



MINUTES

York BID Annual General Meeting 2017

Tuesday 20th June 2017, 6pm

The Park Inn, North Street, York, YO1 6JF

<p>Present:</p> <p>Michael. Hjort (MH) Chair</p> <p>Colin Crawford (CC)</p> <p>Chris Price (CP)</p> <p>Nic Symington (NS)</p> <p>Frank Wood (FW)</p> <p>Sophie Jewett (SJ)</p> <p>Steve Brown (SB)</p> <p>Stuart Page (SP)</p> <p>Neil Sanderson (NSd)</p> <p>Phil Pinder (PP)</p> <p>Andy Shrimpton (AS)</p> <p>Dawn Argyle (DA)</p> <p>Paul Stansfield (PS)</p> <p>Robert Onyett (RO)</p> <p>Andy Shrimpton (AS)</p>	<p>In Attendance:</p> <p>A. Lowson (AL)</p> <p>M. Vogel (MV)</p> <p>P. Nicholson (PN)</p> <p>S. Daubeney (SD)</p>
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ITEM N°	ITEM NOTES
1	Opening by the Chair, Michael Hjort
	Apologies
1.1	Apologies were given by Neil Setterfield (NS), Cllr David Carr (DC) and Cllr Keith Aspden (KA).
	Introduction
1.2	MH opened the meeting at 18.34 and extended a warm welcome to company members and guests.
1.3	AL introduced his external consultants and professionals who advise the Board:
	Mo Aswat from Mosaic Partnership
	Matthew Smith from Andrew Jackson Solicitors
	Kevin Johnson from HPH Chartered Accountants

	<p>Carl Nickson from Eboracum Security</p> <p>Meeting procedures</p> <p>1.4 MH set out the format for the evening: there would be the formal part of the meeting to vote for the resolutions followed by an informal presentation from AL, Executive Director.</p> <p>Instructions (voting)</p> <p>1.5 MH set out the voting procedure from the Articles of Association. Broadly, company members were asked to raise their card to indicate their voting intentions and the results of the votes would be shown on the website</p>
<p>2</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p>	<p>Resolutions to Ratify</p> <p>Board Directors</p> <p>The proposal that Robert Onyett be appointed as a Director of the Company was passed unanimously.</p> <p>The proposal that Dawn Argyle be appointed as a Director of the Company was passed unanimously.</p> <p>The proposal that Phil Pinder be appointed as a Director of the Company was passed unanimously.</p> <p>The proposal that Neil Sanderson be appointed as a Director of the Company was passed unanimously.</p> <p>The proposal that the accounts of the Company for the 12-month period ended 31 March 2017 be and are hereby approved. The vote was carried with one vote recorded against.</p> <p>That HPH Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as accountants to the Company was passed unanimously.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Introduction and presentation by York BID Executive Director, Andrew Lowson.</p> <p>The York BID: the first 12 months and the next 12 months</p> <p>Andrew gave his presentation around the themes: Setting up the company, Programme Delivery, Finance, Forward Programmes to be followed by a Q & A session.</p> <p>AL began by speaking of work on the BID starting with the need to establish a database of local levy-paying businesses from the raw rates database the council use. The York BID was a new body working in the public realm of the city centre and the need therefore to build relationships with several organisations and groups. As a new BID, there was a need to establish a company and therefore to place a professional support resource in place.</p> <p>AL continued, BID services to the city centre were grouped around</p>

- Appearance and Environment
- Events and Festivals
- Business Support
- Safe and Secure

3.5 On the theme of **Appearance and Environment**, **AL** reminded the audience that where BIDs are providing a service which is additional to services that are provided by the local authority, there is a baseline service level agreement put in place beforehand to ensure that the services paid for by levy-payers are demonstrably additional in nature.

3.6 The BID has provided street-cleaning services, additional to the CYC service which have both daytime and evening teams for deep cleans of specific areas where required and spot cleans for problems which arise. **AL** continued this theme by talking about the Window Dressing Programme with Shop Jacket which provides a vinyl to market the potential of a vacant unit and at the same time improves the appearance of the street. Finally, under this heading, **AL** spoke of the work being done on Wayfinding to improve signage and routing through the city and presented solutions adopted by other historic towns and cities.

3.7 On **Events and Festivals**, **AL** covered the work done with Fashion City York as an example of the BID promoting events and festivals in the city, plus ensuring there were Ice Sculptures in peripheral streets to ensure they did not miss out, and the work with the Residents First Festival. One key project, and which is to be further developed in 2017/18, were the Winter lights decorating the four main City Bars – Bootham, Micklegate, Monk and Walmgate.

3.8 Under the theme **Safe and Secure**, **AL** spoke of the role the Street Rangers are now playing in the city and what that covers in practice – providing a visible deterrent to anti-social or criminal behaviour, assisting the police and reporting city centre issues generally. In addition, they liaise with the police around anti-social behaviour particularly in the evenings, weekends or on race days. Furthermore, the Rangers provide anti-loitering, anti-begging and support to homeless individuals. Key to their role is business engagement and general support to businesses – providing a key resource to businesses in the city centre in a range of areas.

