



Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

Committee meeting minutes

Held Tuesday 3rd January at Garden Cottage.

Present

Dick Edwards, Richard Platt (minutes), Christiane Gunzi, Richard Stevens, Elizabeth Stevens, Ann Novotny, Phil White, Hazel Lloyd, Vivien Harris, Bruce Nichol, Cllr James Bacon

Apologies

John Reynolds, Dawn Poole, Shirley Hawley, Satu Pitaken

Minutes

The committee had already received and read the minutes of meeting 13/12/16 and nobody raised any corrections.

Matters arising

Surplus on on-street parking amounts to £246,000: can only be spent on public transport and road safety. HOTRA suggested repairs to pavement in Rock-a-Nore or West Street improvements. **ACTION** DE has asked JB to urge either of these schemes in HBC

Reports

Treasurer (PW) including Subscriptions

£819.01 in the bank, £80 yet to be paid in. 190 members. Renewals just solicited, so numbers not very representative. BN asked whether we could do a welcome pack. Generally considered not necessary. Discussion ensued about the impossibility of paying by PayPal or direct debit.

Chairman

Old Town Crime and beggars. What can be done? Increased number and aggression of beggars has been reported. Some residents say they fear them. Discussion ensued and DE asked JB to find out through the Local Government Association what other councils are doing.

DE's 7 December email to Katy Bourne - Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner has not been answered. He had asked - among other questions - how many of the promised 100 new East Sussex constables would be allocated to Hastings Old Town.

JB offered to progress this issue. He also reported on the suggestion of **CCTV cameras** being deployed in the Old Town. Croft Road has been added to the shortlist, to discourage fly tipping.

JB added before leaving for another appointment that a **defibrillator** has been installed at Jenny Lind. Organisation that installs them needs funds for further machines and solicited money from HOTRA. HOTRA has no money and Winkle Club was suggested as an alternative source. Other locations were suggested.

Rock a Nore surgery – petition

All documents ready for submission but the planners could not accept them because of a backlog of work.

DE asked the meeting for the authority to challenge some of the reasons for rejection. **AGREED.**

RS said he felt that the council were allowing a preference (for a small hotel) to override logic and practicality.

DE outlined feedback from residents he had spoken to. There is broad support for the Rock-a-Nore health centre.

Hannah Brookshaw arrived

The meeting was interrupted to hear HB speak about a water-play area. DE outlined HOTRA's involvement in the existing play areas.

The water park will be built with Council and Foreshore Trust financing. HB has been looking for a location. It would go near the roundabout. There would be a kiosk to incorporate a plant room. There would be a picnic area. She described some of the possible water features. April to September season. Opening hours TBA. Nick Sangster and HB are putting together proposals. Budget of £225,000, mostly spent on tank below ground and the pumps.

DE pointed out that the promenade was very narrow at the proposed location and asked if it could be widened. He also asked what could be done to stop kids riding bikes through the water. HB replied that probably watching parents would police this. DE also said there should be a first aider in the kiosk. Opening hopefully summer 2017.

Smaller fire appliances

Jordan Smith from Amber Rudd's office had spoken to DE about smaller fire appliances. DE suggested that the Fire Service needs to do a risk assessment on the smaller Old Town streets. VH reported that - by sheer coincidence - she met a fireman who is actively involved in the design of a smaller appliance for the Old Town. **ACTION** VE was asked whether she could get this formally confirmed.

Waste and re-cycling

Dick and others reported further failures in recycling and rubbish removals.

Planning matters

BN reported on a planning issue involving a mulberry tree growing adjacent to Tamarisk Steps that tradition affirms was propagated from a cutting taken from a tree in Shakespeare's garden. It is one of only five in the Old Town. The owners are seeking permission to reduce height by two metres. The borough arboriculturist Murray Davidson has approved this. The tree has already been radically cut back and damaged. **ACTION** BN to ask Murray for his assessment and whether he has taken specialist advice.

ACTION RP to research care of mulberry tree and report to next meeting.

(RP comments... mulberries can be, and often are, pollarded, which suggests that they are not harmed by very radical pruning.)

Members concerns

RS: David Woolf has produced a colourful **windscreen disc** asking non-residents not to park in residents' spaces.

The Winkle Club is planning to fund a **street sign for The Creek**, on the wall of the Fisherman's Club. DE said HOTRA should not endorse sponsored road signs generally, but that this one was too inconspicuous to merit opposition.

RP outlined ESCC's failure to repair **Bourne car park street lights**

VH reported no further news from Dawn Poole about **tree cutting in Croft Road**

Next meeting

Wednesday 15/2 at VH's: Newenden, 88 Croft Road at 5pm

Tuesday 14/3 location RP's 18 High Street.

5pm start makes it possible for VH, RP and CG to stay for the whole meeting