



Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

Committee meeting minutes

Held Tuesday 8th November at 8½ Exmouth Place.

Present

Dick Edwards, Richard Platt, Elizabeth Stevens, Ann Novotny, Phil White, Hazel Lloyd, Vivien Harris, Dawn Poole

Apologies: Bruce Nichol, Christiane Gunzi, Shirley Hawley, Richard Stevens, John Reynolds, James Bacon.

Minutes of previous meeting 11 October

Had been previously circulated and amended

Matters Arising

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

- Still no reply from Amber Rudd MP about small fire appliances & West Street
- Street sweeping: waiting for it to come up on the county agenda
- All Saints St repairs: completed today

Reports

Minutes Secretary & website – RP

Nothing new to report

Treasurer – PW

Balance £1197.91. £35 cash in hand. Expenses pending £313

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Rock-a-Nore surgery petition

Has been delayed pending a decision about whether a petition will advance or set back progress. Further advice awaited from Dr Namvar.

DE has met Simon Hubbard to raise the issue of not being able to support an application in a petition, only to raise objections. He proposed the following as the wording of an objection...

PETITION

to Hastings Council about refusal to grant change of use HS/FA/16/0046

We the undersigned OBJECT to the decision to refuse planning permission for the Change of Use at the Ice House. The grounds for refusal on the lack of nearby parking and access and the loss of hotel bed spaces are not valid. We therefore call upon Hastings Council to

waive the existing policies for Tourism and Leisure to secure the higher objective of a comprehensive, modern Health Centre.

Stade Amusements

DE asked whether we can find contact details so that we can make representations about improvements to the park.

Coastal Users Group – Postcode Lottery Dream Fund proposal

DE reported on a meeting he had attended. The application has been approved and will be submitted. We should know the result by the start of the new financial year. Success would bring slightly more funds and employment.

Requests for support (1) – Snowflake Winter Night Shelter

Every Wednesday night from the end of November to mid March All Saints Hall [leaflet available]. DE spoke supporting this. VH is already taking part.

Requests for support (2) Hastings Sierra Leone Friendship Link Christmas Concert

St Clements Church Friday 2nd December at 7.00 – tickets £10

Winkle Island

Noticeboard for HOTRA needs a refresh – DE suggested CG could do it and will ask her.

Break-in at Shimizu Florist

This shop was broken into, and attempted burglary was averted only by the intervention of a neighbour. DE will write to Katie Bourne regarding the police failure to respond to the burglary, and to (unrelated) traffic issues including speeding and pavement parking. The discussion continued to embrace the lack of beat constables.

Planning matters

West Hill pavilion / workshop

Changes in planning laws have made new-build applications like this one easier.

Barley Lane planning application for residential

DP outlined progress: there have been many objections.

Members' Concerns

Issues that had been raised at previous meetings, and on which nothing new was added, are omitted from the following...

Scaffolding on 29 Croft Road is blocking the pavement.

HL asked why **seats are being removed opposite MacDonalds**. DP

explained the seats had been removed to discourage street drinkers

RP asked what could be done about **pavement parking**. DE will write to David Weeks to ask about enforcement.

VH asked about the **scuzzy boating lake**, and the red **pillar box on Pelham Crescent** which needs repainting. Lake is being drained for the winter. DP

said pillar box is part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative and will eventually be dealt with. Finally, VH celebrated progress on **cutting back trees along Croft Road**.

PW offered to spray weed-killer onto the **weeds under the seat on Winkle Island**

Future programme

Next committee meeting 13 December at Bruce and Agnes' – Sinnock Cottage.

January 10th at Anne's at 4pm -- afternoon AOT evening on an experimental basis.

Special January Newsletter will need to be delivered to all letterboxes around 6-8th.

For information

Hastings Storytelling Festival was first organised in November 2011 by HOTRA. It involved 30 events spread over 2 weeks. Sir Quentin Blake agreed to be Patron and came to the Stade Hall, drawing sketches surrounded by children – and giving them away. There was an Arts Council grant of nearly £6,000. In 2012 18 Hours were appointed to manage the Festival. Work in schools started to develop. By 2013 the Festival had grown so large that an independent company – and also now -a Charity-took over. This year the Arts Council grant is nearly £40,000. This is the biggest Storytelling festival in Southern England. Children under 10 are always admitted for FREE