

WHALEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Mechanics Institute, Market Street, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, SK23 7AA
Town Clerk: Mrs S Raybould Tel: 01663 733068 Fax: 01663 734934
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Meeting: Annual Town Meeting
Date: Friday, 15th April 2011
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Mechanics Institute
Present: See attached Attendance Register (17 attendees)

MINUTES

T/2011/01 Apologies for Absence - None

T/2011/02 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 7th May 2010 were a true and correct record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

T/2011/03 Matters Arising

It was agreed to add the Mechanics Institute Registered Charity Number (520533) to the item in the Annual Report.

T/2011/04 Town Council Report – Chairman, Cllr John Swift

The Annual Report 2010/11 was received. (Copy attached)

Dorothy Johnson expressed concern that no land had been found to provide additional allotments. Cllr Swift stated that the council was currently investigating the provision of a water supply and enlarging the site to accommodate a couple more plots.

T/2011/05 Report from Derbyshire County Councillor – Cllr Barrie Taylor

Cllr Taylor reported that his main task was as a member of the Planning Committee which deals mainly with applications for mineral mining and waste disposal.

The council tax was not increased this year and there are serious pressures on funding. Some public transport and bus services have been removed and subsidised services will be difficult to retain. There will be a reduction in the rail subsidy for Gold Card holders.

There will be alterations to adult social care as the ageing population means that demands on the service have been increased. The budget had been overspent over the last two years and the basis of social care will have to change. Only people deemed to have moderate but significant needs will receive this service which means fewer people will be receiving benefits.

Mike Brunt commented that the privatisation of Cromford Court is not beneficial as the DCC employees provided a better service than the private company running the facility.

T/2011/06 High Peak Borough Council Reports

Cllr John Pritchard

Cllr Pritchard gave details of the HPBC Committees and bodies on which he had served over the last 12 months. He commented that voluntary applications for redundancies were being sought and the budget for salaries had been set for 2011/12. Assurances had been given that there would be clarity about how work will be undertaken following staff reductions.

Housing rents are set by HPBC but determined by a government formula. There will be substantial changes to housing legislation over the next 12-24 months. There is an intention (by the Coalition Government) to replace the current housing revenue account arrangements and changes would depend on the outcome of the Localism Bill.

For the first time since council tax was introduced, there has been no increase in the tax.

The call centre is the most important way of capturing and recording individuals and community needs and directing these to the appropriate officers.

There is a One-Stop-Shop provided in the Municipal Buildings, Glossop for providing council information and one is proposed for Buxton. There is a mobile One-Stop-Shop which visits Tesco's car park.

Negotiations for the regeneration of Buxton Crescent had taken a lot of officer time. There is a £5million gap in funding this scheme since EMDA was abolished.

The project for the construction of the Goyt River Bridge is now closed but after the elections it must be a priority for newly elected councillors to get this project back into the Borough Council's Strategic Regeneration Plan for the next term.

Buxton Pool closed in November 2009 and refurbishment work started in Spring 2010 but the pool remains closed and the final cost of this project is still unknown. (£2,400,000 was the original budget figure).

Dorothy Johnson stated that housing rents were too high and asked Cllr Pritchard why housing rent had increased so much. Cllr Pritchard responded that High Peak Community Housing would be discussing the rent increases at their next board meeting.

Cllr Goldfinch commented that part-time officers, working less than five days a week, could not do a proper job only working part time. Cllr Pritchard responded that the salary budget would only support a set number of hours.

Cllr Mrs Linda Leather

Cllr Mrs Leather served on the High Peak Community Housing Committee and Development Control Committee and has been Chair of the Regeneration Partnership. The partnership in its present form is no longer supported by High Peak Borough Council. The Town Council wants the Regeneration Partnership to continue but it will not be in the original format. The formation of a new partnership will be taken forward after the May elections.

HPBC will not lead the new regeneration organisation or give any officer time but had intimated that they would still take an interest.

Cllr Mrs Leather reported that negotiations are still open with United Utilities regarding the land required for the Goyt River Bridge and she hoped it would remain this way and the Town Council would have a greater involvement in relevant discussions.

Cllr David Lomax

Cllr David Lomax expressed his disappointment that, after four years, the Goyt River Bridge had still not been constructed as HPBC did not see it as a priority. Tasco (not Tesco) had seen an opportunity for housing development and United Utilities had thought they could then ask £1million for their land (required to build the bridge on the Bingswood Trading Estate side).

HPBC Connect Magazine will no longer be produced.

The HPBC offices at Chinley had been closed and would be sold.

Services had been divided between Buxton and Glossop and the Development Control Committee now meet at Chapel-en-le-Frith Town Hall.

Going Local funding is still available.

Martin Thomas asked whether the restructuring would be for this year only and Cllr Lomax responded that this was uncertain.

Dorothy Johnson stated that the existing bridge into the Bingswood Trading Estate was in a delicate state and Cllr Lomax responded that HPBC were aware of this situation.

T2011/07 Safer Neighbourhoods Team (Derbyshire Constabulary)

There was no representation from the team present.

T2011/08 Whaley Bridge Regeneration Partnership

It was planned that a new Regeneration Forum would be formed following the May elections.

T2011/09 Questions and Resolutions

RESOLUTION:

It was moved by Mrs Dorothy Johnson, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, and agreed to write to HPBC Head of Finance and Revenues, Mr Chris Hartgrove, to ask:

- why had Council House rents for 2011/12 been increased by 5.91%
- what 'advice' from High Peak Community Housing is being referred to in Section 5.3.5 (of Section 5.3 Housing Revenue Account) on page 29 of Appendix B of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 – 2013/14.

(refer to Agenda Item 8: 'Budget and Updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 – 2013/14' of HPBC Corporate Select Committee held on 28th February 2011).

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

.....ChairDate