



Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

Committee meeting minutes

Tuesday 14th March at 18 High Street

Present

Dick Edwards, Richard Platt (minutes), Ann Novotny, Phil White, Hazel Lloyd, Vivien Harrison, Shirley Hawley, John Reynolds, Christiane Gunzi.

Apologies Richard Stevens, Dawn Poole, James Bacon

Minutes

of 15/2 passed

Matters arising not listed below – **Water Play facility** is likely to be deferred until 2018, because of council procrastination and electricity supply delays.

One of the **paper recycling bins** been removed from All Saints Street
FLAG new funding (see previous meeting minutes for details) there have been no new proposals to take up and spend the funding.

Reports

Secretary RP + website: no news

Treasurer PW 153 paid up members, 44 new or returning. Funds: total £1601 including cash and cheques to be paid in.

There followed a discussion about how to attract new members and the possibility of a new category of business members.

AGREED: HOTRA will offer to match spending on the Christmas lights up to £100 if traders agree to join HOTRA and encourage others to do so.

Chairman's Report

Surgery Petition – 1,247 signatures so far. The Planning Committee meeting at which the application is likely to be considered has been deferred perhaps until June. The council are opposing change of use, and are awaiting reports to bolster their case. DE suggested that we continue to collect petition signatures and campaign.

Public Space Protection Orders (Son of ASBO). HBC is consulting on dog controls and anti-social behaviour.

“Designated” areas in the Old Town where PSPOs will apply are likely to be restricted to George Street + Swan Gardens. Issues concerning HOTRA are mostly drug dealing and aggressive begging. Residents who have raised these issues have received little help in the past from HBC or the police. The scheme will be policed by wardens or a contractor, rather than by the police.

Agreed DE to respond to consultation on the basis that the designated area is too small, and the proposals are likely to be ineffective. He will press for

borough-wide enforcement but with special reference to the worst affected areas of the Old Town.

WI Country Market – new charges for kitchen inspection consultation. It has been suggested that the charge by local councils be set at in excess of £300 which would end the weekly WI market in the Old Town. DE has written a letter to Amber Rudd seeking clarity. She has written to HBC, but has had no response.

Drunk Tank proposal – DE reported that one member in Bourne Court has suggested that drunks be detained until they sober up.

Lifeguard Services at Camber, Pelham, Warrior Square and Bexhill – it is likely that the Foreshore Trust will contract this out to the RNLI, which will improve on the current provision by HBC.

Planning matters

Broadband upgrade on west side of High Street will in place by end of March.

ESCC review of on-street parking consultation is taking place on changing some P&D bays on the High Street to allow residents to use them. The change was welcomed.

Cyril and Lillian Bishop restored lifeboat – positioning. Deeday White wants it on the corner of Harold Road opposite the Stables Theatre. Planning permission is required and DE proposed that HOTRA do not oppose. **Accepted.**

Members' concerns

PW: 13-14 Rock-a-Nore is in very poor condition and nearly derelict, and the name of his ancestor on the plaque at Swan Gardens is mis-spelled.

VH: Salter's Lane wall is collapsing. The resident is not maintaining it.

Action: DE will refer it to planning on a public safety basis.

Play park on the Front is dirty. **Action:** DE will raise with Foreshore Trust.

Rubbish bin at the bottom of St Clements Steps is in very poor condition.

Bonfires: several neighbours have been lighting bonfires which are very antisocial. **Action:** RP will add to web home page asking that residents light bonfires at dusk.

AN: toilet closures. General condemnation but no suggestions as to what might be done.

CG: asked what might go on the **HOTRA notice board.**

Future programme

Committee 11 April at 5pm at Hazel's [98 All Saints Street];

9 May at Anne's

AGM Guest Speaker – Amanda Burton cannot do – DE suggested Deeday White and Tush Hamilton. **Agreed**

Any other business

Parish News DE asked for items and apologised for a trivial mistake in the March issue.