



Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

Management Committee Meeting minutes

Tuesday 9th May at 5.00 at Garden Cottage, Croft Road.

Attendance

John Reynolds, Dick Edwards, Hazel Lloyd, Ann Novotny, Shirley Hawley, Christiane Gunzi, James Bacon, Bruce Nicol.

Apologies from Dawn Poole, Tania Charman.

Minutes

...of previous meeting 11/4 Passed without opposition.

Matters Arising not listed below

Scaffold at 29 Croft Rd. The issue had been chased by James Bacon. Should be down 20th May.

Reports

Secretary RP inc website

RP said that he had removed the Old Town Portal link, since the site is no longer maintained. He proposed to close the HOTRA membership card deals scheme, following the AGM decision to phase out membership cards.

AGREED

Treasurer PW inc Examiner of Accounts.

DE explained Dirk's role as examiner. No enthusiasm for any change

Chairman

AGM debrief including issues raised by members

- JR asked what proportion of Old Town residents attended. 55 attended and DE estimated population of the Old Town as 2000-2500
- Two speakers were good value. Some fidgeting. Some struggled to hear (sound system was not working)
- Thanks to Dick and Vivien Harrison for the catering.

Doctor's surgery

- DE will call all Parliamentary candidates to produce a written statement of how they will support this proposal.
Brigit Barry has been told by local NHS officer that there are 1,250 patients aged 65+

Education Opportunity zone

DE proposed a Motion to Hastings Community Network [+Local Strategic Partnership] as follows:

*"We call upon HCN to help secure the best possible outcomes from the Education Opportunity zone. In particular we ask that
1] Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools be involved in independent*

monitoring and advice;

2] a robust mechanism be set up that allows the local community to be involved;

3] that the 3 year period be extended where successes are clear.”

AGREED

A Sam Greenwood has been in touch in response to the Annual Report to express an interest on this matter. Dick offered to talk to him. **AGREED**

Meeting with Police Commander

A new member has been very annoyed by a beggar and complained to the police. The new police commander asked whether residents want a meeting. JR described systematic begging and suggested that meeting the police might be productive as a way of reducing this. DE was pessimistic and described failed initiatives from the past. **AGREED** to request a meeting, which must be formal and controlled. DE will try to arrange a meeting for a Friday evening.

Planning Matters

There have been 8 Old Town Planning applications since April's meeting. Most are simple.

Most significant are related to the Amusement Park / Go kart track for a Ferris Wheel + new illuminated sign + shopfront.

Sign application rejected. Go cart track to be replaced with a Ferris wheel – pending

Status of HOTRA

We are an unincorporated body and we could reduce our personal liability by taking on another status. **AGREED** to invite Chris Coverdale to talk about this

Members' Concerns

Secretary's note: *Any topics that had been raised at previous meeting, and on which there had been no further progress are not recorded below.*

BN: suggested rescheduling HOTRA meetings so that members could attend other Tuesday evening events in Hastings.

AN: the churchyard was badly littered with broken glass, rubbish and blood after the bank holiday. Ann raised again the issue of toilets, and James Bacon came under a barrage of criticism for the council's decision to close WCs.

SH: praised the recent provision of lifeguards and their new gear.

JR: asked about pay and display parking on the High St. Dual use will begin imminently.

RP raised the issue of mobility scooters, one of which was driven at speed into his house, causing damage to the door frame. DE pointed out the lack of regulation.

He also drew attention to the size of TEFL groups: these reach sizes of 70 scholars, blocking the pavement. DE queried how much money the schools spend.

Future Programme

DE outlined what we might tackle in the coming year. Croft Road one way Committee Weds 14th June @ Vivian's; Thu 6 July @ Phil?

AOB

Water play area: trustees of the Foreshore Trust are very enthusiastic but project delayed by planning and the lack of electricity supply. Deferred until 2018