

HASTINGS OLD TOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting Held on Tuesday 7 September 2021 in the Clive Morris Room, St Clements Church

Attendance: Sarah Forrest, Dick Edwards, Phil White, Jill Bradley, Raquel Lebron, John Reynolds, Ann Novotny, Cllrs. James Bacon, and Julia Hilton, Ady Maylam, Sam Taylor.

Apologies: Mary Phillips.

The Minutes of the 10 August 2021 meeting were accepted.

Reports

Chair's Report (Sarah)

- Sarah requested three top priorities for the Business Plan for the year ahead from each Committee Member. Please email her with your list. **Action: ALL**
- Southern Water paper for Coastal Users Group: Dick read his proposed Resolution: "This meeting of the CUG is deeply concerned about the impact of Southern Water on the lives and prosperity of Hastings". After discussion concerning the sums mentioned, and concerns about the role of the Foreshore Trust, the Committee were asked to email their comments to Dick. (*Post meeting note: Sarah emailed asking if the proposal is supported and if not please give reasons before the end of Wednesday 8 September*). **Action: ALL**
- Work Plan for September:
 - a. Brown-tailed moth Swan Gardens and anti-social behaviour. Dick attended an on-site meeting on 1 September with local councillors, two PCOs and senior churchwardens. HBC's Community Safety Officer was asked to engage more with young people. Call 999, not 101, describe what you see and your concerns. A log of such calls could be started by the residents. More co-operation by all concerned was urged giving cause for optimism. Sarah noted the past two weeks have been quieter.
 - b. Membership and monthly newsletter: new ways to encourage new members. It was agreed a one-page newsletter be produced every 2-3 months with a membership form to be displayed in shop windows/noticeboards: "this is what HOTRA is doing with your membership fee". It will also feature on the website and Facebook. Sarah suggested an alternative: free membership, but a quarterly residents' meeting at £3 per person with a guest speaker. Subjects to include car share scheme, Airbnb and the resulting erosion of communities. (This would be in addition to the AGM for members). To be put on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action: Sarah**
 - c. Potholes and pavements: ongoing!
- Roles and responsibilities of Committee Members and contact details: Jill circulated the contact details list and requested confirmation Members confirm details given to comply with the Data Protection Act. Roles and responsibilities were confirmed and the list will be emailed with the Minutes. **Action: Jill**
- Croft Road closure for three months from 4 October: this is to enable St Clements Church Tower to be repaired. Three weeks' notice will be given and street closure boards erected. All felt more notice should have been given. Cllr. Hilton will keep us informed. **Action: Cllr. Hilton**
- Opening of the Old Town Hall by the Eggtooth Project: A charity, and funded by the National Lottery Eggtooth supports and helps children who fail in school. Other funding can be applied for. An opening event will be held in early October. They also have a teetotal bar. Concern was expressed about what

happens in break times and after hours. Old Town Traders have sent a letter about this. Let's be positive, give them a chance and invite them to contribute an article to our next newsletter. **Action: Sam**

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

Work has begun and the Centre should be open by the beginning of November. Unfortunately, a vehicle damaged the garden wall. Vehicle details were noted and passed to HBC who have visited the site and taken photos. Cash flow problems as money applied for from various trusts will not be available until mid-October and bills need paying this month. Replacing the stolen commercial kitchen will cost £50,000: as ESCC owned the property then they will be asked to pay for the replacement. **Action: Dick**

Secretary's Report (Jill)

Jill requested approval to charge a new printer cartridge to expenses. This was agreed, thank you.

Treasurer's Report (Phil)

Bank balance is £1,557.49 including £450 to be paid in. Membership stands at 108, and 96% of members gave email addresses. Michael Plumbe gave a generous amount as "years ahead" membership, and has been made a Life Member. Thank you, Michael!

Planning Matters (John)

Scaffolding blocking the pavement in All Saints Street continues to be a problem.

Other Matters

Members Concerns

Cllr. Hilton had emailed details of proposals for a new telecommunications upgrade to replace the current 14m mast at the corner of The Bourne and East Street with a 20m one. Her email is attached to these Minutes. A contentious issue in which HOTRA **must** be involved. **Action: Cllr Hilton to inform HOTRA concerning the Planning Application. Sam to include in next newsletter**

Ady gave details of a Traders Event at Butlers Gap on 11/12 December to include a HOTRA stall. A good chance to increase membership and advertise what we do.

Ady has requested HBC Planning inform Old Town Traders if the owner of Swan Lake intends closing it. An open letter on behalf of the Traders and residents has been sent to the Foreshore Trust, and it should be on their AGM's agenda. Cllr. Hilton will email Ady about this. **Action: Cllr. Hilton**

Cllr. Hilton mentioned Roddy Crocket of Sustrans and a discussion about improving the streets. I'VE ASKED JULIA FOR DETAILS, MY NOTES ARE NOT SATISFACTORY.

Future Programme

Next Committee Meeting will be Tuesday 5 October in the Clive Morris Room, St Clements Church, then Tuesday 2 November & Tuesday 7 December (Ann please book the Clive Morris Room, thanks)

Meeting finished at 18.15

Attachments: Committee Members Contact List/Roles and Responsibilities
Details of proposed new telecommunications upgrade obtained by Cllr. Hilton