

**HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING 13 JANUARY 2015**

**Apologies:** None

**Attendees:** Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, David Woolfe, Shirley Hawley, Elizabeth Stevens, Kate Francis, Bruce Nicol, Phil White, Cllr. John Hodges, Cllr. Dawn Poole, Richard Stevens, Ann Novotny. Welcome to Satu Pitkanen as an observer to this meeting.

**Minutes of 9 December Committee Meeting and any Matters Arising:** Minutes agreed. Work continues slowly on Butlers Gap. Insurance company tbc ....

**Secretary's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** £429.65 in current account plus membership renewals to pay in.

**HVA:** Nothing to report.

**Website:** After discussions with Satu Pitkanen (SP), DW suggests we could benefit from her experience with: a) identifying potential sponsors for future HOTRA activities/associations we would wish to support; b) social media coverage; c) compiling programme of what's on in Hastings; d) compiling of what's on in the Old Town. Suggest Michael Plumbe be contacted as his knowledge of local events would be very helpful re d).

### **Chairman's Report**

*Fire Safety Campaign:* DE has already received responses to article in January newsletter. Kent have ordered 37 smaller fire appliances: East Sussex also needs to find the money. All May General Election candidates need to be aware of HOTRA's campaign. JH to ask Councillors who represent East Sussex Fire & Rescue for its inclusion on the agenda. Licensing of landlords may mean some have to spend money to make their properties safe.

*Isabel Blackman Centre:* Transfer to Sussex Community Development Association going ahead after slight delay.

*Ecclesbourne Glen:* Planning Application HS/FA/14/01036 submitted for retention of holiday let building (with reduction of balcony area to the dimensions permitted by HS/FA/12/00952) and access ramp. Relocation of solar panels to roof of holiday let building. Many objections submitted. This should be rejected for strongest possible reasons if it goes to Planning Inspector to avoid further problems.

*Southern Water:* All agreed DE to send Freedom of Information Request to HBC asking for information between themselves and Southern Water to be shared with HOTRA. Extended outfall pipe is really needed. Environment Agency need to be more proactive and press Southern Water to do so. If a plan is made for a solution then deadline could move to a later date. JH will keep us posted.

*Residents Parking Scheme:* ESCC proposals for on-line and mobile payment system is in addition to existing payment scheme.

*Bottle Alley Investment:* Money allocated from HBC for concrete repairs and improved lighting. Survey to be commissioned.

### **Planning**

*West Hill Pavilion:* proposal for land formerly an orchard to be used to build three-storey artists studio and residence. Only access would be through car park of West Hill House. Many objections have been submitted, but some people would accept a lesser development. HOTRA have objected, and asked DP to speak against this. After discussions BN asked to submit another strenuous objection from HOTRA.

### **Members Concerns**

- Could Lloyds Chemist open on Saturday mornings again? DE to write to them.
- Resident's Permit Holder parking going paperless: how do we know who is parking legally?
- A "baby sinkhole" has appeared in road between Turners and Fagins in High Street.

- DE to follow-up on removal of unnecessary magazine/newspaper recycling bins.
- New LED lighting ongoing.
- No prior notification (except on window) of Turners renovations. Pavement access frequently blocked.
- Collapse of scaffolding in George Street on 24 December, apparently hit by truck, scaffolding not tied in properly. No company name, who was responsible?
- Light over steps at side of Fishermen's Institute still not fixed since October. DE to chase. *Post-meeting note: contractors were working on it today (14 January). Well done!*
- Reversal of traffic flow in High Street and All Saints Street not true, but further consultation on High Street improvements will happen soon.
- Shrubbery at top of All Saints Street not pruned.
- Free leaflets from Fire Brigade offering advice are apparently only for those over 65, disabled or smokers.
- Glass recycling boxes started to appear but not everyone has one.

## **AOB**

Future events:

- OHPS talk: "A Bayswater Murder with local connections" at 5.30 p.m. History House (£2.50)
- "The Ladykillers" at Stables Theatre, opening night 6 February.

**Future Programme:** Tuesday 10 February at David's, Tuesday 10 March at Phil's. **AGM Friday 15 May**

Meeting finished at 8.30 p.m. Thanks to Anne for her hospitality.