

**HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING 8 APRIL 2014**

James Deasley described his ideas for improvements at west end of George Street:

- Roadway moved allowing tables/chairs outside fish/chips shop plus photovoltaic window panels and extra storeys (planning permission already obtained) to make more of a landmark building.
- Replace amusement arcade with houses over small shops.
- Archway to make ceremonial entrance, "blue wave" design of metal/fibreglass with fishing boat etc. Henry Morton appears to want to close nightclub/amusements for shops/houses. Chris Richards may be interested on his behalf. Good business opportunity for private investment. HOTRA member Bridgit Barry wrote to DE with suggested design similar to boat foreshore structure with George Street sign on top and double sided maps at each side.

DE to include this in newsletter and speak to Chris Richards re small exhibition at AGM with notepads available for comments. Thanks to James Deasley, all agreed good RIBA exhibition at Priory Meadow. JB made list of ideas proposed which is attached to these minutes. **Action: DE, JB**

Apologies: June Prior, Cllr Dawn Poole

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Elizabeth Stevens, Bruce Nicol, Cllr John Hodges, David Woolfe, Ann Novotny, Phil White, Kate Francis, Shirley Hawley, Harris Woodcock

Minutes of 11 March Committee Meeting and any Matters Arising: Minutes agreed.

Bus lay-bye at end of Old London Road: JH reported Quality Bus Partnership may consider extending pavement to encourage buses to keep in traffic lane instead of parking.

Roebuck bench: JH reported HBC have sourced and paid for new bench to be fitted shortly.

JB queried why no-one objected to Trader's request for longer licensing hours - DE has spent many hours at past meetings with HOTRA's objections, as Police not objecting more time doing so not justified.

Butler's Gap: JH will check with Richard Holmwood but doubtful whether repairs will be finished in time for Jack-in-the-Green. **Action: JH**

Secretary's Report: nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

HOTRA Co-op Bank A/C £771.06 plus £150 to be paid in. Four donations and eight prints. 156 paid-up members. PW to give DE list of those who paid last year but not this year, what can HOTRA do to encourage them to renew? Discussion re insurers (PW's email), DE proposed changing to Markel Insurance Consultants at £185.50, all agreed. **Action: PW/DE**

Hastings Community Network: KF no longer on executive committee but happy to go to network meetings if no other volunteer. Thanks KF!

Website: DW has spent much time on Illustrators Event at Stade Hall 4-7 December. 12 illustrators signed up with 4-5 probables. Exhibits from students at Hastings Coast College also included. HOTRA supporting but PW has set up separate bank account. See <http://illustrationhastings.org> for more details. DW will put that link onto HOTRA website.

Chairman's Report

AGM speaker: Zoe Ashdown has accepted.

Winkle Island Noticeboards: 3 completed, HOTRA's will be there by Friday 11th.

Special Licensing Review: Good response from supermarkets/off-licenses re banning cheap high alcohol drink. All agreed DE to write to Katie Bourne cc Jeremy Birch with HOTRA's concerns re impact of withdrawal of police numbers especially after special events. What is HBC doing about alcohol-free zones? Arrests made for street drinking in main town, what about Old Town? We don't want our well-organised annual events to be

stopped. **Action: DE**

East Hill Steps: All agreed DE to write thank-you letter to HBC for good quality fencing.

Action DE

Planning:

Yacht & Motor Boat Club want to use land formerly used as dog pound for storing kayaks. No objections.

Members Concerns

JH to follow-up on:

- Broken paving outside Unicorn House.
- Weight restrictions needed on large lorries especially breweries. Ruining roads and kerbstones.
- Rubbish left in St Clement's Churchyard, big bins needed.
- Field at top of allotment and pathway need cutting.
- Missing handrail at top of steps by Pump House.

- Students en masse causing concern. Must be middle course between welcoming them and needs of residents and other visitors.
- Royal Standard: noisy, drinkers outside after 11 pm, offensive behaviour. New landlord unaware of rules?
- The Crown hopes to open on May Day as "pub with good English food"
- Cyclists in George Street not using bells, safety concern.

Events:

- America Ground Exhibition at History House
- Sea Shanties and Fish Rolls at Fishermen's Museum Saturday 12 April
- First Hastings Folk Festival 6-10 May
- Pirate Day on Sunday 20 July

Future Programme

AGM: Special all households newsletter for Annual Report to include Clean Seas Please Campaign, RIBA proposals for George Street Archway, update on Isobel Blackman Centre, the new trading scheme and High Street safety.

All present were happy to continue on the HOTRA Committee.

Next Meetings: Tuesday 13 May at Ann's (to include Work Plan items); 9 June at David's, 7 July at tbc

AOB: JH gave apologies for 13 May meeting. Cllr DP to attend instead.

Meeting finished at 8.35 p.m. Thanks to Phil for his hospitality.