

## Whaley4Wards

### Minutes of the 37th Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Mechanics Institute

#### 1. Welcome

The following were present:

Cllr Jon Goldfinch	WBTC (Chairman)
Cllr John Pritchard	WBTC (Secretary)
Cllr David Lomax	DCC
Cllr Martin Thomas	WBTC/WB Amenity Society
Cllr Susanne Lomas	WBTC/COGS
Cllr Ray Wild	WBTC
Phil Lomas	Self Employed Engineer (ex Dorothea)
Barry Rudd	W3
Mary Nother	Horwich End W.I.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence:

Ezra Garside	Businessman
Cllr Barrie Taylor	WBTC
Cllr Anne Winter	WBTC/WB Amenity Society
Stephanie Raybould	WBTC Town Clerk
Mike Morris	HPBC.

3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015** were **AGREED** as a correct record, subject to correction of the date in Minute 3 from 'Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were **AGREED ...**' to 'Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were **AGREED ...**'.

#### 4. Regeneration Grant Financial Update

Cllr Goldfinch gave a detailed financial report. It was anticipated that by the end of March 2015 the finance available would be spent, or agreement reached for 'carry over' into FY15/16 in the case of projects underway and nearing completion. It was anticipated that new finance of £8,000 (£4,000 from HPBC, and £4,000 from WBTC) would become available in FY15/16.

#### 5. Actions Roundup and Next Steps

It was reported that the four 'portal entrance signs' had been installed by DCC. There was to be an official 'unveiling' of the one on Long Hill at 10am on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The Leader of HPBC (Cllr Caitlin Bisknell), the local artist (Rosemary Wignall), and the Chairman of the

Town Council (Cllr John Pritchard) would be attending. Phil Lomas reported that he had spoken with Jeremy, and that the cost of a new 'event vinyl' would be £50 (including £25 for cleaning an existing one).

## 6. Shop front and pavement improvement scheme

Three applications had been approved in principle by the W4W group and work is underway:

- 20 Old Road – new greengrocers store, (subject to Planning Permission being granted. NB The Planning Application was Validated on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015 so that it would be anticipated the application would be determined no later than 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015, or possibly earlier in view of the generally positive statutory and non-statutory comments that have been received, see:  
<http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=183604>)
- 2 Old Road – Babka
- 6 Old Road - Venus Accounting.

It was reported that the Town Clerk had sent DCC the images of the pavement defects in Market Street, and that she had received a reply from DCC indicating which locations were on the part of the adopted pavement (for which DCC was responsible) and which were on private land. It was the opinion of DCC that the 'defects' on their land did not justify any work at this time.

Cllr Lomas reported that the eyesore in Wharf Road (an abandoned illuminated advertisement for the former Plants of Whaley Bridge furniture business) detracted from the quality of the street scene experience when viewed from Market Street and should be removed. Cllr Pritchard said that this matter should be raised at the next meeting of the Town Council (on the following day, 12<sup>th</sup> March).

## 7. Toddbrook Dam Interpretation Panels

Cllr Thomas reported that the source document in the Mechanics Institute was unfortunately unusable, but that the Town Clerk had found another (although slightly different) source document, which might prove to be usable. He would liaise with Paul Barton (the graphic designer from Chinley), and put Arien Designs Ltd (a sign manufacturer, see: <http://www.ariensigns.co.uk/>) 'on hold'. It was now hoped to carry out and complete this project during FY 15/16. It was hoped that the existing legs for the panel would be able to be treated 'in situ', and that that point would be covered in the Risk Assessment and Methods Statement that would be required by the Canal & River Trust (CRT). (NB It was **NOTED** that another Interpretation Panel at the Dam is in a dreadful condition, and that CRT is responsible for this Panel.)

## 8. Other Projects

**Canal Basin:** Barry Rudd reported that Monica Gillespie (HPBC Arboriculturalist) had agreed that five trees could be felled as this would admit more light to the picnic area around the

benches that was often muddy, and would be beneficial to the remaining trees. W4W would pay for CRT's contractor to do this work. Two replacement benches have arrived on site, and are being stored securely inside the Transfer Shed awaiting installation. (NB Since the meeting a member of the public has spoken to Barry Rudd, Monica Gillespie and Cllr Pritchard (in his capacity as current Chairman of the Town Council) about her view that the felling of five trees is not acceptable, Cllr Pritchard has invited her to exercise her right to address the Town Council during Open Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> April).

## **9. Future Projects**

After the new Town Council is elected on 7<sup>th</sup> May, the W4W group should be reconstructed as necessary, and should, inter alia,:

- oversee the completion of any projects 'carried over' from FY14/15 into FY 15/16
- continue the Shop Front Improvement Scheme
- investigate further the matter of the lack of maintenance of the Market Street Pavement (east side)
- consider two Village Notice Boards for Furness Vale at a cost of circa £450
- consider a fifth portal entrance sign (on the approach to Horwich End from Kettlethulme)
- consider portal entrance signs, possibly with a different design, for the Furness Vale area.

**10. Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.30pm at the Mechanics Institute.

**11. AOB:** None.