

Minutes of HOTRA Committee Meeting 11 September 2012

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Elizabeth Stevens, Richard Stevens, Kim Stallwood, Sue Bower, Jill Bradley, Phil White, Bruce Nichol, Cllr. John Hodges

Apologies: June Prior, Shirley Hawley, Michael Lambrechts, Ann Novotny, Kate Francis, Cllr. Dawn Poole

Minutes of 11 July 2012: accepted with one alteration: Open Gardens on 7 July made just **over** £5,000.

Non-Agenda Matters Arising: DE to email JH who will contact HBC again re parking for special needs people by Stade Hall. Principle was agreed at early stages of Stade Open Space debates and has been raised at previous Coastal Users Groups meetings when HBC promised to look into it.

Secretary's Report – Coastal Users Group Meeting 30 August

Rock-a-Nore Parade: HBC have met with yacht club and are looking into usage and disabled access. They also met with ESCC re concerns on shingle build-up (especially by RNLI and fishermen) by harbour arm. ESCC will fund some of clearing cost.

Foreshore Trust Car Parks: extra 22 spaces for **Pelham Place** to be created before March 2013. Design work/tendering process ongoing for upgrade to **Rock-a-Nore** car park. Further reports on that, plus Paying on Foot Systems, intelligent signage deferred until December meeting.

Grounds Maintenance: Foreshore Trust grounds maintenance included with Hastings contract.

Fitness equipment along promenade: planning consent has been ordered, should be installed during next few weeks.

White Rock Baths: site visit on 8 August. Clearance of much debris/asbestos considerably improved appearance. 3 interested companies have tendered, deadline was 28 August. HBC promised quick decision.

Boating Lake: Architect Neil Choudry presented updated plans on behalf of client. Concerns raised on several proposals which will be reported to client. **(Note: plans will be presented at Open Meeting at Stade Hall on 28 September.)**

Treasurer's Report

Membership: currently 169 paid-up members, 68% have given email addresses, 5 paid by PayPal.

Accounts: Santander Current A/C £550-59 (includes money from closed Santander Reserve A/C) To be drawn against until minimum remains. Co-operative Bank Current A/C £2,536.83 (incl. £1,300 storytelling and £100 compensation from Santander). Arts Council have agreed approx. £10,000 for November Storytelling Festival which will go into second Co-operative A/C with £1,300.

Website Report

KS has updated content, will do e-newsletter re 28 September Open Meeting.

Hastings Community Network

Nothing to report.

Chairman's Report

Isobel Blackman Centre: ESCC want one organisation to run it not three, have trading arm which may replace Age UK. Decision to be made in October for action by Christmas. All agreed DE to write to Keith Hinkley (Lead ESCC Member for Adult Services) voicing HOTRA concerns that provision at Isobel Blackman Centre be enhanced and run by experienced organisation, i.e. Age UK - a very professional and experienced body.

Alcohol Issues: meeting on 30 August with HBC and Sussex Police. Pram Race disturbances due to alcohol, more Police presence needed as event now very large. Possibly more marshals needed, and water-only drunk by participants at each pub visited. Off-licences/local supermarkets should be more responsible about alcohol sales for such events as well as pubs. Meeting needed between off-licences, pubs, Police, HBC and organisers before such events. All agreed DE to make statement on behalf of HOTRA re saturation policy at annual review. Also concerns that Swan Gardens often full of drinkers, drinkers take tents to East Hill to camp out overnight leaving bottles and

other rubbish (breaking bye-law). Police are aware of this, hopefully action will be taken.

St Mary in the Castle: JB made brief report on recent AGM. Two interested parties have tendered, deadline 8 September. HBC running a few events September/October until decision made. JH gave update on 8 September Cabinet Meeting when remaining tenderer given extra time but decision to be made this month. Setting up of Charitable Trust able to bid for listed building grant money good way forward if tender unacceptable. All agreed DE to write to Barbara Rogers thanking her for excellent work. Also to write to MP Amber Rudd and Jeremy Birch encouraging their support and involvement.

Markets on the Stade: all agreed these would be very welcome. 1066 Markets propose Christmas one, if anyone hears of other interested parties please contact DE.

Skateboarders: provision could be made by old pumping station in Rock-a-Nore Road. DE to write to JH as Foreshore Trust Chairman.

Rock-a-Nore-Parade: (see previous Coastal Users Groups item). Provision for coaches there also discussed.

Planning

34 West Street: permission refused.

38 George Street (proposal for maisonette above shop): HOTRA doesn't have a view.

Café in Trade Paints Garden: HOTRA to oppose, concerns re toilet and hand-washing facilities. Will robustly oppose any alcohol licence application.

Members Concerns

Polo Paotti much appreciated HOTRA support for recent music festival.

Recent Government planning regulations relaxation of concern in our small densely-populated town and others such as Rye. All agreed DE to write to MP Amber Rudd.

Potholes on road in All Saints Street, especially large one by Bourne Passage. All agreed DE to write to ESCC.

Kerbstones in Croft Road and High Street outside John the Cobbler badly patched and poor condition.

Campervan is back in Croft Road opposite Unicorn House parking illegally also illegal scaffolding.

DE to speak to hardware shop owner in High Street re large items left outside causing obstructions.

Dirty pavements between Bredes Place and Old Town

Future Programme

Tuesday 9 October at Ann's (tbc)

Tuesday 20 November at Sue's