

**HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING 10 DECEMBER 2013**

Apologies: June Prior, Cllr Dawn Poole, Ann Novotny, Phil White

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, David Woolf, Elizabeth Stevens, Bruce Nicol, Harris Woodcock, Richard Stevens, Cllr John Hodges

Minutes of 8 October Committee Meeting and any Matters Arising: Minutes agreed.
Suitable play area site for older children to be identified.

Treasurer's Report

HOTRA Co-op Bank A/C £689.90 (£325 cheque to Rowena Riley for HOTRA logo artwork to be deducted). 163 paid-up members. New members wanted - all urged to join up five new members in the New Year. More sponsorship plus lower membership rate? **Action: All**

Secretary's Report: JB gave summary of minutes of 12/11 Coastal Users Group (please see attached). JH noted CUG proposal for play area for older children and rejection of more kiosks confirmed at Cabinet meeting.

Hastings Community Network: nothing to report.

Website: HW will take trader deal scheme/HOTRA members to Traders Meeting in January. DW passed round samples of window and shop stickers and membership cards. Gets HOTRA in public eye and puts local shops on map. Many thanks to DW, excellent cards/stickers.

Action HW & DW

Hackers - be warned of very clever email hacking, beware of attachments. Back-up system for HOTRA website for next meeting agenda.

Chairman's Report

Apology: cancellation of last months' meeting not advised to HW. Apologies from DE!

Isobel Blackman Centre: business case put together by JH and others for running cost of IBC v closing it and providing alternative care won the day. Will be run by independent organisation, possibly Age UK, including community hub and restaurant to maximise use. Staff and their Terms and Conditions to be transferred to new organisation, staff continuity essential for patients. DE to write to Steve Hare (Age UK Director) voicing HOTRA's concerns. Must ensure IBC safe for future. Mount Denys closed, Pinehill will be when another place identified within Borough. **Action DE**

Storytelling Festival: very successful. Thanks to DW for good website info and PW for setting up finances.

Planning:

- a) Toilets & land in Rock-a-Nore to be demolished, three houses to be built. JH to investigate and report to BN.
- b) Burdett Place, installation of solar panels. DE to write to HBC Conservation Officer for policy, JB to ask OHPS for view. **Action: DE & JB**
- c) Old Hastings House, new wooden replacement windows.
- d) Stopping off part of Torfield Close due to maintenance work.
- e) 16-18 proposed parking spaces identified. Part of bus lay-by opposite Old Hastings House

could be used for more. DE to write to HBC and ESCC (cc Amber Rudd MP), also to Chair of Stables Theatre Trust re their car park.

The Crown in All Saints Street should be open spring 2014.

Ice house site - penthouse accommodation should be available next spring. If money is available work progresses on site.

Members Concerns

- Dim street lighting in All Saints Street, worse than before. HBC say no, and new LED lights to be installed next year. Porch lights can be installed, check with Raymond Crawford (HBC Development Manager).
- Dustcart drivers seem to take delight in deliberately blocking All Saints Street causing traffic hold-ups.
- Recycling: please don't leave out black gull-proof sacks, hazard on pavements. No black boxes delivered for recycling bottles. JH/DE to do walk-about in New Year.
- Electric chair "ride" at Pelham Place Family Amusements in very bad taste. What does it say about Hastings?
- Camper van parked on corner of Croft Road in very bad state. Has it been dumped?
- Derelict house Love Lane/Salters Lane. Overhanging wall becoming unsafe.
- Scaffolding: how long should it remain after job completed? Permission should be sought if it is on the public highway and must be provided with lights.
- Bench outside Roebuck Surgery stolen. DE to write to Roebuck.
- Jerwood Gallery making staff redundant then asking for volunteers! After discussion DE to write to Chair of Jerwood Foundation asking how they could work more closely with the community here. (*Note: no representation on Coastal User's Group either*)

Future Programme

Next meetings: Tuesday 14 January at Dick's (East Hill House), Tuesday 11 February at Harris's (27 George Street (entrance in West Street).

New Year newsletter to be delivered to all households.

Meeting finished at 8.30 p.m. Thanks to Bruce for his hospitality.

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year