

## **Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd Town Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Hebden Bridge Town Hall**

### **Attendees**

Councillor Katie Kimber  
Councillor Sarah Courtney  
Councillor Scott Patient  
Graham Mynott  
Angie Mossman  
Carol Stow

### **Others in attendance**

Callum Pickersgill  
Adrian Gill  
Alasdair Whiteley  
Rob Shipway  
Zakariya Ali

## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

### **a. Quorate Declaration**

The meeting was declared quorate.

## **2. Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

## **3. Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held August 2024 were declared a true record, noting the meeting planned for October had been cancelled.

## **4. Local Energy Plan**

Callum Pickersgill outlined proposals exploring the feasibility of storing deep carbon measures. The work will assess the cost-value (CVLST) benefit of provision and aim to secure funding based on findings. There is ongoing consideration regarding heat

pump acquisition and Heat Network status. Further legislation is awaited. CMBC was unsuccessful in the last funding round but will continue to pursue opportunities.

**Action: ZA will circulate the presentation to relevant parties.**

## **5. Christmas Markets Feedback**

For the Christmas Market pilot, a park and ride scheme utilized Northern's car park. Two community buses operated on Saturday and three on Sunday. Passengers provided positive feedback on the service. Two consultations were run, one focusing on customers, gathering data on their origins and party size. Mapping tools were used to analyse visitor locations, highlighting visitors who were attracted to the town by the park and ride option. Agreed Cllr Kimber will contact Karen Hornby regarding the use of a car park for community transport at future events.

**Action: The effectiveness of the park and ride pilot will be evaluated for potential future implementation. Cllr Kimber will follow up with Karen Hornby regarding community transport parking.**

## **6. Car Parking Area Plan**

AG and AW presented the Car Parking Area Plan to the Board, focused on surveys conducted on both market and non-market days in February. The data revealed that Hebden Bridge has 188 off-street parking spaces, which reduced to 171 on market days due to the closure of St. George's Square. Overall, the utilization of car parking spaces is high. Market days, weekends, and events see a high number of parking spaces in use. There was no decline in parking at Falling Royd, even on non-market days.

The validity of previously recorded data is being reviewed, and short-stay parking tends to peak in the middle of the day. Next steps include further analysis of on-street parking requirements to better understand usage and develop a suitable charging strategy. Additionally, the analysis will examine disabled parking provision to ensure that the capacity and location of disabled bays are appropriate.

AG highlighted that an oversupply of parking negatively impacts air quality, while an undersupply leads to cars waiting around, which also impacts air quality. The optimal parking provision should aim for 80% utilization. The need to review ticketing data and other previously unexplored data was emphasized. Tough decisions will have to be made based on the findings. This remains a live document, consistently updated as more information becomes available. The goal is to understand the data and provide feedback to the Board before determining actionable solutions as a council.

GM raised concerns about parking issues on the A646 near Brownsfield, Church Lane's bottom end, and Bridge Lane, where there is no resident parking. He

suggested these areas be included in the surveys. AW noted that some residents are resistant to their streets becoming Residential Parking Zones (RPZs). Cllr Patient commented on the issues caused by parking overflow at Falling Royd, where vehicles park haphazardly, creating problems. While the Corridor Improvement Plan was meant to address these issues, AG stated that space for cyclists and walkers should be prioritized, though this creates challenges for shop owners and homeowners who need space for deliveries or short visits.

Cllr Patient expressed disappointment that Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd were not approached together as a connected area. He also asked about how capacity decisions are made. AG explained that parking provision is assessed based on the number of spaces available, average usage, and peak occupancy. For example, if 1,000 spaces are available and 700 are used, this indicates adequate parking. However, if 900 are used, it suggests pressure on parking, which guides decision-making.

AM emphasized the importance of understanding the underlying factors in the data and ensuring all reasonable voices are heard. Business owners want to be part of the conversation and see the data early in the idea phase. Cllr Courtney noted that surveys should include the busiest days of the year to provide a balanced perspective. While she has not had issues finding parking on non-market days, there are times when no parking is available at all.

AM expressed concern about the lack of a cross-programme plan that aligns various initiatives. AG acknowledged the challenges, stating that the conversations around parking often create tension and fears among business owners, many of whom are uncertain about their ability to endure several years of potential disruption. AG noted that while efforts were made to align the programme with the Environment Agency (EA), delays risked losing funding, forcing the council to proceed independently. While the council can provide solutions, locals often bring the best ideas, emphasizing the need for a partnership approach and open communication.

## **7. Ambitions for Towns / External funding proposal**

RS reviewed the ambitions for the towns fund, noting that £15,000 currently remains. One option under consideration is hiring a consultant to work with the Board. Another possibility is pooling funds with other town Boards to secure a Funding Officer for two years to engage with funders and generate additional financial support. AM inquired about what would be considered a reasonable return on such an investment. It was highlighted that similar examples had achieved a return of £4M over two years. Cllr Patient expressed support for this initiative, emphasizing the importance of multiplying the available funds rather than holding onto the money without putting it to productive use.

The Board expressed its approval and agreed to move forward with the proposal.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **a. Storm Bert**

AG reported on the impact of two major storms, describing them as noteworthy events for the valley. Although a yellow weather warning was issued, the actual conditions were far more severe for areas that experience heavier rainfall. The storms caused significant surface water issues, primarily due to damage to third-party drainage systems. Heavy winds exacerbated the situation, leading to blockages and elevated river levels. AG noted that while the rainfall itself was not particularly rare, with a 1-in-10-year return period, the river levels were the worst in 25 years, ranking as the fourth-highest peak level after events in 2015, 2012, and 2020. Damage was also noted to the A58 and other assets, including drainage systems and walls, with road conditions like potholes compounding the issues.

Regarding signage, A646 signs indicating "no through route to Todmorden" have been ordered, with the possibility of adding sticker signs. The Chair inquired about responsibility for signage, and AG explained that it involves a mix of highways and contractors. The issue has also impacted buses, with regular buses unable to turn on the road. However, Cllr Courtney confirmed that school buses are now sorted, parents have been informed, and children with bus passes are permitted to use the train.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> of February 2025