## MINUTES

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| **1.** | **Introductions & Apologies** | **Action** |
| **1.1** | All were welcomed to the meeting. AD introduced DC to the board. DC will replace AD on the board and be bringing project/regen partnership updates. |  |

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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** | **Action** |
| **2.1** | JB declared interest and runs a business on Fleet Street. |  |

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| **3.** | **Gifts & Hospitality Register** | **Action** |
| **3.1** | No declarations. |  |

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| **4.** | **Minutes of the previous meeting** | **Action** |
| **4.1** | **Closed 4.2**  CB sought guidance from the board on finances in the recommendation section. AD explained that there had been a formal change request made. JB added that the overall community board agreed but wanted more detail on road closures. A question was raised on parking mitigation (removed ‘free’). |  |
| **4.2** | **Carry Forward 5.3** - GPO Roundabout  JB asked if Fleet Walk/Planter improvements can be included, CB said he will ask the question. | CB |
| **4.3** | **Carry Forward 5.5** – Stronger Future  SC raised a question regarding Ready for Work, she asked if DWP could bring in additional support when required for people with additional needs/disabilities so the cost/time would not all fall on the employer?  CB will ask and feedback - See Point 5.16 | CB |

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| **5.** | **Highlight Report** | **Action** |
| **5.1** | **Debenhams (VTC3)**  CB confirmed that the demolition contractor has been selected. |  |
| **5.2** | VF said it is paramount that we avoid a repeat of Torwood Street being demolished and then left for a long period of time without plans to develop.  DC said we will know more at the next meeting whether the already consented scheme will go forward or if we come back for a steer on any new scheme that may come forward. |  |
| **5.3** | KF reiterated that we do not want a repeat of Torwood St, a large site vacant for an extended amount of time. |  |
| **5.4** | SC asked if the Strand project could be paused, then do Debenhams demolition then re-start the Strand?  CB said that this was not possible due to costs involved to pause.  CL said we need to carry on, the contractors will make good as part of the project. SC asked if we finish the Strand, then start on the demo, would this not involve completed works being undone? CL confirmed the Contractors would ensure this was not the case. |  |
| **5.5** | JB said that the Community Board’s main feedback was about the comms regarding road closures.  EF said that this has been ongoing, the plans have been shared and available to the wider public and also targeted where required to the businesses/residents.  Continual comms are created by way of letters, boards, banners and website updates. |  |
| **5.6** | EF and DC will continue to work closely to ensure businesses are kept informed. |  |
| **5.7** | JB asked if enhancements for Fleet Street could be done now? There is graffiti and work to be done on bus stops, currently the GPO and Strand could be completed and Fleet Street could be left looking tatty?  DC said that this should be possible and will take away with EF to investigate further. | DC/EF |
| **5.8** | There is a window of Debenhams that is marked ‘watch this space’ but it is empty, EF said that the TV that was there sharding information had to be removed as there was a break-in. There will be more information shared as we progress with the project (A1 info boards currently being made up). |  |
| **5.9** | **Harbour Public Realm (VTC4)**  CB read through the report, there is slippage caused by uncharted utilities and some services being encased in concrete which has created extra work/time. |  |
| **5.10** | SC asked with regard to emergency vehicles, where will they go once the traffic is stuck along the sea front?  CB confirmed that the have been consulted and are aware and will make relevant arrangements to be able to cover areas that are difficult to access during the works. |  |
| **5.11** | **GPO Roundabout (VTC5)** |  |
| **5.12** | CB reported that there is still a question to be answered if the project should go ahead. VF said that this had been agreed at previous meetings and we are waiting for it go out to tender then more detailed discussions could be had. |  |
| **5.13** | CL suggested that we get feedback from traders/businesses affected around the works and ask for ideas that we can consider to help lift the area. |  |
| **5.14** | JB said there are problems in the Fleet Walk complex including problems with the elevators and pigeons. |  |
| **5.15** | **Edginswell Station (BCP1)**  CB updated that there is a considerable funding gap. There is significate lobbying taking place to be able to find the funding to take this forward past design stage. |  |
| **5.16** | **Stronger Futures (BCP2)**  CB confirmed to SC that the DWP were fully engaged. |  |
| **5.17** | VF would like to record our thanks for job well done for the Bay of Lights Illumination Trail from Dec23 and we look forward to seeing Dec24 plans. |  |

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| **6.** | **Any Other Business** | **Action** |
| **6.1** | None |  |

**Minutes recorded by: Rebecca Woolley**

**Date of the next meeting:**

**Friday 5th April 2024**

**Friday 31st May 2024**

**Friday 2nd August 2024**

**Friday 4th October 2024**

**Friday 6th December 2024**