



## Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

### Committee meeting minutes

Held Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 34 The Croft.

**Present:** Dick Edwards, Richard Platt, Satu Pitkanen, Shirley Hawley, Elizabeth Stevens, Richard Stevens, Bruce Nicol, Ann Novotny, Phil White, *Hazel Lloyd, Christiane Gunzi, Vivienne Harrison.*

Apologies from both ward councillors Dawn Poole and James Bacon.

Dick Edwards greeted three members (*italics above*) who had expressed an interest in joining the Committee.

### Minutes of previous meeting 5th July

Accepted as an accurate record

### Matters Arising

... and not listed as separate agenda items below :

No response from Amber Rudd MP about smaller fire appliances, and West Street.

No response from HBC about discounted prices for local people at the Source skateboard park.

The committee expressed disappointment that we had not received replies.

### Reports

#### Minutes Secretary & website – RP

Very little to report

#### Treasurer – PW

No new members

£25 donation received

An email report will follow

#### Old Town Portal – SP

Increasing numbers of subscribers.

#### Planning matters

Application to convert Ice House surgery has been refused.

DE outlined reasons why it's necessary to move out of Roebuck

He went on to explain the reasons for refusal.

The full report on the application, and the reasons for refusal can be found by [clicking here](#).

RP described some details in the report that provided grounds for optimism that an appeal would succeed.

Craig Namvar invited to the meeting but could not attend. He is taking advice before deciding how to proceed

**ACTION** DE to write to CN to offer HOTRA's support for the scheme and a possible appeal against the refusal.

### **Chairman's Report**

**Litter + street cleansing + rubbish collection** – no effective action yet from HBC in securing a reasonable service from Kier.

DE said that HBC claim Kier is also providing a poor service in other councils

Councillor James Bacon maintains that satisfaction is at 100%

Traders are very indignant at the litter problem.

**Graffiti:** DE raised the issue at the Coastal Users Group. He explained the multi-stage procedure for reporting graffiti and getting it removed.

**ACTION** VH will investigate the procedure to notify HBC about graffiti, and put it in easy-to-follow steps that we can publicise to members.

**Flamingo Park Amusements:** lease has been renewed for 25 years [ actual date for renewal is Feb 2017 ends January 2032 ] Old leaseholder (Henry Morton) sold on the new lease the day after renewal for several million pounds. No details yet of any plans from the new leaseholders.

DE reported that the lease was drafted many years ago, and puts few obligations on the leaseholder. The lease was renewed without the previously-promised consultation of HOTRA.

The land is owned by the Foreshore Trust, which could potentially derive more income if the rent on the site was increased, though the terms of the lease appear to allow only very modest increases.

**Old Town Hall** – a letter has been sent to Cllr Chowney expressing disappointment that proposals for a community use of the OTH have been rejected in favour of a commercial scheme for activities for children with disabilities.

There was an animated discussion about the viability of the accepted scheme. Though the committee applauded the admirable aims of the scheme that has been adopted, there were misgivings about what would happen to the lease if the accepted scheme fails: could it be sold on?

**Old Town policing** – an unsigned letter from residents in High St, Hill St, Croft Rd and Coburg Place has been sent to Sussex Police headquarters expressing concerns noise from Porters wine bar and Swan Terrace and general disorder.

Discussion followed about similar incidents around the Old Town, and the possibility that Katie Bourne (Kent's police and crime commissioner) could intervene.

**1066 celebrations and Hastings Week** This will conclude with 2 parades on Saturday 15th October – roads closed from 15.00.

**Coastal Users Group** - HBC is spending £4m for 2 new groynes opposite Robertson Street – but still no decision to remove the ugly sewer pipe! SouthernWater have refused to pay for removal

## **OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

BN report including revised plans for [West Hill Pavilion](#), Exmouth Place, Hastings, TN34 3JA: “Demolition of workshop and erection of new dwelling/ attached workshop & new detached garden office.”

A revised application has been submitted.

HOTRA objects on the following issues...

- Housing density
- Access for building materials
- Fire engine access
- Loss of wildlife habitat

Residents on the High St whose homes will be overlooked have employed a planning consultant to oppose the scheme.

[34a The Croft](#), TN34 3HH: “2 Storey detached single family house”

HOTRA continue to oppose this development which is at appeal.

**ACTION:** BN is writing to HBC planning to say that both scheme are little different from the previous application and that HOTRA’s earlier objections are still valid.

BN outlined application for a **lean-to on Old Humphrey Avenue** which does not require any intervention from HOTRA.

**Seed wine bar on George St has submitted an application for extended opening hours** until 1 am on Fridays and Saturdays. It appears to have been granted, contrary to the Saturation Policy for the Old Town.

A licensing sub committee application is pending for September 20th.

**ACTION** DE will object to the licensing sub committee.

## **MEMBERS’ CONCERNS**

**Anne:** Pump House steps are revolting and filthy. Outside 1 The Croft: paving has been damaged. **ACTION:** DE will report to County Council

**Phil:** kerb stone in Crown Lane

**Satu:** dog mess, and smelly drains on George St

**Bruce:** weed jungle in Sinnock Passage. Pelham Crescent paving ruined by chewing gum, cracks in slabs, and hideous bins that spread grease.

**Vivienne:** 20 mph speed limit in Croft Road widely and dangerously ignored. Fly tipping at the top of Croft Road.

**Shirley:** foliage at the junction of All Saints St and Harold Road is too high and impairs visibility. Christiane offered to cut it down. HOTRA offered to pay her fine. Motorbike parking on Winkle Island.

**Richard S:** our local councillors are not doing their job and they should attend our meetings or at least send a report.

**Christiane:** bonfire parade pyrotechnics are too loud and terrify pets.

**ACTION** DE will write to the Hastings Bonfire Society.

## **FUTURE PROGRAMME**

Committee meetings

Tue 11/10 at Dick's house

Tue 8/11 at Phil's house

December at Bruce's

## **PARISH NEWS ITEMS**

Litter, Flamingo Park Lease, Old Town Hall