

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the STRATEGY & REVIEW COMMITTEE held 19th JUNE 2022

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Needham (Chair after minute 49), Fenton, Harvey, Hoyle, Stevens, Stow, Wood & Young.

Clerk: J Boom

49. ELECTION OF CHAIR & DEPUTY CHAIR

It was **proposed** by Councillor Young
Seconded by Councillor Harvey
Unanimously resolved; that Councillor Needham be elected **Chair of the Strategy & Review Committee** for the year 2022/23.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Young
Seconded by Councillor Fenton
Unanimously resolved: that Councillor Stow be elected **Deputy Committee Chair** for the year 2022/23.

50. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllrs Boggis.

51. Members` Interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

None declared at this time.

52. Matters arising from Minutes of Advisory Meeting held 23rd March 2022 not itemised on this Agenda.

The Town Clerk reported on the CMBC proposal to remove the discretionary and council tax support grants to Town and Parish Councils from 2023. The Clerk continues to seek clarification on the decision via CMBC Chair of the Resources Committee Cllr Silva Dacre and Andrew Pitts, CMBC Head of Communities. Indications suggest the decision was taken in March 2022 but are yet to be confirmed along with suggestions as to how CMBC will mitigate the loss to the areas parish and town councils.

Note: Cllrs Stevens & Woods arrived.

It was agreed to include this item regularly until it is resolved. The Town Council will continue to monitor and lobby to retain the award.

HRTC has on many occasions supported CMBC generously, in both financial terms and with officer time, and hope to continue to do this in the future. However the removal of these awards would necessitate a review of the on-going financial support of CMBC Partner projects

that HRTC can offer to ensure that residents of Hebden Royd are not disadvantaged by supporting projects that are wholly financed in non Parished areas of Calderdale by CMBC.

53. COUNCIL MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

After discussion.

It was proposed by Cllr Stow

Seconded by Cllr Young

RESOLVED: to recommend the adoption of the Local Government Association New Model Code of Conduct 2020.

Following confirmation of the adoption by full council members must receive training on the subject and co-opted members must be advised.

Cllr Stevens as a member of the CMBC Standards Committee outlined the processes used at the principal authority and the monitoring officers responsibilities that support the CMBC Standards Committee.

The Clerk was asked to identify possible sanctions that can be employed should there be a breach of the code of conduct.

54. ONGOING PROJECT REPORTS & NEW PROPOSALS

The meeting considered the following projects and discussed opportunities for HRTC in other fields of interest.

a) Citizens Advise Service

The meeting thanked the CAB for their report asking that the local phone number is publicised more widely with HRTC pushing the number through all HRTC social media.

The council continues to seek data to give evidence of HRTC adding value, comparison with years previous to the start of the service would be helpful. The provided case study provided evidence of the additional income being secured and HRTC would like to see a measure of that financial benefit for the area.

To clarify the actual start date of the service was February 2021.

It was agreed to invite the lead CAB Officer, Caroline Jones, to the next meeting of the Strategy & Review Committee.

b) Youth Employment Services

The meeting reviewed the report submitted and asked that HRTC ensure C & K Services are in contact with Reach4Ward. The meeting was happy with the support being provided for young people in Hebden Royd, especially those in Year 11 at risk, those at risk of NEET and home educated young people.

Note: Cllrs Stevens & Wood declared an interest in the next item as members of the group developing the project.

c) Mytholmroyd Hub and library

Cllr Stevens presented information and explanation regarding the business case submitted to CMBC and the inaccuracies between committed HRTC financial support and information provided to CMBC. It was acknowledged that it should not have happened. The Clerk was thanked for providing accurate figures to CMBC and for raising the issue at HRTC.

Cllr Stevens moved on to explaining the next stage of the process with CMBC with a series of questions just received from CMBC. Plans exist for the group to become a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and they are seeking to collaborate with a similar group at Shelf. The group continues to visit similar set ups and look for grant support.

The Town Clerk confirmed the Town Council continues to be happy to help and awaits requests for financial support as previously agreed.

The Town Clerk confirmed his opinion that the agenda allowed a discussion regarding potential new areas of interest for HRTC and that he was content to proceed to an open discussion.

Cllr Fenton shared with the meeting details of an evolving project, entitled Calder Food Support, to drop off pre-bagged emergency food supplies at various venues for collection by those in need. The group has adopted a constitution, was securing a bank account and were looking to secure financial support for a pilot scheme. Churches, schools and individuals are enthusiastic. It was suggested that electric vehicles should be used where possible, Cllr Fenton confirmed the group were conscious of their carbon footprint.

A Green Energy Initiative was mentioned which may fall to the Climate Emergency Committee in the future aiming to reduce carbon usage in the area. The incorporation of the retrofit of housing for green affordable housing was also mentioned.

The impact of holiday homes and second homes on local housing costs and availability was considered with reference to recent initiatives in Whitby and St Ives aimed at reducing the impact. Cllr Stow is developing a motion to present to the Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd Town Board on the subject and will bring it to the next meeting of this committee.

Calder Valley Land Trust had been approached by Cllrs Needham and Stevens with an exploratory view to identify if HRTC can support their work. Calderdale Valley Land Trust continue to look for sites and opportunities to provide affordable green housing in the area and HRTC may be able to help in the future, either by acting as advocates or by supporting with resources..

The meeting considered the impact changes to section 21 eviction notices was having on rental property availability.

Cllr Needham suggested that a review of community funding and the commissioning of services could take place to clarify the relationship between the two and principles associated with them. He also suggested that the Town Council should look to consider standing orders, the structure of committees, their responsibilities and the structure of the council to ensure it is fit for purpose.

It was proposed by Cllr Stow

Seconded by Cllr Needham

RESOLVED: to include a separate agenda item for the consideration of new ideas and suggestions for Town Council consideration.

Meeting finished at 8.35pm.