

**HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING 17 JULY 2013**

Apologies: Cllr Dawn Poole, June Prior, Phil White, Cllr John Hodges

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Kate Francis, Shirley Hawley, David Woolf, Richard Stevens, Elizabeth Stevens, Bruce Nicol, Ann Novotny

Minutes of 14 May Committee Meeting and any Matters Arising: Minutes agreed. Apologies to ES for wrong abbreviation of EB.

Treasurer's Report

HOTRA Account = £971.58, £50 to pay in. Storytelling Festival Account = £4,967.59.

Membership: 385 members, of whom only 163 have paid in 2013. Architect's fee for Winkle Island unpaid, all agreed Winkle Club & HOTRA to pay half each.

Secretary's Report: JB reported Steve Mannering happy to give talk at open meeting at Stade Hall re "Clean Seas Please!" campaign launched at St Leonards Festival last weekend. All agreed quick action must be taken - failure may result in bad water quality closing Hastings beach in 2015.

Hastings Community Network: half day meeting re NHS changes, Healthwatch presentation. Clinical Commissioning Group Hastings & Rother: 219 GPs covering 184,000 patients. How much privatisation is going on? Contact KF for more info & papers.

Website: DW has updated website including invitation for new members to join via yellow button. Feedback includes question about members only section with password. HOTRA aims to be transparent so no action on that. Discount scheme on hold until end summer, window stickers & logo ongoing. All agreed list of organisations/logos with links to other sites with reciprocal links to HOTRA. BN's LincLingo game to be put on website. Congratulations from Kim Stallwood on good website.

Chairman's Report

1. Strong condemnation on ESCC proposals on Mount Denys mental health provision & day centres (Isobel Blackman). No provision for dementia patients within 30 miles if Mount Denys is closed (carers respite affected there and at Pine Hill), no other provision for day care. On-line petition re Mount Denys and Pine Hill agreed and linked to Hastings Seniors Forum one re Isobel Blackman. Needs sensitive handling - DE and DW to agree wording for website, HOTRA and HVA newsletters. DE to talk to Pam Brown & HSF, one petition for Isobel Blackman, separate one for other two. Paper petitions are circulating, please sign and do on-line ones. Public meeting to be held in Stade Hall in October, to be advertised in September HOTRA newsletter.
2. 109 High Street - abject failure by ESCC, HBC and Amicus Horizon. HBC letter states no planning permission required for removal of walls less than 1m high. Parking problems, kerb lowered for tenant access to park in front garden, road markings not updated, lack of communication between Amicus & ESCC. Police called on neighbours re cars blocking access, many complaints about that and mis-handling of whole situation and bad attitude of new tenants. JH has protested at high level without success. What is to stop this happening with Amicus property in The Bourne? Also new tenants apparently plan to run business from 109, is this legal in housing association properties, do Amicus know? DE to write to senior people at Amicus.
3. HBC tourism strategy, where is it? HBC not producing diary of events booklet for 2014 All agreed DE to write to Cllr Jeremy Birch - what happened to the much-vaunted City of Culture?
4. Fisheries judgement - good news about Government distributing more proportion of catch to smaller boats around the country.

5. Designated Public Place Orders. Brighton and Ashford councils have designated their town centres as public places so Police can enforce powers re homeless people, drunks, etc. why not Hastings? Drunks etc just move to Old Town when evicted from town centre. Whole problem needs addressing, not just moving them on. All agreed DE to write to Amber Rudd MP asking her to take up members concerns re licensing and enforcement. Why are off licences/shops selling strong drink early in the morning, and why no bye-law banning drinking in public.

Unanimous thanks to DE for all his efficient letter-writing!

Planning

- Pelican Diner licensed to midnight despite HOTRA objections.
- Final plans for boating lake imminent, planning notices to be issued.

Members Concerns

- Late email received from Harris apologising for not attending HOTRA meeting. Hopes to attend next one and requests minutes. **Note, this email was received too late for inclusion at meeting**
- Late notification of road closures in High Street and All Saints Street for Pirates Day on 21 July. Notices only received on 18 July. All road closures need early notification.
- Paths behind Torfield House need proper clean.
- Paths from Coburg Place leading up West Hill need clean.
- Lack of rubbish bins on beach.
- Wellesley Court gates not painted.
- Contractors working on The Crown causing access problems parking in All Saints Street/Crown Court.
- All support Deeday's purchase of pre-WW1 Eastbourne Lifeboat for display in Old London Road in 2014 where public toilets were. Good idea.
- Brewery deliveries to The Stag and Cinque Ports Arms need to be earlier to avoid blocking road.
- ESCC map shows Old Town has high level of deprived families.
- New owner of Judges local man, former employee of The Oak Bakery.
- Old Town Week programmes are out, JB mentioned early booking of walks/talks tickets essential.

Future Programme

Next meetings: 17 July at Ann's, 15 August at Dick's (East Hill House), 3 September at Ann's (Garden Cottage).

Meeting finished at 8.20 p.m. Thanks to Ann for her hospitality.