

HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting Held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 in the Clive Morris Room, St Clement's Church

Attendance: Dick Edwards, Jill Bradley, Shirley Hawley, Tim McEwan, John Reynolds, Cllr. Dany Louise, Ann Novotny, Phil White, Hazel Lloyd, Mary Phillips, Raquel Lebron, James Thomas

Apologies: Cllr. James Bacon

Minutes of 26 August committee meeting approved.

Matters Arising: 20mph speed limit signs missing from Old Town. Cllr. JB. investigating, and is asked to give updates on other matters arising from last minutes. **Action: Cllr. JB**

Reports

Chairman's Report (Acting Chair Jill)

1. All agreed Cllr. Nigel Sinden, Mayor of Hastings, and his successors, should be the President of HOTRA. Jill to write with formal invitation. **Action: Jill**
2. Work plan: a) James T was asked to research how HOTRA could communicate with community by social media: suitable platforms, cost, etc. and give a 10 minute presentation at December's Committee Meeting. **Action: James T**

b) Negative views on HOTRA are a concern. "Open meeting" deferred due to pandemic. Chair volunteered to do newsletters and asked Raquel to help. **Action: Jill, Raquel**
3. Cllr. JB unable to attend Wednesday meetings. All agreed meetings moved to Tuesdays. Ann confirmed availability of venue. James T requested phone-ins in absences. No consensus of support. Rota for Acting Chair confirmed as: 10 November Mary, 8 December Phil, 5 January Tim, 9 February Raquel, 9 March James T, 6 April Jill.
4. Committee contact details updated individually. Data Protection rules were emphasised by Chair.
5. Neighbourhood Policing being organised, start date to be confirmed. Good news, but Old Town will not have designated PCSO due to staffing shortages. Invite PCSO Maria Barraclough to give a short presentation on Old Town concerns. Cllr. DL. reminded everyone to report concerns on MyHastings site, or contact herself or Cllr. JB. **Action: Mary**

Vice President's Report: Isabel Blackman Centre (Dick)

Dick thanked all who came to today's photocall outside IB Centre. He presented Pam Brown (one of the three Freeman of the Town) with the title deeds. It is now a community asset, owned by and serving the community. Board meets every two weeks, now a registered charity and company with a business account. Gift Aid claims should be acted on within two weeks. Lots of volunteers have come forward. John volunteered to source replacement kitchen units for those stolen. **Action; John**

Treasurer's Report (Phil)

144 members, of whom 38 are new or returning, 2 paid by bank transfer, with £25 donations. Bank balance is £649.09 plus £75 to be paid in, totalling £724.09. January's newsletter will include membership/renewal form.

Secretary's Report (Jill) – none.

Planning Matters

- HOTRA supported objections submitted by local resident to variation on previous planning application of former Roebuck Surgery site for revised colour scheme and replacement of hung tiles with render. Concern also expressed about future of shops including chemist.
- Status of scaffolding in George Street impossible to ascertain. James T. has emails from Cllr. JB and Kevin Boorman (to read at December's meeting). **Action: James T**
- Scaffolding outside 136 All Saints Street (Alastair Hendy's house) erected some months ago with no work apparent. Pavement is inaccessible proving access problems. Cllr. DL offered to investigate. **Action: Cllr. DL**
- Government's initiative for pavement widening for social distancing much criticised. Extra space unused and car parking/revenue lost. Tourist season ended, why is it still there? Cllr. DL suggested John contacts Tanya Charman, Kim Forward and Colin Fitzgerald at HBC for update. **Action: John**

Members Concerns

- How to reduce plastic waste. Dick suggested writing to local shops who supply paper bags to thank them. This could be part of our work plan or next newsletter.
- Access to beach from Flamingo Amusements difficult due to unfinished walkway. HOTRA to contact Margi O'Callaghan, Chair of Foreshore Trust, for an update. **Action: Jill**
- Electric Palace needs financial help. Have they support funding from Government? A very valuable asset – can HOTRA help? **Action: Mary**
- Street lights inoperable in The Bourne and Croft Road. Early dark evenings are approaching.
- Petition has been launched against chemical sprays used on vegetation along roads.
- Concern was raised about dogs off leads.
- Potholes. Highways Steward to be asked to a committee meeting to update us. **Action: Mary**
- Concern expressed about surface of Rock-a-Nore car park.

Future Programme

Next Management Committee Meeting will be **Tuesday 10 November in the Clive Morris Room, St Clement's Church chaired by Mary**. Future meetings: Tuesdays 18 December, 5 January, 9 February, 9 March and 6 April.

Meeting finished at 17.02

Post-meeting note from Chair: James T. cannot attend 10 November meeting. Mary asked PCSO Maria Barraclough to that meeting and is discussing topics with her next week. James T. will discuss social media at December's meeting.