



Hastings Old Town Residents Association

Management Committee at
112 The Bourne Monday March 11th at 5.00pm

Minutes

Attendance: Dick Edwards, Ann Novotny, Jill Bradley (JMB), Hazel Lloyd, John Reynolds, Cllr. Dany Louise, Cllr James Bacon, Mary Phillips, Shirley Hawley
Apologies from Vivien Harrison and Phil White

Minutes of 12/2 + any matters arising not listed below

Wall light replacement 8 Starrs Cottages: DL will chase up

Reports

Secretary – RP including website: nothing new to report

Treasurer – PW including membership. 130 paid members, of which 32 new and returning.
Balance at bank £1034.59 with £120 to be paid in

Chairman's Report

Isabel Blackman Centre

There are 60 or so existing clients. 32 have been given alternative placements, mostly at Marlborough Mouse in Warrior Square. The Chief Exec of ESCC misrepresented that only two have not been placed.

There are concerns that registration as a Community Asset by HBC could take 8 weeks, and in this time the premises could be let or sold. DE asked JB to try and accelerate the process.

The deadline is fast approaching

Keeping the lights on – report from working group. Significant number of players seeking something to offer unplaced clients. Will offer a **friendship lunch** club three days a week. Wage bill can be kept small by using agency catering staff. However, there will be the cost of employing two administrators. To do this, the working group will need to raise £80,000. DE aimed to raise this by appealing for £500 from each of 20 wealthy families in the Old Town.

The appeal will not be launched under HOTRA's name, because the constitution precludes this. An independent fund holder is required and DE proposed Madeleine and Lascher (props of Old Hastings House Care Home.) They have agreed to do this.

Donations will be refunded if the lunch club fails to go ahead.

DE will attend a further meeting of the working group on Thursday 14th, and the wording of the appeal letter will be approved then.

Transport will be an issue. Hastings Community Transport will provide a service.

Coastal Users Group meeting 12 March

DE will attend. He has received the Foreshore Trust Business Plan for next 5 years, and will raise the following issues, which have been omitted from the budget

- **Wet play facility.** Previously included
- **Pelham beach water quality is getting worse.** DE attributed this to HBC's weakness and inability to apply pressure to Southern Water to correct the problem.
- **Hard surfacing of Rock a Nore car park**
- **Grant programme includes a community ice making machine** of £16,000. DE will query whether this is necessary, and demand more transparency.
- **Money in hand** is £1.5 m and DE suggests that this balance should be reduced by making more grants. DL suggested that DE should ask what the long-term business strategy is that requires such a large retention of funds.

Roebuck Surgery – CQC inspection found that the quality was poor. However, no GP practice received a good report
DE will have meeting with Dr Namvar 12 March to discuss this, and to get up to date with the Ice House surgery.

Hastings Council – has agreed cuts for 2019/20. DE outlined the situation: no area of council work will escape cutting, but was not specific, because the budget is so complex. JB said there would be 16 redundancies and that the payroll has been effectively halved since he became a councillor. JR asked whether savings could be made in fees paid to consultants.

Planning Matters

DE asked for volunteer to monitor planning. JR agreed to do it for a couple of months.

Enforcement will take place at **55 The Croft**

Roebuck yard: there will be an appeal to national Planning Inspector

The loss of a Public Right of Way across the yard has been accepted.

Amusement Park footpath – changes to the route have been approved. DL described restrictions that have been imposed, and explained why the proposals had been accepted. She said the current proposal has made the Foreshore Trust more aware of their responsibilities for preserving the area. JLB was critical of the supine attitude of the planning committee in safeguarding the seafront environment

Old Hastings House

DE described proposal to improve dining arrangements at this care home. He described it as carefully considered, and spoke in favour of the proposal. He will bring fuller detail to the next meeting.

Members' Concerns

JR: speeding traffic down the Croft

JLB complained about the bad behaviour of homeless people in the Old Town

Future Programme

Committee Tues 9/4 @ Phils; Tues 14/5 @ Vivs ?

AGM at Stade Hall Thursday 9th May – Guest speaker will hopefully be Penny Shimmin, the CEO of *Sussex Community Development Association*