



## **Sowerby Bridge Town Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### **St. Paul's Methodist Church**

#### **Attendees**

Cllr Dot Foster (Chair)  
Cllr Simon Ashton  
Cllr Adam Wilkinson  
Janice Dawson  
Sheila Eastwood  
Lauren Brundell  
Phil Hawdon  
Stephen Priestley

#### **Others in attendance**

Richard Seaman  
Peter Stubbs  
Alasdair Whiteley  
Rob Shipway

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

The Chair opened the meeting.

#### **a. Apologies**

Apologies received from Sarah Fanthorpe, Gaz Baigent, Councillor Courtney and Zakariya Ali.

#### **b. Declarations of quorum**

Meeting was declared inquorate.

#### **c. Declarations of interest**

No interests declared.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

The minutes were approved as a true record.

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

The Board noted that Lock Gates issue remains unresolved but that decisions on funding should be made as part of a wider review of Ambition for Towns funds.

RS informed the Board that businesses had approached him asking for details of any proposals for further development of the town and that they would be keen to be engaged in some way in the update of the masterplan.

Following an update on the CIP, the Board stressed the need for better communications between officers and the Board, and with businesses and residents.

### **3. Future Board focus**

RS presented an overview of opportunities and potential projects identified by the Board which included a broad range of outputs and outcomes. These had come from previous meetings of the Board. The Board agreed five strategic objectives including:

#### **1. Support business development**

Activities to include better business to business engagement and support the Sowerby Bridge Consortium. The Board recognised the need for greater business involvement with the Board.

**Action: RS and Board members to seek interested businesses to take part in Board business.**

#### **2. Strengthen our community sector**

Activities to include supporting a regular programme of community networking events, and work with partners to secure external funding for the sector.

**Action: RS to engage Lottery and VAC to seek their attendance at a workshop.**

#### **3. Attract visitors to our town**

Actions to focus on ensuring there is a regular programme of events on the Square. Cllr W. emphasised the need for a sustainable approach to be developed as the Board will be unable to fund into the longer term.

**Action: Options to be discussed at the next Board to develop a clear scope of work needed and seek proposals from external parties to deliver.**

#### **4. Improve access to quality public spaces**

Actions to include enforcement of the Conservation Area, safer paths and open spaces, and support the proposed improvements at Dixon Scar Woods.

#### **5. Improve the town's environment**

Actions to focus on delivery of the CIP and better signage through the town.

### **4. Festive lighting**

RS provided details of costs for the Christmas lights. The Board reconfirmed its support for this year's tree and lights, and switch on event. RS reported that total costs would be £6,650, which the Board had agreed would come from remaining Ambition for Towns funds. It was noted that the Board and partners in the town would

need to work together to find ways to fund future years' activities as the Board would likely not be able to fund further events.

#### **5. Inappropriate shop frontages**

Richard S informed the Board that Planning services were aware of the issue of inappropriate shop frontages and that approaches to enforcement were being considered. The Board noted the complexity of enforcement and laws regarding signage but urged Planning to consider any action possible.

#### **6. Date and venue of next meeting**

- a. 10<sup>th</sup> February Foundry Street Community Centre