

Minutes of HOTRA Committee Meeting 11 December 2012

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Elizabeth Stevens, Richard Stevens, Kim Stallwood, Sue Bower, Jill Bradley, Bruce Nichol, Shirley Hawley, Ann Novotny, Kate Francis,

Apologies: June Prior, Cllr. John Hodges, Phil White

Minutes of 11 November 2012: approved.

Non-Agenda Matters Arising: Christmas decorative lights in High Street - prior permission should have been sought from traders for catenary wires, but agreed if decorations are removed early in New Year. Will need sorting before next year. RS gave update on progress of discussions with HBC/Stagecoach re transport link along seafront. Idea of land train similar to Eastbourne's "Dotto" ruled out.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

New account opened for Storytelling Festival surplus. Opening balance for Co-op current account contains some Storytelling grants. Bank balances: Old Santander account £400.59; new Co-op account £1,051.59. Storytelling spend within budget but figures not yet finalised as balance of 2 grants still to be received.

Secretary's Report – Coastal Users Group (CUG)

Pelham Place Car Park Re-Surfacing: tenders received on 23/11 and costing yet to be evaluated.

Signage and Pay-on-Exit to be looked at with Rock-a-Nore car park.

Parking Place Order: authorised users of Winch Road & Stade to have permits, Excess Charge Notices issued to those who don't. All leaseholders/organisations occupying land there asked for agreement to scheme, Charity Commission requested to authorise order.

Additional Facilities/Activities Hastings & St Leonards Seafront: list of potential sites circulated, possible seasonal kiosks, i.e. bike hire. After checking legality, information pack available for potential users to include any environmental impact, legal requirements, conservation restrictions etc. to help market land.

Stade Amusements Site: revised plan, no bridge from Boating Lake islands to shore, swan boats will stay, no walls around rides to further decrease size of Lake. Design for new miniature railway station criticised, Planning Permission to be sought. An "Agreement To Lease" would be obtained which would contain obligations to get Planning Permission. On receipt of this permission a Lease would then be granted. **

Foreshore Trust Business Plan: HOTRA requested this item deferred to next CUG as insufficient time given to study 30 page document. Refused as Charity Commission Meeting on 10 December, but comments welcomed via HBC before 10/12. Future CUG meetings to be timetabled with sufficient time for study of relevant issues/papers. **Post Meeting note: A written submission prepared by JB and DE had been submitted before the deadline.**

Stade Hall: membership of Stade Hall Trust considered too focussed on Old Town, membership sought from outside. Tenancy arrangements for occupying building and extent of repair obligations ongoing.

West Marina: designation for recreational beach use on next CUG agenda. Southern Water/Environment Agency invited to give report on water quality. Important to progress this as lido scheme temporarily off agenda due to lack of finance.

Bye-Laws: being overhauled, summary list to be circulated to CUG, put whole list put on website as historical document?

Outdoor Exercise/Play Equipment: 11 out of 12 now installed along seafront. Event programme to be agreed with Active Hastings Group.

Bottle Alley: alternative ways of raising funding considered (income generated by possible additional parking on seafront, private partnerships). More value for scheme after Lottery Grant for Pier. Feasibility Study ongoing.

Cycle Route: to be branded/ marketed as destination route, i.e. Rother's Cuckoo Trail. Costing needed for web page, signage, etc. Repairs to be done by Spring 2013.

Pier: approx. £2m match funding needed, schemes include buying shares, sponsoring deck planks.

Rock-a-Nore Improvements: go-ahead given by Yacht & Motor Boat Club, ongoing as budget allows.

Disabled Parking: continuing complaints of inadequate provision at Stade Hall, HBC must do something! Rock-a-Nore parking bays to be increased to recompense for loss elsewhere. HBC to report back re possible use of Stade Open Space.

**** Post CUG Meeting Note: lit is intended Stade Amusement Lease to be granted for 50 years. This was not mentioned or agreed at CUG. Much concern expressed: all agreed DE writes to Foreshore Trust Charity Protector and HBC Cabinet and make Freedom of Information request to HBC.**

Hastings Community Network: nothing to report.

Website: a suitable candidate to take over from KS has been identified. Possibility of including ads for local trades people on HOTRA website discussed. KS recommended Hastings on-line Times for good local information.

Chairman's Report

Storytelling Festival: very successful. All agreed it should be independent of HOTRA in future.

Isabel Blackman Centre: all agreed DE to make Freedom of Information Request to ESCC.

Learning and Skills Support Group: next meeting February 2013.

Winkle Island: contractor appointed, work to start 14 January 2013.

Stade Community Trust: meeting held 11 December. Tenancy agreements and repairs to be looked at with Business Plan and Heads of Terms. Licensing issue re-appeared, information to follow.

Quentin Blake poster: signed copies at £10 each being sold at Nelson House Antiques (thanks to Sue). 28 sold so far, proceeds to Storytelling Festival. Best wishes to Quentin on his 80th birthday and thanks for his support for the Festival.

Planning: Nothing of note to report.

Members Concerns

Poor state of repair of kerbstones and railings.

Tables/chairs outside Cafe Maroc/Home Store back of Wellesley Court encroaching on residents' space.

Inadequate lighting in Croft Road.

Bourne Hall – three flats to be marketed shortly after Christmas.

Any Other Business

DE has written to MP Amber Rudd on behalf of HOTRA re Olympics loan to be repaid.

SB proposed unanimous vote of thanks to DE for all his hard work for HOTRA during 2012.

Thanks to BN for his hospitality, especially mulled wine and mince pies!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.