

Hastings Old Town Residents Association - Minutes of Meeting of 11 July 2011

Present

Dick Edwards, Kim Stallwood, Elizabeth Stevens, Kate Francis, Cllr Richard Stevens, Jill Bradley, June Prior, Ann Novotny, Sue Bower, Phil White, Kate Francis, Bruce Nichol

Apologies for Absence

Cllr John Hodges, Michael Lambrechts, Shirley Hawley

Minutes of 14 June agreed with one correction: under Planning, sentence two should read: "The garden at the rear of **140** All Saints Street". *Apologies from Jill*

Matters Arising

Courthouse Street - post to prevent cars

A gate has now been proposed as a post is unsuitable for disabled access.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: 164 paid-up members, 70% of 2010, 3 by PayPal, many supplied email addresses. £85 donations. Reserve account = ££1,041.17, Current A/C £534.63 (of that £126 storytelling, minus £8.10 expenditure). Signatories: Steve Mason's form missing, new forms to be obtained from Santander.

Secretary re Country Park: Jill gave a brief report on the new Sunday buses mentioned at the FOCP AGM and will email the Chairman's report with these minutes. Parking includes members, but an annual car park pass at £15 is available.

Hastings Community Network: Kate mentioned housing benefit an issue for the Old Town, future rentals might be difficult. Loss of funding has closed Club for Kids which organised events after school, holidays, etc., Excellence Cluster going by Christmas.

Open Gardens: Ann reported event went well, 8 gardens open (620 visitors to hers), Swan House and nearby residents raised £150. £5,850 in total. Change of date not well advertised. Dick to put thank-you note in next Parish Magazine. *Observer* to organise "Hastings in Bloom".

Website: Kim sent out summer e-newsletter, will look at percentage open rate. Please send any info to Kim for next issue (probably no more than monthly).

Chairman's Report

Petition

600 signatures so far, 1,000 needed. Volunteers wanted for this Saturday. Kim to put link from website to petition signing site. Many comments: part-pedestrianise (tables on pavements and more drinking?) don't agree, etc. Petition deadline extended to 20 August. Dick suggested putting in September's newsletter a meeting in October to which ESCC would be invited.

Storytelling Festival

Funding application going to Arts Council. 8/10 storytellers needed for community and schools events with £8,000 to £10,000 budget. Kate offered to carry out auditions - thanks.

Cahoots Licence Application

HOTRA have objected to off and on sales licence application, since then that application has been amended. Dick requested copies of applications/amendments, can be viewed by visit only. Despite saturation point in George St. and High St., Cahoots is not recognised as being in the High Street by HBC. Concerns raised as Police only patrol alternate weekends.

Waste/Recycling

HBC refused proposal to re-site bins from High Street to back of the boating lake.

Cuts

See Hastings Community Network item. New clinic to open at Ore for special needs children.

Stade Hall and Open Space

HBC put in applications for Stade Hall licence, HOTRA said no. HBC propose events licence with 9.00 to 12 midnight, seven days a week. Stade Hall to be managed by new charitable body the Stade Facilities

Trust (to be confirmed in 2-3 weeks). Unanimously voted HOTRA to object to Stade Hall licence application - why is HBC applying for it, and before formation of charity?

Seafront Transport

Richard put motion to HBC requesting sustainable form of transport along the seafront which was defeated. Unanimous support for rickshaw rides, Dick has talked to Paul Joy and Yasmin Ornsby re keeping rickshaws in spare winch sheds.

Old Town Museum

Donation box to be installed. Printing workshops to benefit local companies (ie. Rye Press) and support museum proposed (machinery to be moved to main museum). Being refurbished, general "dark" appearance of interior criticised. Much discussion at last OT Museum meeting re more merchandise to sell. Bruce keen to have a "Linked-Up Hastings" policy where the Shipwreck & Coastal Museum, Fisherman's Museum, Pier Shop, Electric Palace, Fishmarket, Language Schools, History House and Lifeboat Shop all join with the OT Museum to give better visitor experience, especially for language students who could rent the OTM or Stade Hall to encourage them to extend their visit (and spend some money). HBC to withdraw funding in two year's time.

FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group)

Phil reported a lot happening locally, statements of intent etc. Hold-up is at national level. Potentially a lot of money available to refurbish winch huts etc. Another meeting to be held later this month.

Planning

Nothing to report.

Members Concerns

- On-going problem of drinking in the High Street, discussion of a scheme for licensees to contribute to Bar Watch Fund scheme as part of ownership of licence as done by other East Sussex towns.
- More signs wanted for new Stade toilets and location of Tourist Information.
- Sue parked in Croft Road and had breezeblocks put against her front wheels and note accusing her of overhanging the pavement. Note of caution to others.
- ESCC plan to close Charter Centre in Bexhill. Dick to express concern on resulting over-pressure on Isobel Blackman and Moreton Centres.
- Metal rods at top of the High Street too big for the pavement, dangerous.
- Railings on Rectory next to June's to be replaced? Owners say fence only. The History House have database with information/photographs.
- Cyclists becoming dangerous on pavements.
- No Entry sign for top of Courthouse Street viewed from All Saints cannot be read properly.
- No Coastal Users group this month, next meeting is 16 August which Jill will attend.

Future Programme

Allotment Party 24 July: tickets c/o Sue at Nelson Antiques. Phil to see Nicky re raffle tickets. Volunteers: June and Bruce to buy the drinks, Jill the bar, Ann food, Elizabeth on the gate. All help requested from 12 noon.

Next Management Committee meeting 9/8 if needed (Jill gave apologies - holiday), 13/9 at Sue's, 11/10 at Jill's (17 All Saints Street).

Highways Issues Meeting in October following Hastings Week open to all.

AOB

None.