

HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 9 FEBRUARY 2016

JB and her partner are moving away from Hastings and JB gave notice of her resignation from HOTRA effective from the 13 May AGM.

Apologies: Richard Stevens, Cllr. Dawn Poole, ESCCllr. Tania Charmin, Phil White

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Bruce Nicol, Ann Novotny, Shirley Hawley, Elizabeth Stevens, Richard Platt (first half), Satu Pitkanen.

Minutes of 12 January and any Matters Arising not listed below

Minutes were agreed. ESCCC TC and Cllr DP "horrified" at condition of West Street during walk-through with DE. Apparently street cleaning machine considered too big to access street (use of smaller one?). DE to request progress report. Possible Planning Inquiry this week at Town Hall.

Reports

Secretary's Report: good news concerning reinstatement of miniature railway in Alexandra Park (Your News page of 5 February Hastings & St Leonards Observer, Facebook, etc.) by Dan Radcliffe who operates Stade railway. Open every Saturday and Sunday from 13 February, Bank Holidays (excl. 25 December), Tuesdays to Thursdays during school holidays. At £1 per ride this is excellent value - please all come and support it! JB will organise visit for HOTRA Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance is £1, 753.94 (incl. £925 to pay in). 138 paid-up members in 2016 so far, 108 gave email addresses.

Website: no further news to report.

Old Town Portal: Instagram has 341 followers. Facebook page is set up. More events received for diary section, and one volunteer. SP working on *What's On* mailing to go out every Thursday in time for weekend.

Chairman's Report

Finding more parking spaces - ESCC officer visit on 22 January: Very helpful. ESCC to contact owner of Brewery Yard re potential there. Eight spaces in Bourne adjacent to Bourne Car Park to become dual-use (Pay & Display OR Residents permit holders). A review of all Disabled spaces allocations will check that all are currently in use. Possibilities of Stables car park at limited times, bus lay-bys in Old London Road and Harold Road. ESCC officer to report back to DE.

High Street improvement works: work is progressing.

Old Town Hall Museum: Previously incomplete proposal by a Dutch company re commercial interest now a firm proposal. Public meeting proposed for 14 March on hold pending developments.

Cabinet Meeting 1 Feb. at Stade Hall: Tories requested review of Planning Department. Meeting "shambolic", and problems with microphones etc. Nothing resolved. Taxi licensing: taxis considered expensive, disabled access ones to be booked in advance. HBC propose a review with possible de-regulation of taxi licences.

Refurbished Hastings Library: work to be finished by March 2017 on children's library. ESCC have accepted Sir Quentin Blake's offer to donate an artwork to also be used to make small saleable items. Concerns that same level of reference facilities and family history research will be available post-refurbishment.

Robert Mucci's letter: letter written to *The Observer* voicing his concerns re High Street improvements had been replied to at length by DE.

Black Market changes: appealing against refusal for longer hours licence on grounds food no longer served.

High Sheriff: Michael Foster is High Sheriff of East Sussex and will be attending HOTRA AGM in full costume. All agreed he should be given a sheriff's badge at the meeting

Post-meeting note on Friday 12 February: I learnt this morning of the death of John Hodges. This is really sad news. DE

Planning

Nothing to report.

Members Concerns

- No action taken re canopy at 29 Croft Road (next to "Foyles House") almost collapsing and dangerous. DE to contact Cllr. DP
- Who is new HBC Conservation Officer? Two had short-term contracts before Christmas.
- BT Infinity available in All Saints Street but not in High Street or The Croft. DE to contact HBC Leader.

Two future events at Hastings History House, 21 Courthouse St.: 5.30 pm on Saturday 13 Feb. talk re Great Dixter, and 19 - 21 Feb. Book Sale.

Future Programme:

Tuesday 15 March at Satu's (134 The Croft)

Tuesday 12 April venue tbc

AGM 6.30 for 7 p.m. Friday 13 May

Items for Newsletter: Old Town website and *What's On*, parking, Sir Quentin Blake's artwork, High Street improvements.

Meeting finished at 8.25 p.m. Thanks to Ann for her hospitality.