



Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

Committee Meeting 14 June 2017 at Newenden, 88 Croft Road.

Attendance

Dick Edwards, Bruce Nicol, Vivien Harrison, Richard Platt

Apologies from John Reynolds, Ann Novotny, Shirley Hawley, Phil White, Hazel Lloyd

VH suggested that for future committee meetings, absentees should let the host know in advance, so that they don't provide too many chairs or snacks.

Status and Structure of HOTRA

Chris Coverdale attended the meeting as a guest and explained options for our legal status, and for conversion of HOTRA into a multi-stakeholder cooperative. He explained his background, and described cooperatives he had visited. He then explained some of the advantages of a cooperative structure.

In a frank exchange after he had left, the committee **AGREED** that he had not made a convincing case for a change of status, but that should he set up an Old Town Cooperative, HOTRA would consider joining it.

Minutes of previous meeting

It was agreed that the minutes, previously circulated, were an accurate record

Reports

Secretary

RP reported that he had added live weather, tide and bathing water quality reports to the website.

Treasurer

PW was unable to attend but reported via VH that 188 members were paid up, 62 of them new or returning. Total credit balance £1320.05 including 7 donations totalling £60.

Chairman

DE outlined HOTRA's work plan for the coming 12 months – to agree priorities. He proposed focusing on the following:

ESCC, which is losing central government funds and is likely to make cuts that will affect the Old Town.

Hastings Opportunity Area to improve social mobility - DE asked for suggestions as to how available funds might be spent. There was a discussion about education in Hastings, and about truanting.

Surgery See below

Rock a Nore congestion Though this was raised at the AGM, DE has reviewed and concluded that it is actually not a problem. Suggestions for

improvement included a pair of parking monitors communicating with walkie talkies; a bigger "car park full" sign; marking parking spaces.
Croft Road issue. One-way working and crime. VH showed photos of dumped rubbish and damaged cars.

Homeless people We need to try and find agencies who can help

Rock a Nore surgery proposal

1,564 signatures. Review by the full Planning Committee may take place in July. **ACTION** RP to make a presentation at the planning meeting if DE cannot attend.

Hastings Opportunity Area

DE reported plans for meeting with Sam Greenwood and the Education Futures Trust, Fellowship of St Nicholas + HVA 23/6

West Street focus

Lorna Crabbe is aiming to publicise the history and heritage of West Street, plans a book, street party and walking tours.

Coastal users group meeting

16 June. DE outlined topics discussed, including....

- Water play area, which may be moved to the Stade.
- Classroom on the Coast and Stade Hall are losing money. They are aiming to set up a not-for-profit to run. VH suggested that Soundwaves Choir might rent the hall, currently £42.
- Life Guard scheme running well, but existing life guards have been made redundant.
- New granite "mountains" are to be added to the harbour arm, funded by £1.4 million from DEFRA. To be completed by the end of August.

Planning Matters

BN to report – 2 containers on the beach for RNLI; Sunbeam Cottage, 42 Tackleway – resident who stated building parking space over front garden interrupted by fast action by HOTRA and the council.

Members Concerns

VH: scaffolding on 29 Croft Road still in place. On sea front bollard by the Albion pub is damaged and in a dangerous condition. **ACTION** DE would chase. Food at AGM not needed. RP proposed stopping it. Passed without opposition. She reported an aggressive begging incident, and an encounter with the police, who plan increasing police presence.

BN: black tarmac being laid by water board is not in keeping with surrounding York Stone paving. **ACTION** DE will chase.

RP: pay and display times have changed in the Bourne car park, resulting in the car park being empty at night. **ACTION** DE agreed to contact Hastings Council.

Future Programme

Committee Thursday 6th July @ Phil's ? 8/8 at East hill House if necessary.

Items for July Parish News

Granite mountains; opportunity area; surgery update; vandalism