridge Times and the Halifax Courier.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD 27th April 2016

No questions or comments were raised.

4. WHAT WE DO

Presentations were received from Hebden Royd Town Council, local community projects and the Hebden Bridge Picture House.

The Role of the Council – Cllr Jane Scullion.

Cllr Scullion explained that the Town Council builds better communities, project by project, day by day, often these are ordinary everyday activities. The Town Council looks at local plans and comments on what it views is right for the area. The Neighbourhood Plan is helping develop forward planning, influencing the Local Plan and the Planning Authority (CMBC) ensuring the area is vibrant and fit for local people as well as visitors.

The Town Council makes the area a greener place with allotments and planting initiatives, and a cleaner place with sponsored clean ups and the supporting of local initiatives.

The Town Council tries to ensure responsible dog ownership is prevalent, a daily challenge.

The Town Council entertains, at the Picture House and through directly organised events i.e. Happy Hounds, Festive Lights etc.

The Town Council financially supports local organisations to improve local life, making the Parish 'buzz'. Brass Bands to Vintage Car Rallies, the Town Council is always willing to listen to new organisations in need of help.

The Town Council takes on special projects i.e. WW1 Book of Remembrance, Tommy's Portraits and Twinning with our friends in Europe.

The Town Council marks individual contributions to our community, annual awards for those that have made a marked contribution, this includes Young People.

Bridge Rectifier – Guy Lymer

Guy shared how Bridge Rectifier had grown into a vibrant collection of enthusiastic 'techie' that had now found a home in Hebble End. The project to purchase a laser cutter and train local people how to use it had been financially supported by the Town Council. They had committed to train at least 50 local people, and after one session was half way there. Guy showed the meeting examples of the designs and products that had been produced. He then went on to explain the benefits of the scheme, with other groups taking advantage of the technology, products and designs had been developed at low cost and with low risk therefore benefitting the local economy.

Happy Valley Pride – Mike Stephens

Mike explained how Happy Valley Pride had started as a way of turning a negative, discriminatory piece of graffiti into a positive piece of artwork. The group celebrated LGBTQ life raising awareness and educating and had held its first celebrations in 2016 with financial support from the Town Council. It had received a great response from the community, and exposure nationally.

A short video presentation was made and Mike asked for support to continue the work of the group.

Red Acre Allotments – Kath Baker & Gavin Lee

The group formed in 2009 and had transformed the site in Mytholmroyd into a productive, sustainable growing and horticultural community. Membership numbered 60 plus. Recently the Accessible Redacre Project had provided a fully accessible toilet with solar lighting and complemented the pizza oven, roundhouse and other facilities.

Moving forward the group is starting to work with local schools, the woodcraft folk and plans to hold music events, food, wine evenings and

provide produce for consumption locally. Information can be found at www.redacre.org.

Hebden Bridge Picture House - Rebekah Fozard

Manager of the Picture House, Rebekah Fozard, outlined the history of the cinema and how it had performed since its transfer to the Town Council five years ago. Attendance was up, revenues were up and much refurbishment had taken place while facing the challenges of three floods in a short space of time with only the loss of six days trading.

The Picture House is now working towards its centenary in 2021 and looking to increase screenings, refurbish the balcony, upgrade lighting and sound and install an appropriate PA System. Of course the focus will be on 2021 with plans for specific celebrations underway.

Paul Knights, representing the Friends of the Picture House as Chair of the group, advised of a membership exceeding 650 who supported the Picture House with practical tasks and also financially. Fund raising through friends screenings, poster sales and the Christmas Raffle help generate these funds. The recently published History of the Picture House book was also starting to raise funds.

The Friends also represented the users of the cinema and their members sit on the management committee advising on screenings and proposed developments.

5. ANY OTHER TOWN BUSINESS

No further questions were asked.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm