



## Hastings Old Town Residents' Association

### Management Committee meeting minutes

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 112 The Bourne

#### Attendance

**Present:** Dick Edwards, Richard Platt, Hazel Lloyd, Shirley Hawley, Jill Bradley (JMB), John Reynolds, Vivien Harrison, Ann Novotny

**Apologies:** HBCllr James Bacon, Phil White, Mary Phillips

#### First Business

Brigit Barry raised concerns about demographic information held about Hastings. She drew attention to the ageing population nationally and in Hastings in particular. She lamented the lack of demographic information held by HBC, and how this will affect the council's ongoing decision making.

She has done her own research, using ONS predictions and census data. She explained her findings to the committee at considerable length.

She asked HOTRA to publicise Hastings' ageing population, and suggested that HOTRA should organise small discussion groups in every council ward. She suggested that HOTRA president Amber Rudd should invite author Camilla Cavendish to talk about her book *Extra Time*, which deals with the issues she raised.

Dick Edwards thanked Brigit for her contribution and offered to introduce her to Pam Brown, president of Hastings Senior Forum. He reminded those present of the relevance of her words to the issues surrounding the closure of the Isabel Blackman Centre.

#### Minutes of 11/6/19

and any matters arising not listed below...

Minutes were formally passed as a full and accurate record.

- **Starrs Cottages wall light.** Still not repaired.
- **Solar Panels on Country Park** – discussion with FHCP deferred as both of their officers are unable to attend.
- **Railings painting.** Has not started in the Old Town

#### Reports

**Treasurer and Membership:** in absentia PW reported via email that HOTRA had 154 paid members and had total assets on hand of £832.59

#### Chairman's Report

- **Isabel Blackman Centre – Right to bid for the lease** is not available to HOTRA, so it has been decided that the other involved bodies will bid. **Fundraising plan:** DE said that crowdfunding will begin in August, starting with finance for a friendship club a couple of days a week. This will be in St Mary's Star of the Sea if the IBC is not available. **Garden:** a volunteer, Star Lobb, has been found to look after the IBC garden pending public liability insurance. **Investment:** through a FoI request DE has determined the extent of lack of investment by ESCC.

- **Smaller size Fire appliances** – an open public meeting with the Fire Authority has been provisionally booked for Thursday 12/9. Possibly also get Craig Namvar to talk about the Ice House health centre.
- **New Refuse contract** – initial reactions were mixed. JR asked who was monitoring collection.

## Planning Matters

JR reported that 6 planning applications are of interest to HOTRA and described them, but the meeting agreed that HOTRA's intervention would not be useful on any of them.

**3 The Croft** HOTRA had objected to this family house being split into apartments. Permission has been refused.

**Closure of footpath beside boating lake.** This will be temporary.

## Members' Concerns

**JMB: Biffa waste** have been fined for exporting unsourced rubbish to China. She has asked JB whether HBC did due diligence before awarding Biffa the waste contract.

**Scaffolding** at the end of George Street: progress has been slower than expected.

**HL:** questioned why **Stade Saturdays** is so much smaller than previous years. Response: funding cuts.

**VH: Newsletter:** suggested that this might be distributed electronically instead of on paper. There was a wide-ranging discussion. DE will ask in September newsletter if anyone else is willing to help with distribution of the newsletter. He fears HOTRA would lose influence if the change was made. There was tacit agreement to stick with a paper newsletter. **Seagulls:** suggested that the council look at introducing a fine for feeding the gulls. DE will look into it.

## Future Programme

**Committee** 13/8 only if needed; 10/9 at RP; 8/8, venue TBA

## AOB

(Taken earlier in the meeting) **Bathing Water Quality on Pelham Beach:** RP recapped this issue, which was covered in an earlier meeting. Following a huge fine against Southern Water, he has written again to HBC raising the possibility of reducing the level of pollution at Pelham Beach. DE said he would be writing to the Foreshore Trust, pressing them to take legal action and force Southern Water to improve the water quality.

**Storytelling Festival:** there will be 10 sessions for children aged 7 to 12 for the first time during the school holidays