

Minutes of HOTRA Committee Meeting 6 June 2012

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Kate Francis, Elizabeth Stevens, Michael Lambrechts, Sue Bower, Shirley Hawley, Richard Stevens, Phil White, Ann Novotny, Kim Stallwood, Jill Bradley

Apologies: June Prior, Cllr. John Hodges, Bruce Nichol, Cllr. Dawn Poole

Minutes of 8 May: accepted.

Matters Arising: none.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Santander Current Account £550.59, Co-op Current Account £2,186.15 (incl. £1,300 for Storytelling Festival), 2nd Co-op account currently empty, intention is to move Storytelling money to that. Santander reserve account now empty. Membership: 165 paid-up members (three less than last year), including six new or returning members at the AGM. Query about cost of membership raised at AGM, £20 considered too much for household of two people. This was discussed again and considered fair. DE to include it in next newsletter with mention of what HOTRA does for the town for that membership. Would local businesses consider discount to members as currently done by Friends of Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve? **Action: DE**

Website: KS has posted both JH and DP reports to website.

Hastings Community Network: nothing to report.

Senior's Forum Conference: ES attended for HOTRA. Other groups such as Age UK also represented. Need a community hub in town centre with information re help available to the elderly, concerns about isolation of some old folk. Report will be sent to DE.

Chairman's Report:

Pelham Beach Play Area

Stade Amusement Park

There was a free ranging discussion on some ideas of improvements to the amusement park. To be continued at next meeting. **Action: All**

Isobel Blackman Centre

Evaluation showed lack of space/feeling of isolation with adult social care upstairs. Downstairs activities not clearly defined, cafe not making money. Outside consultants had been employed. Will one contract be held for entire building (e.g. Age UK, or trading arm of ESCC Old People's Services? Reduction in services? How much funding will ESCC put in given low health and poverty levels in the town? Concerns about lack of marketing.

Storytelling Festival

Application has been made to Arts Council for funding, outcome will be known by July.

Allotment Party

DE has spoken to Allotments Chairman, August Bank Holiday weekend or early September discussed, possibly use combination of Tush & Pat and Isobel Blackman cafe catering. **Action: DE**

Street Cleaning

Complaints about rubbish left, especially in All Saints Street, but later cleaned up. Idea of thick gull-proof cloth cover for black bags with HOTRA motif/"helping the town" or similar mooted. *Post-meeting note: this is being trialled on West Hill with gull-proof bin bag. See 16 March Hastings & St Leonards Observer article JB)*

Maintenance Tasks

27 June JH to do walk around town to see what is needed.

Licensing

HOTRA objected to George's Nightclub application to open until 4 a.m. daily. London Trader has reneged on restrictions re hours for music, allocated pavement space, A-boards.

Dogs

Much discussion on need for dog licensing to be re-introduced nationwide. Approach Amber Rudd to be involved. Dog Court needed as in USA. RS put motion to HBC about reviewing their procedures on dog muzzling without success. Concern that Police appear ignorant of byelaws that dogs must be on leads in public areas. Should DE write to HBC that byelaw is being ignored and Police not taking notice of it? DE wrote letter to Chief Inspector concerning recent incident and inadequate Police response in that case. Their reply was they considered their response correct, limited resources. **Action: DE**

Planning:

3 Salters Lane was approved on a clear majority (HOTRA objected).

Members Concerns

Wet weather cover needed for outside events on Stade.

Winkle Island Steering Group working well towards upgrades.

Proper signage for tourist information in Old Town Museum needed from Stade.

Poor state of pavements.

Noise from Porters getting worse, also street drinking.

Future Programme:

Management Committee 11/7 at Sue's, 14/8 if needed.

AOB:

None.