

Hastings Old Town Residents Association

Committee meeting 15 July 2015

Present: Dick Edwards, Elizabeth Stevens, Richard Stevens, Bruce Nichol, Ann Novotny, David Woolf.

In attendance: Shirley Hawley, Cllr John Hodges.

Apologies: Phil White, Jill Bradley, Satu Pitkanen, Cllr Dawn Poole.

Minutes of June's meeting were agreed and accepted.

Matters arising: DE reported that he has not yet written to Polly Gifford regarding the date of the 2016 celebration of 1066 and incorporation of Hastings Week.

Seafront rickshaw service is now in operation and committee are glad that the many obstacles have been overcome.

Chairman's report

Resignation of Kate Francis and Recruitment of Replacement

The committee offered a vote of thanks to Kate for her sterling contribution over several years.

A principal concern is to replace Kate on the Hastings Community Network, although DE stated that the body was far less active or influential as it had been. DW also notified his wish to hand on the webmaster responsibilities and to resign from the committee as new people can be identified and recruited. DE to draft a mailshot to go to all email subscribers and in the next Parish News report.

West St: A meeting on site with Peter Chowney is scheduled for 11 August. It is noted that ESCC has no highways budget that could be used for this project but the enforcement of licencing conditions is an issue that could be tackled. To date no response has been forthcoming on the review date for the Night-time Saturation Review. JH reported that the matter had been discussed at ESCC meetings and that there is no additional police availability, so it has to be down to licencees to adhere by the terms of their licences.

Old Town Hall: DE had had a site visit, together with Anne Scott at the end of June and huge potential can be seen for the building. Sue Dawson, Chair of Hastings Talking Newspaper Association, has written with a list of potential activities for which the building could be used and the committee were urged to circulate these ideas to their friends and neighbours for discussion and feedback. RS noted that a very commercial rent is sought by HBC and that there are still finger posts that show the building to be the TIC. DE stated the need to

involve younger members of the community and exemplified the Robsack and Renaissance community centres and Jackson Hall as successful models.

FLAG Meeting 1 June

DE had attended this meeting. Over £1m has been spent on projects such as the winch road, winch hut extensions, programmes for young people to visit the fish market, Kitchen on the Stade, etc. He questioned whether this activity would result in sustaining fishing jobs for the next five years or so. JH noted that half the money for capital projects had come from the Foreshore Trust.

Fire Appliances: DE reported that the review of the need for smaller appliances had concluded that they were needed but it is unlikely that they will be in place before 2016/17. JH stated that it made it all the more important that there is an active programme of education and familiarisation of firefighters and residents.

Quentin Blake Exhibition at Jerwood Gallery: DE urged everyone to visit the exhibition of 24 new works depicting many Old Town activities. A proportion of the proceeds for the sale of work is being donated by Sir Quentin to Jerwood educational outreach projects.

Flamingo Park: DE asked whether HBC would bring forward plans to 'not renew' the lease. JH indicated that the only grounds for such action would be that HBC needed the site for its own use, and this is unlikely.

Ecclesbourne Glen: DE noted the good attendance at the recent protest picnic on East Hill and asked what could now be done to replace the lost access to the Glen for East Hill. As the repair of the footpath on the area of landslip is unlikely any time soon, he asked if a further request could be made to the owners of Rocklands Caravan park that a footpath is made through their site. JH agreed to pursue this again.

Member concerns

Elizabeth Stevens :Continuing problems with litter bins (Harold Road bus stop). Language student groups mobbing local shop and generally out of control.

Shirley Hawley: There has been a Coast Review of the Lifeboat Station attracting a huge attendance. A bid is in progress for a new offshore boat for the station.

Ann Novotny: Refitting and direction of Turners seems likely to force the departure of the family that have been managing it for some time. No work has yet started on fire-damaged building on Marine Parade; JH will talk to Marcus Berrisford about the delay. Church Passage (lower part) is a mess and adjoining churchyard is overgrown. It seems that HBC only manage this biannually. Light Steps also routinely messy.

Richard Stevens: The new ESCC councillor for Old Town is Tania Charman and we should invite her to our meetings. Traders and others are complaining about street beggars in

George Street; JH stated that he recently wrote to Mike Hepworth about this. He and others expressed disappointment that there is to be no street party this year.

David Woolf: Domestic waste in street bins and the inadequacy of gull-proof bags – many now damaged or not used by those who cannot handle them because of their height and bulk.

Bruce Nichol: Continuing failure of lighting sub-contractors to resolve remaining missing, double or wrongly-sited lights.

Future Programme : 11th August Meeting : Chairman will decide whether this is necessary.

September Meeting : 09.09.15 : Ann will confirm whether this can be at ' Garden Cottage.'

Parish News Items : Dick has already completed his contribution which included the Quentin Blake Exhibition and the need for small Fire Appliances.

Many thanks to Agnes and Bruce for their hospitality