3.9 On **Business Support**, **AL** spoke of the work the BID has engaged in with meeting businesses and trade associations such as the Retail Forum, and traders in Micklegate, Gillygate, Shambles and Fossgate. The BID has also supported Indie York – a group developed particularly to support the independent businesses York is famous for and which has 105 people already signed up.

3.10 On **Finance**, **AL** outlined the BIDs income and expenditure for the year, including the rate of non-payment of levy, actual and committed expenditure and the operating costs required to set up the BID company and run the programme. **AL** added too that all money will be spent within the 5-year term.

3.11 On a broad theme of **macro challenges**, **AL** looked at the key ones facing the BID and city businesses – Internet Shopping, Out-of-town retail parks and the current lack of high-quality office space in the city. He stressed the importance of the bringing forward of York Central by posing the question, “Where would a new Hiscox locate in York?”

3.12	Looking forward to 2017/18, AL spoke briefly on work on wayfinding and signage including an important digital element, promoting the city more effectively to locals and hinterland, improving secure bike storage, the window-dressing programme, an expanded Winter Lights scheme aiming for extended coverage into peripheral streets. Importantly, AL spoke of a need to develop a parking strategy and opening a dialogue with the council.
4.	<p>The Chair MH then opened the meeting to Questions.</p> <p>4.1 Anita Adams of The Maltings – and former Golden Slipper owner, has promoted the city since 1980. Anita asked whether taxi firms were levy-payers? How are we funding partnerships? Anita suggested CYC-owned empty retail units, and thus owned by the public, should be made available for public decision on use. She asked about the £25k donation from CYC towards the Rangers programme. AL responded to the questions, firstly by saying that the one-off £25k contribution from CYC was in response to the success of the Ranger programme in the city and secondly, in response to a concern Anita expressed about the Taxi Marshaling service in Duncombe Place, that the service was funded by the taxis/Guildhall Ward residents and other partners and that this benefitted both taxi drivers and the public in the area.</p> <p>4.2 Keith McLean of the Shambles Tavern suggested more detail on financial numbers would be helpful in giving extra specifics. He wondered if the Street Rangers presence had reduced involvement in the city centre by PCSOs and regular police officers and CYC with respect to street cleansing? In reply, AL said he continuously speaks with CYC to ensure they uphold their committed level of service.</p> <p>4.3 MH spoke of the importance of knowing of what the existing council services are and levels. We are very conscious of ensuring BID services are not used as a ‘filler’ to top-up any CYC reduction. Keith queried the 25k cost for collecting levy? Mo Aswat replied this is an average cost and in line with most BIDs in England and Wales.</p> <p>4.4 Regarding PSCOs – Carl Nickson said we spoke with the police to understand capacity of what we should provide. The Rangers are providing information to PCSOs, and providing an increased presence overall.</p> <p>4.5 Angela Horner of Browns/Fashion City York – suggested the use of empty units especially for pop up shops for events and festivals. She thanked the Rangers for all their help as ambassadors for FCY during the Fashion Week.</p> <p>4.6 Diane Haworth from York Blind and Partially Sighted Society and thanked the BID for its city centre work, making York work as inclusively as possible. Particularly important will be the wayfinding work to make it as friendly as possible for those with impairments. Andrew, responded this was all part of the redesign and feasibility study. There will be groups taking part in consultation over proposals.</p> <p>4.7 Johnny Hayes of Indie York, stressed the importance of bringing pressure to bear on CYC and ensuring their getting to grip with the reality of commercial life. The city centre needs a stronger voice – the council does not appreciate what business people do in York. How to</p>

	<p>emphasize this? AL - BID should be doing lobbying not just services, however we can't just kick up a storm as CYC are the gatekeeper thus we are trying to build a relationship and win hearts and minds.</p> <p>We shall engage with Neil Ferris and Mary Weastel - build awareness.</p>
4.8	<p>MH added that the trouble with CYC is the need to be perceived as positively engaged on their terms while getting results. We are very determined to make the case for the city centre however.</p>
4.9	<p>Frank Wood of Braithwaites Jewellers spoke of his personal commitment to the BID and the need to continue to support business. He suggested that if businesses do not look after our city, there is no-one else who will as council budgets are under increasing pressure.</p>
4.10	<p>Marc Allinson of The Artful Dodger Bar asked how the work with Alfa Energy-was progressing? AL replied it was slightly stalled. We need to ensure that the service is thoroughly investigated and effectively delivered so providing a tangible return on investment if it is to offset the levy cost to businesses.</p>
4.11	<p>Dawn Argyle from LICC spoke of the hazard of fast cyclists abusing the Footstreet rules and going the wrong way through some one-way streets.</p>
4.12	<p>Paul Stansfield observed that BID levy rates will stay the same throughout the BID term as they are based on 2010 values and will not alter despite any revaluations.</p> <p>MH closed the AGM with thanks to all who had attended and participated in proceedings.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20:00.</p> <p>Minutes by SD 22/06/2017</p>