

HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 13 APRIL 2016

Apologies: Richard Platt, Richard Stevens, Satu Pitkanen, Cllrs. Poole and Charmin

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Bruce Nicol, Ann Novotny, Shirley Hawley, Elizabeth Stevens, Phil White

Minutes of 15 March and any Matters Arising not listed below

Minutes were agreed.

Reports

Secretary's Report: nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance is £2,261.94 (incl. £40 to pay in). 167 paid-up members to date, including 45 new or returning. Phil also presented draft of Receipts and Payments Account for Year Ended 31 March 2016 and this was unanimously agreed. Thanks to Phil for his hard work.

Website: no changes.

Old Town Portal: no changes.

Chairman's Report

Old Town Hall Museum: Monday evening meetings very well attended. HBC considered Dutch company's retail proposal inadequate and support community use, but will that change if there's a change of political party after May council elections? Please see attachment *Hastings Old Town Hall Aims and Objectives*.

Broadband speeds and report of site visit with BT on 30 March: outcome was the bigger junction box needed should be sited by small substation in Swan Gardens. BUT there will be a nine month delay before any work is done. Is this good enough for one of the poorest town in the SE where many work from home?

Flamingo Park refurbishment (rides, boating lake, etc): lease due for renewal in 2017. What happened to proposed plans including new miniature railway stations? We have been told Stade Developments will update us once their plans have been approved.

Brighton University: they have given two year's notice of pulling out of Hastings. This is very disappointing for students, jobs, Observer building use for accommodation, and for town generally. Apparently there was expectations of a proper campus, and local take-up fell short of that expected.

Planning

A Public hearing regarding the appeal by Rocklands Caravan Park will be held in Sussex Hall, White Rock Theatre, at 10 a.m. on 21 April (possibly continuing on 22 April). JB will attend.

Members Concerns

Rubbish/Recycling

JB remains concerned at lack of progress on clearing public paper recycling bin opposite The Cinque Ports pub and continual mess/unlocked door of public waste bin at junction of Henry Terrace and All Saints Street.

Post-meeting note: email from Cllr DP (who has been on holiday and off sick) said that Council officers actually took Kier out to show them the problem. An offer was made to remove the bins and DP suggested they change them to rubbish bins as there is clearly a need for bins for dog mess (Kier's inadequate excuse for not emptying them was they were full of dog poo) and emptied more frequently. I told her bin remains full and now overflowing and she'll get back to me with an update.

JB also concerned about glass/pink recycling bags thrown into rubbish collection lorry witnessed in All Saints Street and Courthouse St. on Monday 11/4. Broken glass audible - clearly this won't be sorted at depot so all will be put in landfill with rubbish. This is unacceptable.

DE mentioned rubbish in some black gull-proof bags not collected on Monday 11/4 from Tackleway. Has waste collection in the Old Town been downgraded? Hasn't the Council Tax just increased?

Street beggars are evident in George Street again and also Priory Meadow.

Thanks to scaffolders in All Saints St. opposite The Crown for clearing up and repairing minor damage.

127 people signed up to the Hastings 950th Tapestry launched at St Clement's Church on 9 April (see article in Parish News).

BN requested HOTRA's endorsement of his Linco Lingo Game for his publicity. All agreed.

Future Programme:

Tuesday 10 May @ Ann's

AGM 6.30 for 7 p.m. Friday 13 May (JB will organise drinks/nibbles). Dr Craig Namvar will update us on progress re new surgery. JB is resigning, SH wishes to remain co-opted.

Meeting finished at 8.30 p.m. Thanks to Phil for his hospitality.