

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the STRATEGY & REVIEW COMMITTEE held 22nd MARCH 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Needham (Chair), Boggis, Fenton, Harvey, Hoyle, Stevens & Wood.

Clerk: J Boom

423. Apologies for Absence and any substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillors Young and Fraser.

424. Members' Interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

None were declared at this time.

425. Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting held 22nd June 2022 not itemised on this Agenda

The clerk advised the meeting that suggestions made by HRTC on Calderdale MBC's Parish & Town Council Charter had been forwarded to CMBC Assistant Director Andrew Pitts as well as all Parish & Town Councils in Calderdale. The committee has yet to meet since this information was sent.

C & K Service have provided cumulative reports of their activities as requested at the last meeting. These will be shared with the Chair of Strategy & Review who will arrange to meet with C & K to review performance and to consider ongoing arrangements as outlined in the last meeting.

The clerk reported that an External Auditor had been approved by full council and appointed. A process for realistic expenses/fees have been agreed with the auditor and the testing of transactions is already underway as part of the audit process.

426. NEW COUNCILLORS INFORMATION PACK

The information pack was discussed with the general power of competence specifically discussed. The Town Clerk outlined its powers and qualifications for its use.

Documents were discussed and it was clarified by the clerk that it was only the summary document, which was received with thanks, that was open for revision with others being adopted policies of the Town Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Hoyle

Seconded by Cllr Boggis

RESOLVED: to arrange two informal meetings for all elected councillors following the full council election on the 4th May and before the annual meeting of the Town Council on the 17th May to outline the format of HRTC meetings. This should be held in the council chamber on the 10th May with one session during the day and

one in the evening with councillors invited to attend the one that is most convenient for them.

427. KEY DOCUMENT REGISTER

This document was shared with the meeting and discussed. The clerk highlighted that a number of policies were due for review but that the audit process should be completed before this would take place. Similarly new policies may be developed following on from the audit process.

428. HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

The committee discussed the proposal submitted by Hope Baptist Church.

The meeting accepted the ongoing importance of Hope Baptist Church within Hebden Bridge and its efforts in recent times to develop its facilities and the services it offers for both the church and wider community.

The proposal, to offer the building for sale as a community 'going concern' was considered in the context of sole and collective responsibility for the many potential partners in Hebden Bridge i.e. Calder Valley Land Trust, Hebden Bridge Community Association, the Little Theatre and the Trades Club. The meeting felt there is a need for collective thinking on this proposal and how it may affect individually and collectively.

The meeting felt there is a need for clear financial analysis and an options appraisal to be developed to ensure decisions are made transparently.

HRTC understands what is being proposed by Hope Baptist Church and would encourage and be happy to attend a joint meeting with no commitments to further develop an understanding of the suggestion from Hope Baptist Churches position.

It was proposed by Cllr Needham
Seconded by Cllr Wood

RESOLVED: to advise Hope Baptist Church that we would encourage and be interested in attending a meeting that would develop the proposal. HRTC may want to be part of a local group that could consider the preservation of a local asset and help others to explore the options that may be open to them.

Meeting finished at 8.25pm.