

# Whaley4Wards

Minutes of the 34th Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014

at the Mechanics Institute

## **1. Welcome**

The following were present:

Cllr Jon Goldfinch	WBTC (Chairman)
Cllr John Pritchard	WBTC (Secretary)
Cllr Martin Thomas	WBTC/WB Amenity Society
Cllr Barrie Taylor	WBTC
Cllr Susanne Lomas	WBTC/COGS
Phil Lomas	Self Employed Engineer (ex Dorothea)
Barry Rudd	W3

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Anne Winter	WBTC/WB Amenity Society
Stephanie Raybould	WBTC Town Clerk
Mary Nother	Horwich End W.I.

## **3. Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

The Minutes were **AGREED** as a correct record.

## **4. WW1 Commemorations**

It was reported that the event that had been held at the Uniting Church on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014 had been a great success, which many people had visited and appreciated. There had been an overspend of £16.34. A variety of reusable resources had been moved to Cllr. Goldfinch's home for temporary storage. A note would be put on the Whaley Bridge Community website that a new home was sought for a large display board (that had been donated by Seymour Silks, when the shop had moved to new premises) that remained at the Uniting Church, and that a PAT-tested Digital Projector/Lamp equipment was available for hire.

## **5. Regeneration Grant Financial Update**

Cllr Goldfinch advised the group that he had calculated that there was a current underspend of £2,215. Members were reminded that the grant should be spent **BEFORE** the end of March 2015, and that HPBC has asked for early notification if this does not appear to be achieved to allow re-allocation of the budget to support business and regeneration elsewhere within High Peak. In a letter of 01/05/2014, HPBC stated that 'we are not proposing to allow 'roll-forward' of any underspent grant unless there are exceptional circumstances'.

## 6. Actions Roundup and Next Steps

**Christmas Trees:** It was reported that expenditure of £2,243.72 had been incurred: £1,760 (trees for shops) and £483.72 (lights for shops). The Town Clerk is purchasing a new set of lights for the main Christmas tree, which was to be erected adjacent to the Jodrell Arms.

**Damaged Interpretation Board at Toddbrook Reservoir:** It was **AGREED** that if this was not eligible for HPBC grant funding, then WBTC funding should be applied.

**Furness Vale Post Office Service:** It was reported that HPBC has agreed 'in principle' to support the project, and that the Town Clerk is to ask formally for the invoice for £1,000 from the Post Office officer to be approved for payment.

## 7. Village Entrance Signs

**Whaley Bridge area:** A planning application (**HPK/2014/0282**) for Advertisement Consent for four signs had received Conditional Approval on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. The Town Clerk and Cllr Thomas had visited Leander today to look at the 'artwork'; consequently Leander will request formal approval from the Town Clerk.

**Bridgemont and Furness Vale Area:** It was **AGREED** that DCC (Steve Alcock) should be asked to fund a replacement for the 'missing' Furness Vale sign; Cllr Goldfinch will ask HPBC if they would fund the sign. A decision for a replacement sign for Bridgemont was deferred.

## 8. Linear Park and Shallcross Incline Interpretation Panels

**Linear Park Interpretation Panel:** Nothing to report.

**Shallcross Incline Interpretation Panel:** Cllr Thomas reported that he will speak with Mary Nother. PL reported that relevant photographs are believed to be held at the Stockport Public Library.

## 9. Other Future Projects

**Old Railway Bridge at Tom Brad's Croft:** Cllrs Lomax and Pritchard had a site meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November with Mr Andrew Stokes, (an Executive Director at High Peak Borough Council, to look at a dangerous hole on this footway. (NB It has subsequently been established that it was a local resident who had painted yellow signs around the hole).

**Extension of Shallcross Incline Greenway:** Nothing to report.

**Market Street Shop Fronts and Pavement:** Cllrs Thomas and Pritchard have surveyed the state of the pavements on either side of Market Street. Several problems were identified on the eastern side. It was **AGREED** that photographic evidence (held by Cllr Thomas) should be submitted to the Town Clerk, who should draw the matter to the attention of DCC (Local Highways Authority) and request them to identify which areas of the pavement were the responsibility of DCC to maintain (and which were the responsibility of the shop

owners or tenants). Cllr Pritchard will ask the Town Clerk to place this item on the January Town Council Agenda.

Attention was drawn to HPBC's

- **Heritage Regeneration Grants scheme**, which makes funds available to repair and restore historic buildings within the Borough. The scheme primarily focuses upon heritage led regeneration and targets shopfront improvements within town and village centres.
- **Glossop Townscape Heritage Initiative General Grants Scheme**, jointly funded by High Peak Borough Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Derbyshire County Council. It allowed owners or occupiers of historic commercial buildings to improve and enhance their shop fronts, windows, doors and signage in a traditional and sympathetic manner, either through repair of existing traditional features or reinstatement of historic architectural details. See:
  - <http://www.highpeak.gov.uk/hp/council-services/grants-and-heritage-led-regeneration/glossopdale-townscape-heritage-initiative>
  - <http://www.highpeak.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/pages/glossopdale%20grant%20scheme%20oct%202012%20final%20version.pdf>

Cllr Goldfinch reported that he had carried out a search on the World Wide Web for an example of a Parish/Town Council operational Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme. He will investigate the Henley on Thames Town Council scheme further, and derive a draft for a scheme for consideration for Whaley Bridge Town Council in partnership with High Peak BC. Cllr Pritchard advised that he would expect High Peak BC to have particular regard to the Whaley Bridge Conservation Area Character Appraisal, adopted in July 2008. It has much to say about shop fronts; see:

<http://www.highpeak.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/pages/Final%20Whaley%20Bridge%20CA.pdf>.

**Canal Basin Area:** BR reported that he had made enquiries about costs for the provision of picnic benches and work by a tree surgeon. Cllr Goldfinch will enquire whether HPBC will fund the removal of two 'tired' trees and replacement of several picnic tables. Cllr Thomas raised concern about the state of the retaining wall between the River Goyt and PROW WB 37 (linking George Street with Bings Road) caused by trees growing on the river side of the wall.

## 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm at the Mechanics Institute.

**11. AOB:** None.

**APPENDIX 1: Note on the Henley on Thames Town Council's Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme**

Henley on Thames Town Council in partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council has created a scheme to assist shop owners, tenants and landlords to improve the external appearance of their premises. Modest grants are match funded by the applicant themselves. The 'shop front improvement scheme' aims to improve shop fronts and building facades in the centre of Henley on Thames as a means of supporting the growth of local businesses, improving the local environment and raising the image of the town centre amongst locals and visitors.

Grants will be awarded to a maximum of £2,000 which must be match-funded by the applicant. The grant fund holds £10,000; once this sum is exhausted the scheme will close and be reviewed by the two councils for possible refinancing the following year. All applications for funding must be received by 31 December 2014 and all works completed by 31 March 2015. See: <http://www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk/Shop-Front-Improvement-Scheme.aspx>