



WEM PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES: 8th November 2021

Draft Minutes	Date: 11/10/21 6pm-8pm
Chaired by: Chris Price Minuted by Johnny Bean (Secretary)	Location: Zoom

Present: Carolyn Downs, Yak Patel (LTO), Chris Price (Chair), Jayne Safari, Dan Spencer, Johnny Bean (Secretary), Joe Robinson (Community Development Worker)

Apologies/Absent: Glen Duckett, Kat Hilton, Natalie Thomas, Louise Bryning (Press Officer), Sian Jay (Big Local rep), Lee Reeve

Item 1.0: Apologies
Discussion: The secretary gave the apologies received from those not present.
Item 2.0: Welcome & introduction from the Chair
Discussion: The Chair welcomed everyone to the group.
Item 3.0: Minutes of the Last Meeting/Outstanding Actions/Matters Arising
Discussion: The Minutes of the Last Meeting were circulated prior to the meeting with no comments received, and were reviewed.
Decision: The draft minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. One action to be c/f (see below)
Action: The Secretary to mark the minutes as agreed and post to the website.
Action c/f: Joe to follow up with the Mentor re trustee academy training for the partnership.
Item 4.0: Centenary House
<p>Discussion: A decision on the project is required asap. The Development Worker gave a brief history on the Centenary House Project to date.</p> <p>In Feb 2020 WEM earmarked £100k to the project, dependent on the GTC providing a sound business plan. Niamh Goggin (a professional in this respect) was contracted by WEM to review the plan, and make recommendations to WEM based on her professional opinion. In June 2021, feedback suggested there was some confusion about what support Niamh was able to provide GTC. The Chair, Big Local Rep and our Development Worker met with GTC to clarify Niamh's role and what WEM's expectations were. It was made clear that a robust business plan was needed, but also, because WEM is in the process of writing it's final delivery plan, a 'fulcrum date' for when GTC might expect to use the £100k within the scheme of the project. A plan was submitted in September to Niamh, who reviewed the business plan and concluded that it was far from what was needed for WEM to commit the £100k to GTC directly. WEM remain supportive and very enthusiastic about the project which would renovate an important West End building and support economic development in the area. however. The building is currently owned by the City Council, and the GTC are in partnership with the Council develop the project. An option exists therefore for WEM to invest the £100k into</p>

the project directly via the City Council. This remains true to WEM's support and aspirations for the project whilst still supporting the GTC. This gives more time for GTC to work on the business plan, and removes any risk for WEM. A discussion took place.

Decision: The Partners asked to see more detail on the business plan and the recommendations made by Niamh before any decision could be taken.

Action: The Development Worker to prepare and share a draft report on the plan and Niamh's recommendations for the Partners to make a decision.

Item 5.0: New Plan

5.1 Vision

Discussion: It was previously discussed that the vision statement (part of the current plan) was still good, but needed some tweaking. Sian has asked The Secretary to take a look at the vision statement and make some suggested tweaks for the partnership to review.

Decision: To be added to the agenda for the meeting in December for review.

5.2 Projects

Discussion: The Development Worker presented the current list of all the projects discussed over the last several months for potential inclusion in the new plan, and a discussion took place.

Decision: The item to be added to the next meetings agenda to allow time for review.

Action: The Secretary to share the projects list to all partners for review, comment and new suggestions.

5.3: Consultation

Discussion: We wish to conduct some 'toe in the water' consultation in the community to find out if there have been any significant changes in local feeling, along the lines of the consultation which was carried out a few years back. Consultation to be done via questionnaire in the printed newsletter (to the whole community) and online survey, as well as to local voluntary sector groups.

Decision: A draft of what was in the last consultation, along with some new items to be prepared by the Development Worker and shared to the partners for comment.

Action: A draft consultation to be prepared and shared to the partnership before the next meeting.

5.4: Reflection

Discussion: The new plan requires reflection from the partnership on the outgoing plan and how we did against it's aims. The Chair has written and shared his own thoughts.

Decision: The rest of the partnership need to provide their own reflection pieces.

Action: The Secretary to share The Chairs reflection piece again. Partners to send their own reflection pieces to The Secretary.

Item 6.0: Building Project

Discussion: Both parties now have solicitors, who are talking and hoping to finalise the 'option agreement'. £1k is required to pay the building owner's solicitor fees (industry standard practice), which can come from the £3k already allocated, and will now use up that allocation. Sian is looking at finding someone from Big Local's support staff nationally to help us with the project.

Decision: It was agreed the solicitor's fees. Can be paid by the LTO from the £3k already allocated.

Item 7.0: Creative West End

Discussion: There was no time to discuss the item.

Decision: To carry the item forward to a future meeting.

Item 8.0: AOB

8.1 Discussion: Dan raised the issue of a recent rise in anti-social behaviour in the West End, and a discussion took place.

Decision: It was agreed that the new plan could look at engaging those involved in anti-social behaviour within its "Community Unity" projects section, and that we could consider inviting the local Police to discuss the issue with us in the new year.

8.2 Discussion: The possible return to physical meetings was discussed. It was agreed that this would be good, but to wait until the coughs and colds season is over.

Action: Add 'return to physical meetings' to the next meeting agenda.

Next Meeting:

- Monday 13th December, 6pm-8pm via Zoom
-

Summary of Actions:

- 1 The Secretary to mark the minutes as agreed and post to the website.
- 2 c/f: Joe to follow up with the Mentor re trustee academy training for the partnership.
- 3 The Development Worker to prepare and share a draft report on the plan and Niamh's recommendations for the Partners to make a decision.
- 4 The Secretary to share the projects list to all partners for review, comment and new suggestions.
- 5 A draft consultation to be prepared and shared to the partnership before the next meeting.
- 6 The Secretary to share The Chairs reflection piece again. Partners to send their own reflection pieces to The Secretary.
- 7 Add 'return to physical meetings' to the next meeting agenda.