



Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

Committee meeting minutes

5th July 2016 at 18 High Street

Present: Dick Edwards, Richard Platt, Satu Pitkanen, Shirley Hawley, Elizabeth Stevens, Richard Stevens, Bruce Nicol

Apologies: ESCllr Tania Charmin, HBCllr Dawn Poole, Ann Novotny, Phil White, HBCllr James Bacon

Minutes of previous meeting

Accepted as an accurate record with the following corrections and additions: ES pointed out that Lesley Jarvis should be recorded as “in attendance”, as she is not a member of the management committee.

Ecclesbourne Glen: the planning inspectorate had found in favour of Hastings council, and will be requiring only very minor changes to the “bunker”.

Matters Arising

Skateboarders: the *Source Park* charge of £6 is deterring local skateboarders from using the centre, and they have returned to their previous favourite spots. **AGREED** to press for local residents to have a discount.

Graffiti: awaiting answers from the HBC about a clean-up; presently they are saying it's on private property so they will do nothing. SP has found a company that can remove graffiti from historic buildings and MAY be able to get rid of them, but who would pay? **AGREED** DE to contact the leader of the HSBC to try and progress this.

Flamingo Park: It is run down and tatty and the paving is in need of repair. This is the only part of the seafront that has not been refurbished recently. Henry Morton the elderly owner has not been to Hastings in five years, but lease-holders have automatic right of renewal, and the council do not seem to be applying any pressure for improvements. **AGREED** DE will again write a letter.

Reports

TREASURER: Phil White's report has been circulated. Membership numbers are the highest they have been for ten years.

WEBSITE: RP apologised for failing to add further pictures as he had undertaken to do.

OLD TOWN PORTAL: thriving. Now has 843 followers on Instagram and 277 names on the email list.

CHAIRMAN: has written to Amber Rudd about **smaller fire engines**, and about the dilapidated condition of **West Street**. No response yet but the letter and any reply will be posted on the website.

A discussion followed about commercial wheelie bins outside St Mary in the Castle and elsewhere. Vermin are a related problem.

Discounted residents' parking on Rock-a-Nore: our proposal is that for an annual fee of (eg) £20, residents could park without charge between 4pm and 10am. HBCllr Dawn Poole says that cost would be too high to give residents a discount because the windscreen disc scheme has ended, and identifying qualifying vehicles would be too difficult. However, head of parking at ESCC says that there is no real problem of Hastings accessing the county database to make the concession practical. **AGREED** DE will contact him to move this on.

I-Rock service: DE outlined this one-year youth mental health pilot, which is open to young people on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11am-7pm at Rock House, 49–51 Cambridge Road, Hastings.

Old Town Hall: DE reported progress. Members of the group have submitted a proposal to HBC consisting of: a mission statement; aims and objectives; a summary of proposals; projected figures for a trial period, a list of potential activities, including people interested in organising them; and CV's of future trustees of the *Hastings Old Town Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation*. DE outlined "early bird" events including *Women of Sussex*. Council must prove probity before giving concessions on rent, but DE optimistic about a peppercorn rent after the first rent-free year. Coastal communities fund round five might become available next summer, thus perhaps paying any rent imposed. **AGREED** to send a formal letter to Anne Scott and Marilyn Saklatvala, thanking them for their fantastic help.

New committee members. SP suggested approaching business owners so that they were represented on the committee. Two names of individuals suggested. SP will put a message in the Old Town Portal/What's On mail out.

Old town mascot James Bacon had suggested adopting/creating one. The idea was greeted with limited enthusiasm.

Big Lunch James also suggested this pot-luck community meal with different organisations taking a table: pot-luck. More positive response from the committee to this one. DE to reply.

Planning

Nothing to report

Member's concerns

ES: admired the floral planting on All Saint's Street but advised pedestrians to take care when negotiating them.

RS: reported 52-seater coach attempting to turn into Courthouse Street and drew attention to the persistent flouting of "No Motor Vehicles" sign which is not conspicuous.

RP: reported a hearse parking outside the Catholic church for the duration of a requiem mass, thereby blocking the High Street; and the danger of speeding motorcycles on the High Street. **AGREED** DE will write to County Hall.

SP: bins emptying is still a problem as some are missed, and the website for reporting failure to empty bins not working. **AGREED** Dick will write to the leader of HBC about the Kier contract.

BN: hole in pavement outside 22 Croft Road and other pavement problems.

AGREED DE will add to a pending letter about the handrail at the High Street steps end of Church Passage.

General: Anti-social behaviour in the OT including rise of street drug dealing.

Any other business

Doctors surgery on Rock-a-Nore. Planning application is in. HOTRA fully support.

Next meeting

13 September at SP's house.