



## **Eland Town Board**

### **Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

#### **Project Colt, Eland**

##### **Attendees:**

David Wilkinson  
Councillor Courtney  
Councillor Prashad  
David McCorie  
Gary Scott  
Tom Nolan  
Sam McCormick  
Graham Hale  
Mark Patterson  
Sam Roper  
Raj Beadle

##### **Also, in attendance**

Alan Lee  
Rob Shipway  
Graham Gibbons  
David Brownridge

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies received from Councillor Gallagher, Councillor Veitch, Councillor Ford

#### **2. Election of Chair**

The Board considered the need to elect a new Chair. The Board agreed to wait for the induction of new Councillors to the Board and postpone a decision to the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 meeting. In accordance with the Board terms of reference, the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Chair of the Board, David Wilkinson.

#### **3. Minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

The Board approved the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

#### **a. Matters arising**

The Board noted its concern that there had been a time lapse between the Voluntary sector workshop and the proposed follow up. The Board noted that groups have contacted Board members seeking feedback and clarity of next steps.

**Action: Rob Shipway to contact participants of the March workshop to provide an update on our work to support the voluntary sector.**

The Board noted the public consultation on the Future High Street Fund and welcomed the approach by the Council that day, The Board was particularly supportive of the proposed refinement to plans for car parking on Coronation Street.

#### **4. Supporting the voluntary sector in Elland**

The Board discussed opportunities to build on the successful workshop for local voluntary and community groups held by the Board. Over 20 groups had attended and there had been support for actions including:

- a. More regular events such as the March event. The participants welcomed the opportunity to meet other groups, form connections, and hear of opportunities to work with the Board.
- b. Collating information of services provided by the local voluntary and community sector.
- c. Access to regular briefings from public and other statutory partners.

The Board had raised the issue under matters arising but reaffirmed its position that the Board should act to strengthen the sector. It was proposed and agreed to hold a second workshop. It was also agreed that a working group should be set up to explore longer term support opportunities for the sector locally.

**Action: Rob Shipway to set up a second workshop for the sector.**

**Action: Rob Shipway, Harriet Fletcher, and Samantha McCormack to meet to explore opportunities for a voluntary sector panel.**

#### **5. Elland Board future direction**

At the May meeting of the Board, the Board discussed repositioning the Board, to clarify its role, provide a more structured and focused programme of work, and provide a stronger link to the original local objectives to regenerate the town centre.

The Board discussed opportunities to focus on key areas of work. Examples included:

- Events and tourism
- Business support
- Heritage

In addition. The Board discussed objectives and issues the Board could and should consider at meetings. These included:

- Tackling poverty
- Access to funds for local people (e.g., a credit union)
- Attracting new residents to the area

- Ensuring the FHSF investment led to wider benefits to the community and local businesses by looking to bring in further funding.

The Board urged action to alert local groups and the Board itself to funding opportunities. It was noted that agencies such as Voluntary Action Calderdale provide information and the Board had a role to play in raising awareness of resources such as this, using for example more regular workshops.

The Board agreed there was a need for a robust business plan to coordinate the work of the Board.

**Action: Rob Shipway to meet David McCorie and David Wilkinson to discuss the core issues for a Board business plan before the next meeting of the Board.**

The Board discussed how to resource these proposals and the roles of partners. Alan Lee noted that the Council could facilitate work but could not fund or deliver all the Board's proposals. Instead, by working together the Board could look to identify priorities, assess their viability, and then explore how these can be resourced. This may at times involve local groups or individuals taking a lead, supported by officers from the Council.

The Board noted practical obstacles which need to be considered by the Council. It raised the issue of charging for items such as lost car parking revenue for holding events, which mean local groups must find upwards of £450 to pay the Council for lost revenue.

**Action: Rob Shipway to contact Board members to set out proposals to move forward with a business plan including roles and responsibilities.**

**Action: Rob Shipway to raise the issue of charging for lost revenue with Council colleagues.**

Stressed the need to ensure proposed events could run without grant support. The Board noted that Council funding was unlikely in the current environment, so it was important that proposed events or activities could demonstrate their ability to be self-financing, with the proviso of Council support to reduce or negate charges for lost revenue.

## **6. AOB**

The Board discussed an outline proposal for Ambition for Towns funding to support a resource to collate and share information on voluntary sector resources and services. The proposal built on the feedback from the March workshop. The Board considered that while the proposal was important, the Cartwheel Club would provide a community hub and more natural home for such a resource.

## **7. Date and venue next meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Project Colt.