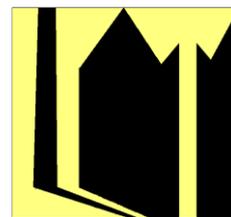


Littleborough Civic Trust



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Zoom Meeting November 10th 2020

Present

Ian Jackson, Robert Clegg, Bob Wetherly, Ann Stott, Vivienne Ashworth, Gillian Price, Michael Price, John Kay, Barry Cropper, Shaun Clancy, Nick Andrews, Frank Carter, Daniel Ames.

1. Introductions and welcome.

The Chairman, Ian Jackson opened the meeting at 7.03pm.

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. Submissions for A.O.B.

Frank Carter – DVD

Barry Cropper – Disposal of council assets

Michael Price – Operation Dragster update

4. Declarations of Interest.

None

5. Minutes of previous meeting on October 13th and Matters Arising.

Minutes agreed, no matters arising.

6. Treasurers Report

Bank account	£3359.94
Flood Group	£230.81
Canalside Group	£1277.82
Funds available	£1851.31

7. Planning Application updates.

Demolition work has started on the old Phoenix Ironworks prior to building work starting of 20 apartments. The streets in the surrounding area are narrow with parking on both sides of the roads. Travelling down these streets with a vehicle coming in the opposite direction is virtually impossible and could cause serious problems for Emergency services attending an incident. Is it not feasible to consider installation of a one way system in this area?

A planning application has been made to build 37 retirement homes on Brown St off Victoria St.

8. Canalside Development Group update.

Quite a long discussion took place about the Café Boat

To summarize

Julian Farnell has asked for more time to consider whether he wishes to continue with work on the boat.

Concerns were raised that money donated by various people and organisations over three years ago has still not been used.

Is it possible that members with experience in relevant fields e.g. mechanical, electrical, carpentry could help?

Draw up a definitive job list.

Members of the group will seek advice from such firms as Pennine Cruises and Shire Cruises for advice on issues such as Health and Safety Regs and Environmental Regs. with regards to fitting out the boat.

9. Peter Cordwell

Peter Cordwell recently passed away, he was a donator to the canal boat fund and it was agreed that some kind of acknowledgement be made.

10. Save Our Greenbelt update/GMSF

The Greenbelt Group have been quite active lately. They currently have a petition out on social media asking people to sign up objecting to the proposed GMSF plan. They are hoping to present it to the council before the council meet to vote on this plan on 25th November. The Group have also produced a video presentation expressing their concerns for the potential loss of greenbelt in the area as a result of the GMSF. The video acknowledges the Civic Trust and Flood Resilience Group.

The presentation can be found on Discuss Littleborough and both Save the Greenbelt and Littleborough Civic Trust Facebook pages.

In addition to the above, Trust member Lindsay Thompson has sent a personal email to our local councillors and planning department mirroring the Save the Greenbelt and Trust concerns over the GMSF document.

It is an extremely well researched and professionally presented document which is well worth reading. She has posted it on Discuss Littleborough, Save the Greenbelt and the Trust Facebook pages.

For those of you who don't do Social Media I have included it as an attachment alongside these minutes.

11. Flood Resilience Group update.

The Flood Group have continued their Zoom meetings with the National Flood Forum, the latest subject being Climate Change and its influence on flooding.
The subject of the capping of the Artesian Well on the New St. site still seems unresolved. If the well has been capped, is there not a possibility that water may appear somewhere else?

12. 50th. Anniversary/Crook Hill grant/tree planting HH Park.

The Crook Hill grant application was successful and monies have been awarded for promoting the Trust's 50th anniversary in 2021. This will be used for the printing of banners to hang on the various flagpoles around the borough and also to cover the cost of printing literature to showcase the Trust's 50-year history. Trustee Nick Andrews is currently working on the text for this document.

Nick has also been active in putting together a tree planting project for the borough. Permission has already been obtained for various locations but with the current uncertainty with the Covid virus, funding for such projects is becoming more difficult to obtain.

13. Nomination/appointment of Trustee.

Trust member Vivienne Rumbelow (Ashworth) was proposed to fill the vacant position of Trustee

There were no objections and Vivienne was duly accepted and appointed as a Trustee.

14. AGM

The anniversary of this year's AGM will be January 2021. With the current Covid situation it is not possible to predict a date for the next AGM when we could meet in public, Zoom not being really suitable for this kind of meeting. It was agreed to defer the AGM until such time as it is possible to meet in public. The Constitution allows for a period of six months beyond what would be the normal AGM date.

15. News and Events

None to report.

16. AOB

Frank Carter

Frank has put together a DVD featuring photographs with an audio background of Rochdale Canal between Sowerby Bridge and Manchester and ending with a photo of the unveiling of the memorial to Brian Holden in Littleborough.

Frank is very generously offering copies of the DVD free of charge.

Barry Cropper

Barry informed the meeting of a RMBC resolution to dispose of surplus assets, one of which is Hollingworth Lake Visitor Centre. Reasons given being that it was not feasible to continue with little investment to enhance the visitor experience.

The Visitor Centre has been leased to the RSPCA, it seems it was a done deal and not put out to tender as one would reasonably expect with a publicly owned asset.

An article in Littleborough United Reform Church parish magazine reports that the Church Elders have been approached by a councillor who stated that RMBC would be interested in purchasing the church with a view to developing a Community Hub. Are there not community hubs at Hollingworth Lake Visitor Centre, Hare Hill House, The Coach House and Littleborough Boxing Club?

Michael Price

Littleborough and surrounding areas seem to be suffering from an increase in anti-social behaviour by off road bikes, quad bikes and boy racers, most of whom seem to have lost their exhaust pipes. Last meeting, I reported on an operation by Lancashire Constabulary to target this kind of activity in the Rossendale area. GMP conduct similar operations, one of which was recently reported on Discuss Littleborough. Anybody with concerns in their area please contact the Trust (photo or video evidence would be nice) and we will forward them under the Trust banner to GMP.

Finally, several Trustees/Members expressed their disbelief that our local councillors will not engage with the Trust, constructively or otherwise; acknowledging that the situation is continually unacceptable [as they are our democratically elected representatives]. The discussion terminated with a request for attendees to highlight where this situation could possibly be reported.

Next meeting via Zoom will be Tuesday December 8th. Start time 7.00pm.

Canalside Development Group



Registered Charity No. 1174714