

Sowerby Bridge Town Board Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held 25th March 2025
Foundry Street Community Centre

Attendees

Cllr Dot Foster (Chair)
Cllr Simon Ashton
Cllr Adam Wilkinson
Janice Dawson
Sheila Eastwood
Emma Carter

Others in attendance

Richard Seaman
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting.

a. Apologies

Apologies received from Sarah Fanthorpe, Phil Hawdon, Lauren Brundell, Gaz Baigent, Stephen Priestley, Dan Hobson, Councillor Courtney.

b. Declarations of quorum

Meeting was declared inquorate.

c. Declarations of interest

No interests declared.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 28th January 2025

The minutes will be re-presented to the next meeting of the Board for approval as the meeting is inquorate.

3. Lock gates

Action: RS to contact PH to seek clarification of earlier correspondence regarding approval of Lock Gates funding.

EC noted that the gates could also be utilised as a heritage feature within the Town Hall. The surfaced area of the site is owned by the Canal & River Trust, while the rougher section is owned by Calderdale Council.

Action: ZA to print a large map of Sowerby Bridge and bring markers and post it notes to the next meeting.

4. External funding

RS reported difficulties in securing an agreed way forward across Town Boards and would update the Board at its next meeting.

Action: RS to report on external funding options at the next Board meeting.

5. Dixon Scar Woods update

A small meeting was held recently; however, no progress has been made regarding the lease. Support is being sought from Councillors to contact CAFM and request that the lease be reviewed and reassessed. The lease is currently set to expire in 2027, but there is potential for this to happen earlier, possibly by August 2025.

6. Christmas 2025 and business engagement

RS confirmed that a letter has been drafted to be issued to businesses seeking support for Christmas lights, however he had agreed with the Sowerby Bridge Cultural Consortium to wait until after the Sowerby Bridge Festival to issue, and to do so in coordination with the consortium.

Action: RS to feedback progress to next meeting of the Board.

7. Events support

RS reported a request for financial support from the Sowerby Bridge Cultural Consortium of £2,000 toward the Sowerby Bridge Festival, and of £5,000 from Fire and Water to manage a contract on behalf of the Board for events management services for planned events on the new square.

As the meeting was inquorate, it was agreed to seek the feedback from Board members via email for a decision.

Action; RS to circulate an email to Board members seeking their views on the applications and to circulate feedback to the Board for a decision.

Action: This was acted on and Board members agreed to support both applications, subject to a request to the Cultural Consortium to join the Board, and for the two parties to work together. It was also requested that more details on proposals for events on the square be brought to the Board.

8. Any other business

The Chair highlighted the need for a new masterplan session, focusing on what projects in Sowerby Bridge are nearing completion or could be moved forward.

9. Date and venue of next meeting

- a. 20th May 2025, Foundry Street Community Centre