

Annual General Meeting Skipton BID Ltd

Wednesday 1st May 2024

Alexanders, High Street, Skipton 17.30

Present:

Fred Maier (Chair)

Ivan Le Roux

Louise Ackerman

Julian Hotchkiss

Joanne Briggs

Chris Kendrew (Shepherd Partnership)

Louise Close

Anita Lall

Rebecca Elsworth

Sarah Howsen

Business attendance:

Neil Roe – Herriots Hotel

Michelle Roe – Herriots Hotel

Charlotte Denman – Yorkshire Cat Rescue

Claire Tither – Yorkshire Cat Rescue

James Cunningham – Rendezvous Hotel

Apologies:

Julian Rudd North Yorkshire Council

To be Chaired by Fred Maier – Director of Skipton BID

1. Welcome

Fred Maier introduced himself and that he would be chairing the meeting in the absence of a BID Chair.

2. Apologies

Julian Rudd

3. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 20th September 2023

The Board had received the minutes of the last AGM previously. The Board agreed they were a true representation of the meeting held.

Proposed by Julian Hotchkiss, seconded by Rebecca Elsworth

4. Adoption of the accounts for the year 2023 – 2024

Chris Kendrew from the Shepherd Partnership presented the accounts.

The accounts will be uploaded to the website.

The Board accepted the accounts and had no further comments.

The accounts were signed by Ivan Le Roux

5. To approve the minor amendments to the Articles of Association

The Articles have been amended to remove Associate Membership and simplify with just Voluntary Membership

Craven District Council has been replaced with North Yorkshire Council

The minimum number of Directors has been reduced to five.

Fred Maier asked for the Articles to be approved.

Proposed – Louise Ackerman Seconded Joanne Briggs

6. Election of Directors

All Directors stood down from their position. All Directors were unanimously re-elected.

7. Re-election of the accountants — Shepherd Partnership Ltd

Ivan le Roux proposed the re-election on the Shepherd Partnership

Seconded by Rebecca Elsworth

8. An overview of the new term

Fred Maier did a short overview of the term, highlighted we were entering a new term which was positive. The former Chair had stepped down after 16 years and was thanked for his support.

9. BID Manager Update

Sarah Howsen provided a summary of the previous term and activities planned for the new term.

It was acknowledged the last term had been difficult with the pandemic and the resignation of the previous BID Manager. However the ballot had been won so the BID is looking forward to the new term.

Visit Skipton

Website going well 107k users and 308k page views in the last 12 months.

Facebook is the main social media channel used with over 6k users. Instagram, the account was lost so currently building followers back up.

Continuing to undertake print advertising in publications such as the Yorkshire Post, Absolutely Yorkshire and Northern Life.

In the Third term £70k was spent on supporting events in the town. The family trails have worked well especially the Christmas and Easter trails which included craft workshops.

A What's On leaflet has been sent to over 18,000 residents and businesses in 2023 and 2024 highlighting the key events for the year.

Business Support

Business support is the objective which businesses feel directly benefits them more. It is where they feel they directly benefit from their levy.

Crime Prevention is a key objective which includes the monitoring and maintenance of the CCTV. STAND has been relaunched for the Night time economy along with the launch of the Schemelink app. Street marshals have been introduced at key times of the year to assist with welfare on the streets.

A number of training sessions have taken place with over 100 people participating in 2023.

We have worked in partnership with Rombalds Radio and delivered a Love Your High Street campaign has been delivered and throughout the pandemic a number of podcasts were produced to offer business support and advice.

Attractive and Clean

A number of projects have been delivered including

Skipton in Bloom - Ongoing support of up to £10k per year

Deep clean of the town centre

Bunting - Over 4 years installed 3500m of bunting per year

Enhance empty shop windows - Vinyl's in windows such as the former Rackham's

Christmas Lights - 50% contribution towards the schemes in partnership with STC

Reanimating Ginnels Project - Worked in partnership with the Heritage Action Zone to make the ginnels more attractive to use

SH continued with the plans for the new term. In summary:

- 430 levy paying businesses
- 1.5% generating approx. £70k increase per year on previous term
- Over £1million to spend over the next 5 years
- Here were three new objectives
- There was to be a focus on residents

Safe & Welcoming

Continue with the CCTV/STAND and general crime prevention measures including reinstating Shopwatch in the same format as Pubwatch.

We will look into new and innovative ways to increase footfall to the quieter places of the town centre. There will also be a focus on improving accessibility around the town and in businesses.

Thrive and Grow

It is essential the BID provides an environment where business growth is encouraged, and we support investment into the development of existing and new businesses in the town. We are lucky we have a low vacancy rate approx. 6% with the national average is 13% and a number of currently vacant properties are currently under renovation. But more can definitely be done.

The BID will continue to deliver training to businesses but will also look into:

- Develop a landlords register to ensure we can engage and support when a property becomes vacant
- Work with organisations such as the Vacant Shops Academy to develop a strategy to reduce the number of vacant units
- Encourage leisure providers to bring new activities to the town
- Introduce a Skipton Gift card to reduce economic leakage and promote the shop local campaign

- Investigate cost reduction schemes for businesses to save on expenditure
- Introduce a shop front grant scheme to improve the appearance of the town centre
- Encourage businesses to develop a circular economy and support each other

Vibrant and Inspiring

This is still an important objective however a lot of the planned activity will be the same as previously delivered.

- Increase regional promotion of the town focussing on areas we know visitors come from, this will be decided using the information generated from the footfall monitoring system.
- Investigate the production of printed guides and maps, there are a growing number of people requesting print.
- Develop permanent trails around the town.
- Develop new events we have committed to delivering one new BID event a year over the length of the term.
- Support Skipton in Bloom
- Grow the live music scene across the town.

SH concluded saying the BID has a chance to make a real difference to the town but we need businesses to engage with us. The more they engage the more benefits they will receive. If a business has a specific plan for a project they need to share it with the BID so they can see if they can deliver.

10. Questions from the floor

None received

11. Any other company business

No other company business

The meeting ended at 18.27