

**HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING 12 NOVEMBER 2014**

**Apologies:** Cllr. Dawn Poole, Richard Stevens, Phil White, Cllr. John Hodges.

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

**Minutes of 7 October Committee Meeting and any Matters Arising:** Minutes agreed. Cllr. DP has requested re-planting and cutting back of foliage by Market Cross.

**Secretary's Report:** JB circulated Committee email list for any updates. Next Coastal Users Group Meeting is 18 November, also the AGM. Of agenda subjects bathing water quality remains urgent, insufficient action from Southern Water, and more lighting/road re-surfacing in Rock-a-Nore Road and car park to be made priority after recent transfer of earmarked funds for White Rock Baths project. JB to take HOTRA's concerns to meeting and also ask for more play equipment for older children near MUGA if possible.

**Treasurer's Report:** £459.69 in current account. No change in membership of 197.

**Hastings Community Network:** nothing of significance to report.

**Website:** Because of hijacks of our website and very slow administration section, DW suggested changing our website to different hosting and very generously offered to do this himself to save HOTRA costs. PW (tbc) and KF to be custodians. Link to new site of hotra.org will be done. Unanimous thanks to DW.

### **Chairman's Report**

*Marine Parade Fire:* DE had walkabout with Nigel Cusack (ESFRS). Particular problems identified:

- Dilapidated condition of some houses in alleyways and poor access
- Fire appliances unable to get up Swan Terrace and into Hill Street without difficulty and possible damage to appliance. Small fire engine needed, landrover not fully equipped and only used in country areas.
- Residents in Church Passage vulnerable for escape in case of fire.
- Fire escape for residents of flats near John the Cobbler through overgrown garden.
- Lack of high fences and warning notices around generator.
- Commercial waste bins with paper stuffed around them fire hazard.
- Cut-backs may mean lack of induction for new fire fighters about Old Town.

Another meeting is scheduled for 20 November to continue walkabout. 3D model of Old Town needed for fire training. List of alleyways/twitterns at risk needed.

*Response from HBC re Safer Hastings Partnership:* response only received today, 12 November.

*Commercial Waste and Recycling Bins:* no response.

*Hastings Embroidery and 2016 Celebrations:* Cllr. J Birch is considering its exhibition "somewhere" in 2016.

*FLAG Meetings:* changes of date/time often made very last-minute.

**Ecclesbourne Glen Update** The Save Ecclesbourne Glen group is now opening a bank account to receive donations towards legal costs. The group is about to present to HBC its formal response to both the Bahcheli report on the Procedure Review of the Rocklands Caravan Park and RH Environmental Compliance Audit of the caravan park licence of Rocklands, both of which are alleged to contain significant errors and omissions. The group is particularly concerned that the remit of Tezel Bahcheli had resulted in inevitable conflict of interest and that the compliance report was released almost 2 months after its publication date. Both reports are welcomed but their flaws pose a major threat that many of assaults on this special area will be allowed to remain with no remediation or attribution of responsibility. HOTRA members may well be aware that Amber Rudd has requested the Secretary of State to constitute a public inquiry into the HBC Planning Department. They may not be aware of an application by Rocklands to cut back, reduce, lift crowns, re-coppice or remove a significant number of trees within the Rocklands site. Despite a statement in the Bahcheli report, it seems that many trees on the site are not covered by the new Tree Preservation Orders and the legal protection of the remaining trees is questionable. The SEG group is working hard to ensure that no tree is removed or reduced without expert evidence that this is necessary so to do, especially in the light of the role of trees in reducing water run-off onto the site of the landslip – the Hastings Cliff Special Area of Conservation. Help from any architects surveyors, planners or tree specialists would be appreciated. [saveecclesbourne.org](http://saveecclesbourne.org)

*Clive Vale Residents Association:* Letters have been exchanged.

*Saturday 6 December - an Old Town Christmas:* event organised by new group of traders and residents. Includes *Elf* showing at Electric Palace, treasure trail, children's activities in All Saints Hall, etc. Please email [oldtownchristmas@gmail.com](mailto:oldtownchristmas@gmail.com) to volunteer on the day or beforehand. DW to put details on HOTRA website.

**Planning:** Nothing significant.

### **Members Concerns**

- Pot holes in All Saints Street
- Petty crimes (stolen bike, vandalised cars etc.), reported to local PCSO but no response. Action from Cllrs JH and DP please!
- Over bright new light in garden in Sinnock Square not rectified. What's happening to new LED lights?
- Large van permanently parked opposite Unicorn House in apparent disabled bay.
- Thanks to HBC Parks Dept. for prompt attention to overgrowth left at end of Waterloo Place.
- Path between brewery and Torfield Allotments very overgrown, causing obstruction.
- Is locked twittern by side of 134 All Saints Street a right of way? Policy needed. HOTRA are opposed to any loss of access due to twitterns being locked. This would affect emergency services access and escape routes for residents in case of fire.
- Back of premises along left side of George Street at end opposite amusements in very poor condition.
- Concern over beggars and their dogs in George Street.
- After boarding removed in Butlers Gap, who cleans up? Part of boarding removed recently so access could be gained to dangerous site. HOTRA ask for guarantees site is cleaned, rubbish disposed of, any damage is rectified and compensation given for loss of earnings.
- DE to publicise possible coach trip to *House of Illustration* in next newsletter.
- Large wheelie bin outside *Duke of Wellington* still there despite complaints to HBC.

Forthcoming Events:

- Saturday 15 November *Priscilla McBean* paraded to her new home
- Saturday and Sunday 15 and 16 November *Storytelling Festival*
- Saturday 15 November *Hastings Philharmonic Choir at St Clements*
- Saturday 15 November talk about WW1 and exhibition
- Saturday 15 November last night of *My Boy Jack* at the Stables Theatre (recommended)
- Saturday 15 November *Hastings in WW1* talk at Hastings History House

**Items for Parish News** To include topics discussed at meeting.

### **AOB**

DE has Sir Quentin Blake 2015 Calendars for sale at £10 each.

Good feedback on this year's Bonfire night on 18 October. HOTRA fully supports all the traditional parades, festivals and events, and wish to thank all the organisations who put in so much effort to their success.

**Future Programme: Tuesday 9 December at Bruce's, 13 January 2015 tba**

Meeting finished at 8.50 p.m. Thanks to Dick for his hospitality.