

HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 10 MAY 2016

Apologies: Richard Platt, Cllrs. Poole and Charmin

Attendees: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Bruce Nicol, Ann Novotny, Shirley Hawley, Elizabeth Stevens, Phil White, Richard Stevens, Satu Pitkanen. Welcome to Cllr. James Bacon.

Minutes of 13 April and any Matters Arising not listed below: Minutes were agreed.

Reports

Secretary's Report: nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance is £2,381.94 (incl. £1600 to pay in). 171 paid-up members to date, including 48 new or returning, and 135 who have signed up for emails.

Website: no changes.

Old Town Portal: please send details of events to Satu. Weekly Thursday "mail-out" of events doing well: DE to include details in next Parish News and at forthcoming AGM.

Chairman's Report

Rocklands Caravan Park Public Hearing: JB attended on 21 April (not evening site visit). Clear, detailed reports with supporting documentation were made by interested parties (i.e. Save Ecclesbourne Glen Group) and decision is expected in about two months. HOTRA continues to be concerned about loss of public right of way for last three years. A diversion through the Caravan Park possibly?

Old Town Hall: weekly meetings well attended. Hard core of very committed people with possibility of different events/use throughout the day. A good quality souvenir shop, artwork for display/sale, and circulating library suggested for ground floor. Meeting has taken place with Youth Council to ensure young people are involved. Six month trial period essential to judge viability. Phil White has volunteered to operate separate account for OTH within HOTRA's bank account with a grant of £300 to cover expenses (similar to storytelling initiative). All agreed. Cllr. Peter Chowney supports idea of displaying Hastings Embroidery, but there are problems with expense of framing/displaying/transporting/insuring it. Dennis Collins has PowerPoint copy and has volunteered it could be shown as an alternative. Richard Platt has set up OTH website, but requests help with running it please. Any volunteers?

Jack-in-the-Green: early closure by pubs, bars etc. helped prevent any problems after the events. DE proposed writing to HBC's licensing dept. to thank licensees for being responsible on the day.

Policing levels in the Old Town: budget has already been spent on Old Town policing so there are no dedicated Police Officers or PCSOs - why not? DE will write to East Sussex Police Commissioner Katy Bourne asking for reassurance we would have Police to deter as well as deal with crimes.

Planning

Disappointment was expressed at HBC's granting of extension to licence for drinking in basement at 26 George Street. HOTRA had opposed this.

Members Concerns

Issue of dogs being allowed/not allowed on newly opened Pier. It is important to keep it pleasant and attractive to visit without dog poo/wee, which would also stain planks, many of which will bear dedications. *Post-meeting note:* JB checked the FAQ page on www.hastingspier.org.uk which states: "Well-behaved dogs on leads with responsible owners are welcome to promenade between the months of October and April. Dogs are not

permitted at events, in buildings, or on the upper deck. Guide and Assistance Dogs are welcome anytime.
This of course may be amended.

Signage on wall in Love Lane: "62-68 The Croft". Is it official?

Internet access: no progress since BT meeting. Official letter required from BT saying what/when they are doing something. Satu to check with Laidons re any progress and DE will contact Cllrs. DP/JB and MP Amber Rudd.

RS reported no changes will occur this year re Carnival Procession. HOTRA supports a pedestrian procession which will also save new pavement in High Street from heavy lorries.

Car vandalism has been reported in The Bourne and Tackleway.

Heavy Police and forensic team presence at 109 All Saints Street on 9 May. Also complaints of rubbish in garden and anti-social behaviour. DE to write to landlords Amicus Horizon.

JB reported paper recycling bin opposite Cinque Ports pub has at last been emptied. Cllr. DP intends such bins are removed and more rubbish bins to be installed. Bin at end of Henry Terrace awaits new door/new bin.

JB mentioned bad state of repair of 15 All Saints Street. JB was requested to take this to *Grotbusters* team.

Street sweeping: Tackleway is missed out, light steps and Exmouth Place need doing. Does anyone take over in Sarah's absence?

Hastings Old Town won Academy of Urbanism Award. A very good boost.

DE thanked JB very much for her work for HOTRA and all gave good wishes for her forthcoming move to the Isle of Wight with her partner. In reply JB said she'd enjoyed her time on the Committee and paid tribute to DE's hard work.

Future Programme:

Tuesday 7 June @ Dick's. (JB volunteered to attend CUG on 7 June and all agreed.)

Tuesday 5 July @ Richard Platt's.

AGM 6.30 for 7 p.m. Friday 13 May An art exhibition is currently showing in Stade Hall, care needed it is undisturbed. DE has had "sheriff's badge" made for Michal Foster as High Sheriff of East Sussex

Items for Parish News: Policing, Old Town Portal, new seating area near MUGA.

Meeting finished at 8.40 p.m. Thanks to Ann for her hospitality.