

Hastings Old Town Residents Association - Minutes of Meeting of 13 December 2011

Present

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

Apologies for Absence

Sue Bower, Shirley Hawley, June Prior, Phil White

Minutes of 9 November agreed.

Matters Arising

UNESCO World Heritage Status for the Old Town discussed by John Hodges and Kevin Boorman, no fundamental objections to progressing it. Once we know what the rules are we can submit an application. John will talk to Jeremy Birch. Thanks John. Dick suggested planning for townscape heritage initiative funding to include a workforce training initiative, etc.

Reports

Secretary: Jill gave a brief summary of the Coastal User's Group Meeting on 29 November. Thanks to Bruce for copying the Seafront Action Plan paper which Jill gave out. Minutes will be emailed with these.

Treasurer's Report: more problems with Santander. Dick and Jill have to visit the Hastings branch with identification despite Phil giving them all that to fax yesterday. Jill objected - they already have this information, Data Protection Act, etc. *post meeting note: personal visit on 14 December produced copy of the fax and assurance documents are safe.*

Website: nothing to report.

Hastings Community Network: nothing to report.

Highways Working Group (Michael's report): this should reflect a long-term plan for the Old Town. Meetings with High Street Traders already happened (3 of them with Michael, Dick and Sue from HOTRA). Independent chairman suggested, John volunteered if acceptable. First official meeting in New Year. Tourism interest must be included.

Chairman's Report

Storytelling Festival

30 events took place across the town with total audience of 243. A lot of effort for a small number of people? Future events need earlier planning, to be more focussed and advertised earlier and more fully. Cut-out advertising figures suggested. Events in boat in Fishermen's Museum and Italian Way most popular. All approved more storytelling next year, and could be included in events like Jack-in-the-Green.

Funding Projects

Below is Kim's 22 November email summary of his attendance at the HVA workshops:

You will recall I recently attended two workshops related to the Big Lottery. The workshops were organised by Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) and were given by a representative of the Big Lottery. I want to summarise briefly each one of the two funding opportunities but focus in particular on one of them. Then, we should discuss this at the next management committee meeting in order to determine what to do next. The Big Lottery is one of several funding agencies. Others include Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, UK Film Council and so on. HOTRA is not registered as a charity; however, this need not be a problem because HVA could act as our fiscal agent.

There are two funding programs that the Big Lottery offer, which are Reaching Communities and Awards for All. I will deal with the former first as it's least applicable to our present circumstances. Reaching Communities is for large, long-term capital related projects (e.g., buildings, facility expansion, major programs) and grant applications range from £ 10k to £ 750k. The application process is complicated.

It requires a great deal of research and preparation. This program isn't applicable to us at this time. However, I met at the workshop someone from Ore Community Association who spoke about preparing a grant application for a building they had just been given by ESCC as they were seeking funding to install solar panels on the roof. I thought this was interesting as they were a neighbouring neighbourhood association and a good example of what Reaching Communities is all about. Clearly, we're not in a comparable situation at this time.

Awards for All is for grants ranging from £300 to £10k. Successful applications must demonstrate one or more of the following criteria: (1) People having better chances in life with better access to training and development to improve their life skills; (2) Stronger communities with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems; (3) Improved rural and urban environments which communities are better able to access and enjoy; (4) Healthier and more active people and communities.

There are various issues related to the application process, which is relatively straightforward, by the way, as these things go; however, the application must demonstrate the changes we want to make to the lives of the people we want to help and market research and/or consultation demonstrates the need we seek to address.

Examples of what grants could pay for include equipment hire or purchase, information technology equipment, building and refurbishment work, updating equipment, training, venue hire and so on. Grants cannot pay for overhead for existing projects. Funding must be spent within the year. Projects can cost up to as much as £15k but the applicant must demonstrate that they have the extra funds. For more information on Awards for All, please visit this link: <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/>. Clearly, there is more to be said on this but I think this is the basics of what needs to be understood at this time.

My suggestion is that we come with ideas to the next meeting and a prioritised list of them can be made. We need to demonstrate research and interest. One way (and no means the only way) to go about this is to post an online poll asking people to vote their preferences and suggesting other projects. This is all preliminary at this stage but necessary to help ensure the project we select finally is one that stands a good chance of success. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

A suitable project could be a lockable bike shed for residents as many have insufficient space. Research the requirements and then apply. HOTRA to talk to the Winkle Club re joint funding application for Winkle Island improvements to enhance the new statue, ie. more co-ordinated seating, ground-based compass point, worldwide signpost, etc. (Highways will fix paving slabs). Other joint projects need to be identified for Lottery application, also to Magdalen & Lash. HOTRA members opinions to be sought in special newsletter.

Stade

No provision made as yet by HBC for minibus parking for disabled/social services groups. All agreed Dick should write to Jeremy Birch.

Parking

When residents parking permits are sold mention to be made of free use of seafront coach parking bays from 6 to 8 p.m. Under-advertised at present. All agreed Dick should write to Richard Holmwood pointing out that if you have a resident's parking permit then you should be able to park. No control over visitor's permits, can mean reduced spaces available for residents. John mentioned NCP take over parking November/December 2012. Support given to parking fees paid on departure.

Licencing

London Trader: Appeal now moved to mid February 2012 with new legal representative for defendant. Jerwood Gallery: they have applied for daily 9 a.m. to midnight licence and also off-sales licence. HOTRA to register objection to off-sales application.

Planning

Nothing of significance to report.

Members Concerns

Ann and her dog were attacked by a large dog off the lead (American Bulldog) in the Old Town. Suffered painful foot injuries. Will prosecute - Dick to email her details of who to contact at the Police etc.

Jill has AGM Minutes of the Hastings & St Leonards Museum Association if anyone is interested.

Future Programme

Next Management Committee meeting **10 January 2012 at Ann Novotney's.**

AOB

None.