

Minutes of the Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting

Monday 23rd July 2018

Attendees: Raymond Konyon, Steve Johnson, Alexis Markwick, Simon Allen.

David Beales attended as our Planning Consultant.

Apologies: Emily Leach, Paul Wright

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 18th June

1. Committee membership

It was agreed that David Beales should be co-opted to the committee as Planning Officer. As a co-opted member, David would be required to stand down at the 2019 AGM but could be nominated for re-election to the committee should he wish to stand.

Action:

DB would contact Val Hunniset to let her know of his appointment and to discuss liaison arrangements. He would check these with RK. (There was now no need for a liaison meeting on 11th September as previously planned.)

2. Governance and Finance

SJ reported that the 2017 / 18 accounts had been returned from official 'examination' and had been approved. He further reported that the charity's financial position remained stable but that it had not been possible to prepare an up-to-date account prior to the meeting. An account would be circulated to committee members in the next two days.

3. Permanent information point

SJ reported that a 'sentry box' information point similar to those used by the National Trust would cost in the region of £6,000. SA suggested that it might be possible to build a similar structure ourselves.

Action:

AM to pursue British Telecom over possible use of a phone kiosk in Devonshire Square.

4. Replacement Windows

DB had begun to investigate this matter with a view to developing BH policy. This, in turn, might then help to shape RDC policy. Eastbourne were undecided about the extent that they would tolerate UPVC windows in the town's conservation area and had tended to adopt different approaches in different parts of the designated area. Hastings had been against replacement windows in their conservation area but were now prepared to tolerate exceptions. DB had brought an example of a UPVC sash window to show the committee. Committee members considered this to be reasonably comparable to the traditional wood version.

Action:

- **DB to gather more information including continuing discussions with the UPVC sash window supplier in Hastings and contacting Icklesham Joinery about their supply of wooden sash windows.**
- **DB to report back to the committee prior to a meeting with the RDC conservation officer which RK would arrange.**

5. Ravenside Roundabout

There was widespread concern about the condition of Ravenside Roundabout for which the Highways Agency had responsibility.

Action:

RK to co-ordinate contact with the Highways Agency on behalf of the BOTPS, the Burton St Leonards Society and the Hanoverian Society.

6. Events

Rye Conservation Society

RK reported on a positive response from their chairman and it was thought to be worth exploring a joint event involving members from Rye, BH, BOTPS and perhaps the Burton St Leonards Society. This might include lunch at the Manor Barn and a choice of walks and other activities for members. Such an event could be planned as part of the Heritage England's 2019 'Heritage Weekends'.

Action:

- RK to discuss possible dates and arrangements with BOTPS, and report back to the committee.
- RK to arrange meeting with Rye's planning consultant and inform committee.

Cycle Festival

Not a great success. Poor position, few people walking past and many of those from out of town. Insufficient promotional material.

Great Gatsby

Good position. Saturday very busy, Sunday less so. 9 new members signed up.

Action:

- SJ to make camping chairs available for future events.
- DB / SJ to ask members if anyone has expertise / time to design a mobile display for our stalls.
- Need to advertise our information point at future events.

7. Pop Ups

Three further pop-ups had taken place since the last meeting – using sites adjacent to the East Parade shelters and in Little Common. DB thought that these had been 'worth the effort'.

8. Members Meeting – Sept 3rd and newsletter

SA agreed to 'stand in' should David Martin be unavailable. Agreed that members should be sent a 'reminder' email about the event.

Agreed also that a Newsletter should be sent to members prior to the meeting.

Action:

AM to get in touch with PW to develop a members' newsletter.

9. Projects

West Station Clock

SA reported that he had adjusted a gear mechanism and was now more confident that the clock would keep good time. The leaseholder had expressed some concerns particularly relating to 'visitors' and to the replacement door. SA agreed to take on responsibility for the door so that it could be installed asap.

It was agreed that it would be difficult for gold patrons to access the clock mechanism. Of the four, it was thought that only Nick Perry might be in a position to do this. RK to ask whether Mr Perry would

like to visit if it could be arranged. AM and SA thought that it would be appropriate to make a video commemorating the project.

SJ had investigated the cost of a 'blue plaque' - £300 each. DB would fund a wooden plaque to be installed inside the West Station Pub. A cost and form of wording had been agreed with SJ.

Bexhill Youth Centre

SA reported that he had removed the metal frame. This needed some remedial work and repainting prior to re-fitting. Glass would be inserted to replicate the original design rather than being glued on top.

Memorial Bus Shelter

SJ had heard no more from RDC and would follow up.

Action:

- SA to make WSC door.
- RK to contact Nick Perry over WSC visit.
- SJ to investigate the police lost property fund for a grant towards blue plaques.
- AM to design poster to commemorate the WSC patrons' support.
- AM / SA to work together on WSC video.
- SJ to contact RDC for bus shelter update.

10. Quiz Night

This was confirmed for Monday 19th November at the West Station Pub. Bexhill Harmony choir would attend. Committee members to be on the lookout for suitable raffle prizes.

Action:

- SJ and AM to meet in September and organise including sourcing a projector and screen.

11. Engaging members / marketing

DB / SJ reported on their plan to engage members. DB had made a start with phone calls and had found an initial email to be unnecessary with the four members contacted so far. SJ would contact his quota of members on the agreed dates at the end of August / early September.

DB had also mailed neighbours and had received one application from 50 mailings. It was felt that it might not be worth extending the process but it had been worth doing to discover the likely level of response.

Action:

- DB / SJ to pass additional member information to AM so that the database can be updated as appropriate.

12. Planning

Sovereign Light

It was agreed that BH should comment only on the aesthetic effects of interrupting the run of seafront railings rather than on public safety issues.

Victoria Hall

Retrospective planning application awaited.

Spindlewood

DB reported on the drainage and access issues that remained unresolved. Determination of the application had been delayed as a result.

Sea Angling Club

The committee discussed the current position. It was agreed to 'hold out' for a landmark design and to object to anything mediocre.

Dalmore Court

The committee noted with interest that plans for a glass surround to access platforms to the rear of the building had been refused by RDC on 'conservation' grounds.

Cemetery Lodge

DB to attend meeting with the development steering group on 14th August. SJ to send DB all correspondence to date.

Conservation Area

EL is to produce a draft document.

13. AOB

- It was agreed that a prospective new member, Nadia Goldsmith, could make a significant contribution to BH's work. It was agreed that RK invite her to help out at a future event.
- AM agreed to approach seafront rickshaw riders to investigate areas for possible collaboration.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 20th August 7pm – 9pm

37 Woodville Road