

## Hastings Old Town Residents Association - Minutes of Meeting of 13 September 2011

### **Present**

Dick Edwards, Kim Stallwood, Elizabeth Stevens, Kate Francis, Cllr Richard Stevens, Jill Bradley, Ann Novotny, Sue Bower, Kate Francis, Bruce Nichol, Cllr John Hodges, Michael Lambrechts

### **Apologies for Absence**

June Prior, Shirley Hawley, Phil White

**Minutes of 11 July** agreed.

**Matters Arising** none.

### Reports

*Treasurer's Report:* Phil circulated his report prior to his absence. Allotment Party failed to make a profit, but all agreed it should continue, perhaps reduced price for advance tickets. **To be discussed before next year's event.** Personal membership renewal letters to be sent out.

*Secretary re Coastal Users Group Meeting 16 August:* Jill gave a brief report on the meeting. Attached are minutes and draft Foreshore Trust Business Plan 2011-2016 produced by Virginia Gilbert and Nick Sangster. **To be discussed at October HOTRA meeting.**

*Website:* Kim has added a calendar to the front page and updated home page, especially re 20 October Open Meeting and opposition to Stade Licence. Has produced another e-letter: 50% of "visitors" to site opened it, 14 read newsletter. Has put a HOTRA page on Facebook. Is attending HVA Big Lottery Workshops on 13 October on behalf of HOTRA. Paper newsletter delivery: for Torfield House Italian Tony  
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*Hastings Community Network:* Kate suggested HOTRA sign up to anti-poverty objectives. Would like an Old Town Strategy, especially regarding fuel poverty; grants which could help local people are available if you know where to look. **Dick requested Kate bring do-able ideas to October Meeting.** J commented the "action plan" was devoid of anything objective, no evaluation available. Events, Credit Union, etc. at Isobel Blackman Centre discussed. **Dick will highlight one or two useful services in each Community Newsletter, ie. Hastings Furniture Service.**

### **Chairman's Report**

#### Petition

ESCC meeting on 18 October to consider petition.

#### Courthouse Street Bollard

John reported other operable designs being considered to fit all necessary requirements. Forthcoming meeting with Police re non-enforcement of signage.

#### East Side of Courthouse Street

Closed for 16 weeks during work on the upper floors and roof of Bourne Hall.

#### Feedback on Newsletter

Dick reported good response, mostly by email. Various comments re High Street Petition. Michael suggested sub-committee appointed to discuss what we want to see in the Old Town. Dick asked Michael to bring that item to 20 October Open Meeting. John commented a scheme is needed before then with a note on the benefits and problems Jerwood will bring as well in terms of traffic flow. Richard mentioned Phase 2 Plan already in existence with much input from HOTRA and agreed by residents. Elizabeth said statement from the church needed re implications of weddings and funerals if more traffic uses Croft Road. **She will invite a church representative to the 20 October Open Meeting.** Thanks from all.

#### Storytelling Festival

Arts Council to respond to application before the end of September. For November's Festival Dick will

assume some funding will be available for some of the programme, all agreed, and then expand the programme as necessary if more money comes.

#### Stade Hall Licence Application

(Dick distributed copies of papers prior to meeting). Sue asked to chair this item as Dick had conflict of interest, Richard registered the same. Sue asked what control HOTRA have over the use of the Hall. Blanket permission for 104 hours have been requested for alcohol sales, not on individual events. Sales from alcohol provide much-needed funds for the hall. Mike commented control would be better than pubs in the area, but not from 9 a.m. (normal licensing hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. or midnight weekdays, 1 or 2 a.m. at weekends). HOTRA saying no to a licence. But, there is a policy giving safeguards - is it the alcohol which is the problem, or the management of the actual policy? Could the licence be granted on condition the policy is enforced? John said the Stade Management Committee (SMC) are responsible people and no means no.

Vote of confidence was taken in the SMC to manage the policy properly and responsibly. HOTRA will not pursue the objection to the 104 hours to the Licensing Committee, but the SMC needs to understand HOTRA's concerns about the large number of hours, so whilst we can accept the idea of flexibility, the HOTRA Committee urge the SMC to act with great caution when making their decisions. The SMC should explore other ways of generating funds for the Hall. Should the Trustees of the SMC sign an undertaking to be included in the Licence.

#### Jack in the Green Meeting to Plan 2012

Dick has a meeting on 19 September to discuss effects of re-routing procession, Police presence, etc.

#### Beach Concert Letter

A good family event, but concerns about alcohol and drug abuse problems.

#### Coastal Currents Festival Feedback

Dick has asked HBC to congratulate all those involved. Jill commented lack of knowledge/advertising about the Heritage Open Days part of it.

#### Old Town Museum

Bruce to attend meeting on 28 September. HOTRA have asked for new income-generating plan to take forward to the New Year.

### **Planning**

**Sue to look at/report back on internal proposals for 105 High Street.**

### **Members Concerns**

More signage needed for Tourist Information facilities in Old Town Museum.

More signage needed for Stade toilets.

Contractor name/details needed on various scaffolding around the Old Town.

East Hill barbeque site being used as toilet in summer. Fence removed before weekends and used as fuel for bonfires at weekends. Expensive to replace timber. Litter also an issue. No Police presence, Wardens have been threatened. **Jill to pass on to Steve Peak, Chair of Friends of Hastings Country Park).**

Ongoing problems with piles of breezeblocks to stop parking in Croft Road (opposite Unicorn House), pole put through someone's window. Caution to others.

Pumping Station at the end of Rock-a-Nore Road being vandalised, kids throwing stones on passers by and cars from roof. **John to take up.**

Opportunity for artists to decorate area by Maggie's and net shops?

Old camper van still a problem on Winch Road by Lifeboat Station forecourt.

New block (for Alzheimer patients?) by Old Hastings House, fence built with gate and entry phone. Inappropriate, could easily be vandalised and site security compromised.

Five windows in All Saints Street have been damaged, Police matter.

Illuminated signs needed for new 20mph speed limit. Anyone taking any notice?

Jill requested Committee's phone numbers. Thanks.

## **Future Programme**

Next Management Committee meeting 11/10 at Jill's (17 All Saints Street). 8/11 at Michael's (83 All Saints Street).

Open meeting on 20 October 7pm at Stade Hall, Highways team will be there.

2012 HOTRA AGM - Dick to book high-profile guest speaker ....

All agreed HOTRA should sponsor exhibition of work by Roland Jarvis.

## **AOB**

None.