

## **Minutes of HOTRA Committee Meeting 15 January 2013**

**Attendees:** Dick Edwards, Elizabeth Stevens, Kim Stallwood, Sue Bower, Jill Bradley, Bruce Nichol, Shirley Hawley, Ann Novotny, Kate Francis, Cllr. John Hodges, Phil White

**Apologies:** June Prior, Richard Stevens.

Sue Bower has resigned from her co-opted role as link with High Street Traders. If they and George Street traders merge a representative to be invited to join the Committee in her place. Thanks to Sue for her input.

**Minutes of 11 December 2012:** approved.

**Non-Agenda Matters Arising:** quote of £540 for replacement laptop accepted, includes transferring files etc. from old system. Work on Winkle Island awaiting job notice from ESCC, should be starting in 1-2 weeks.

### **Reports**

#### Treasurer's Report

Santander Account £400.59, Co-operative Account £866.59, £430 in subscriptions received so far, total £1,697.18. Storytelling a/c £2,125.85, £250 from HBC and £480 from sale of Quentin Blake posters to be paid in, grand total of £2,855.85. 43 members paid, 3 of which are new, 1 £10 donation.

Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Hastings Community Network: nothing to report. KF intends to stand down after her 2 years on its Executive Committee, any volunteers to take it on? Fran McKeown who organised the Network drowned on Christmas Day. All agreed £25 donation to go to Woodcraft Folk, one of her charities.

Website: KS met his successor, David Woolf (DW), and considers he will be a good successor for the website. Has experience with Bexhill Preservation Society. Unable to attend today's meeting, KS will introduce him at 12 February one..

#### Chairman's Report

*Foreshore Trust/Stade Amusements & Boating Lake Proposals:* new proposals include reduction of island in middle of boating lake with half-sunk pirate ship and Art Deco-style sign lettering on amusements. DE will notify Chris Richards (acting on behalf of landlord Henry Morton) HOTRA's desire for a single design theme for whole site rather than bits and pieces. What do other coastal towns do? Architect Neil Choudry should have this kind of overview. Chris has offered to present latest plans to HOTRA as part of consultation process, keen to see good design/quality. What goes to Planning Committee should have as wide a prior consultation as possible. Concern express about 50 year lease, not mentioned at December CUG meeting. 50 years is apparently what bank finance packages would require. Foreshore Trust commissioned independent report from Grimleys in compliance with Charity Commission. JH undertook to re-check their advice, and to keep strict eye on agreed maintenance schedule to be circulated each year of which he will have a copy. Lease conditions have been strengthened and made more enforceable. Any planning applications need approval from Planning Committee and landlord. JH reiterated as Chairman of Foreshore Trust he will be vigilant and thorough. Thank you to JH for his thorough report. We look forward to an improved site for everyone to enjoy.

*Quentin Blake:* congratulatory letter to be sent re his recent knighthood and inviting him to be HOTRA Vice President (to be ratified at May AGM). His poster sold out!

*Area Management Boards:* important to continue these meetings. Trying to mute impact of staff reductions at Town Hall. JH happy to attend any meetings on behalf of Old Town.

*BT cable - failure to repair:* high winds blew down cables/poles affecting East Hill steps and Tackleway. No action from BT within their required 10 days despite phone calls. DE to write to BT, not acceptable, a real hazard, cable should run underground in whole Old Town as in other areas. Letter to be forwarded to OFCOM.

*Markets on the Stade:* all agreed these must be good of quality.

**Planning:** Planning permission given for erection of building behind The Crown despite opposition from residents. Building will cause access problems for Crown Lane, i.e. scaffolding, vehicles, etc.

### **Members Concerns**

AN gave out copies of Roebuck Surgery patient questionnaire for completion and return.

Cones and bags of garden rubbish left in Church Passage for several months need clearing.

BN offering help re community education to Hastings Trust.

Concern re lack of progress on future of Old Town Museum, good ideas put forward by BN on HOTRA's behalf ignored.

AN reported New Year's Day swim raised £300 in memory of Fran McKeown, proceeds to RNLI.

***Post meeting note: apologies from JB for not mentioning a questionnaire leaflet sent out by Sussex Police requesting feedback/suggestions before 21 January for improvements re Jack-in-the-Green, Carnival Week and Bonfire. OHPS at the History House completed and returned theirs. Distribution seems to have been limited to Courthouse Street and the High Street.***

### **Future Programme**

Committee Meetings: 12 Feb. at Phil's, 12 March at Ann's.

AGM: 3 May at Stade Hall. Zoe Ashdown, recently appointed to run St Mary-in-the-Castle, to be invited to give a talk.

### **Any Other Business**

Thanks to Ann for her hospitality.