

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

Present

Dick Edwards, Kim Stallwood, Elizabeth Stevens, Kate Francis, Cllr Richard Stevens, Jill Bradley, June Prior, Ann Novotny, Phil White, Kate Francis, Bruce Nichol, Cllr John Hodges, Michael Lambrechts, Shirley Hawley

Apologies for Absence

Sue Bower

Minutes of 13 September agreed with one correction: under Stade Hall Licence Application, sentence four should read: "Sales from alcohol at functions".

Matters Arising

Item raised at last meeting re the gate at the rear of the new building by Old Hastings House. This is an additional emergency exit only. The issue of the fence to be pursued with HBC.

Reports

Secretary: Jill mentioned forwarding email responses from Steve Peak and Martin Jenks re issues regarding the East Hill barbeque site.

Treasurer's Report: 164 paid-up members, low compared to last year's figure of 230. Kim will add automated membership renewal in with PayPal and newsletter. Reserve account = £1,041.66, Current A/C £788.60. Ongoing problems with Santander re signatories. It was agreed Dick should write to their Chief Executive, copies to the Financial Ombudsman, HVA and Amber Rudd. Phil suggested a change of bank to NatWest when signatories issue is resolved and funds can be transferred (at present no funds can be accessed). All agreed.

Website: Kim will do an e-newsletter reminder of the 20 October Open Meeting emphasising the venue of the Stade Hall. He suggested John Bray's website has a link to HOTRA's. Well done for a good website.

Hastings Community Network: Kate mentioned the Hastings Strategic Partnership covering issues such as education and health. She has papers if anyone wishes to see them. Ore pathology not now going to Haywards Heath.

Chairman's Report

20 October Open Meeting

All felt it should be emphasised there is no set agenda, object is to put forward and hear ideas. Do people want to be involved in a small working group to take issues forward? Dick wants a reasonably conducted debate - could Committee help to ensure no-one person takes over the meeting! Jill to prepare several sheets of the attendance record (including email contact) and ensure they are signed at the door and also take the minutes. Ann offered to put key points on a flip chart. Can Committee please help with setting out chairs. Thanks. George Greaves will be attending meeting and wishes to promote his calendar, Jo Fairley will be invited as Judges have a new book out. John to invite Richard Holmwood and Jeremy Birch, Dick will invite ESCC representatives. Main points:

1. Make the end of George Street by Fagins safer for pedestrians, new signage re leaving a pedestrian area needed. John has already placed that request.
2. Pavement needed from Fagins to John the Cobbler, especially for disabled people (opposite side of High Street pavement too steep). Road space would be reduced which should deter line of cars always parked there (where's traffic warden?)

Storytelling Festival

Funding is now available. Kate and Peter Chowney will help select storytellers, expressions of interest to be received by Sunday 9th. Margaret Sheehy organising small groups of "roving" storytellers around the Stade on 12 November, but not taking over our events. Will be advertised in local publications, Dick needs help with advertising further afield (national newspapers, arts organisations, etc.) and photos of

each event. This could be combined with Margaret's advertising. Dick will pay for this up front and claim back funds when our accounts are available.

Planning

Nothing to report.

Members Concerns

Jill has Summer 2011 edition of "The Volunteer" (Friends of Hastings Country Park newsletter) if anyone wishes to read it.

Building finishes and parking at EAT on the Stade inadequate.

Concerns expressed by doctors at Roebuck Surgery re building work opposite, lack of safety, noise, etc. Will advise them to contact Mike Hepworth (mhepworth@hastings.gov.uk).

Standard of street cleaning deteriorating. John will take up this matter.

Cycling on Pelham Boulevard and along the seafront a concern. To be addressed more fully at a future Committee Meeting.

Speeding - signage needed in All Saints Street and High Street showing actual speed of individual motorists. New 20mph now also includes West Street.

Problems with permit holders parking in Rock-a-Nor car park - this is now definitely confirmed as being free after 6pm.

Kim reminded meeting he is attending HVA Big Lottery workshops on 13 October on HOTRA's behalf.

Flagstones in Croft Road and Sinnock Passage in a bad state.

Lockable bike store needed in the Old Town.

Hastings Week programmes - HBC no longer have anyone responsible for their delivery so problems in getting them to the Old Town in sufficient time. Not acceptable, Hastings Week Committee work very hard on this and could have helped if HBC had contacted them.

Volleyball court along the seafront is now open for use.

Pelham Player (multi-use games area) and pirates game crazy golf suffering vandalism.

The Old Rectory are applying for a residents-only alcohol licence. HOTRA will not object.

London Trader hearing adjourned to 25/26 October.

Future Programme

Next Management Committee meeting 8/11 at Michael's (83 All Saints Street), 13/12?

Items for Parish News

Dick will include item about the London Trader.

AOB

None.