

## Minutes of the Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Attendees:** Raymond Konyon, Steve Johnson, David Beales, Paul Lendon, Alexis Markwick.

**Apologies:** Emily Leach, Simon Allen

The minutes of the previous meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

### Matters arising from the minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> August:

- a. Two representatives had come forward to represent BH at a meeting on the future of Bexhill Carnival – Lee Goubert and David Slim. They had agreed to report back to the committee.
- b. Keith Rhodes was to carry out further research on the Pages Gap winching system. The committee will await a further report.
- c. AM had discussed concerns about advertising in phone kiosks with Councillor Ian Hollidge. Ian was investigating this issue.
- d. PL had approached Meridian Estate Agents about the prospect of BH providing heritage window displays for vacant shops. It was felt that Patrick Stapleton (Redwell) might be more receptive to the idea as a member of the Town Team.
  - **RK to contact Patrick Stapleton.**
- e. AM and SJ had investigated and were designing an appropriate roller banner for the Methodist Church window space. This could be removed as necessary for other display purposes.
  - **AM / SJ to complete design and order.**
- f. RK had sent a letter to the appropriate authorities about the state of the Ravenside roundabout. The letter had been endorsed by BOTPS and the Hanoverian Society. It was thought that the poor impression given by this roundabout and the one in Sackville Road, had led to Bexhill narrowly missing a gold award (Bexhill in Bloom). Councillor Ian Hollidge had received a copy of the letter and had promised to follow the issue up.
  - **PL to take the matter forward to the Town Forum Executive as a significant issue. He would do so on behalf of BH and other appropriate organisations.**
- g. RK had received approval in principle from the Hanoverian Society and BOTPS for a Heritage Day in August 2019. SJ would represent BH on an initial steering committee.
  - **RK to contact BOTPS for details of one of their members who could meet with SJ.**
- h. PL to keep the idea of a commemorative motor race timing station under consideration and to report back as appropriate.

#### 1. Governance and Finance

DB raised concern that the publication of draft minutes could cause embarrassment if they were amended subsequently.

#### **ACTION:**

**It was agreed that committee members would have 5 working days to raise amendments to the draft minutes prior to publication on the website.**

SJ presented the monthly financial report. Thirty-nine new members had joined in November so far and a grant of £250 had been received from the trustees of the Bexhill Youth and Community Centre for the restoration of the centre's clock. These credits had

contributed to an operating surplus of over £1000. However, SJ warned that recruitment would be likely to slow over the second part of the financial year while, at the same time, expenditure may increase slightly. Caution was still required.

SJ's report led to a discussion of membership renewal which AM had in hand.

SJ reported on ideas arising from a meeting with DB for the further engagement and motivation of members.

**ACTION:**

- SJ to contact Sandy Melvin over refreshment takings.
- SJ to draft a Chair's letter to members urging them to renew.
- SJ to see whether a local restaurant might donate vouchers as a 'thank you' to renewing members.
- SJ to produce a draft membership card, and to investigate member discounts and offers at local businesses.
- SJ to see Simon Elford with a view to procuring a BH lapel badge.

**2. Correspondence, meetings and communications**

RK reported on a very cordial and constructive meeting with Joe Powell, senior housing and community officer at Rother District Council. Joe Powell had agreed that he would:

- Attend the BH AGM
- Arrange for the relevant 'public realm' officer to liaise with BH as appropriate.
- Investigate the existence, or otherwise, of an official list of heritage assets.
- Ascertain the ownership of the bus shelter on De La Warr Road.

RK additionally had requested an opportunity to visit the RDC store at Broad Oak. SJ had invited the public realm officer to the opening of the Youth Centre Clock.

**ACTION:**

- RK to follow up 10 working days after the meeting.

**3. Fixed information point**

The committee discussed the merits and otherwise of locating a BH HQ within a building adjacent to Sainsbury's close to Town Hall Square.

Following a detailed discussion, it was agreed that such a move should be designed to complement our 'presence' in a renovated sea front shelter rather than to provide an alternative. It was also agreed that it would be wise to collaborate with other voluntary organisations to share the facility. This would allow BH to share the costs involved in the renovation and operation of the building. The matter would be kept under review.

**ACTION:**

- RK to discuss the concept of a base for Bexhill's voluntary organisations with representatives of the Town Team.
- SJ to contact RVA similarly.

**4. Events**

**Summer events -review**

The committee reflected on the 'summer series' of events. It was felt that the Cycling Festival and the second days of Great Gatsby and the French Market had been disappointing this time round but, with more to attract visitors to our stall, there may be more interest next time. The use of photographs from the Sea Festival and subsequent events had been successful and it was agreed to develop this idea. It was suggested that we might also partner with other organisations to run a joint stall or hold a tombola where this was felt to be appropriate. RK had enjoyed considerable success using his penny-farthing as an attraction for families. It was agreed that this could be a 'draw' for the BH stall in future. PL suggested a stall at spring / summer Bexhill 100 events on the East Parade.

**ACTION:**

- The committee will 'judge each event on its merits' as invitations are received and decide an appropriate focus for each event based on this year's experiences.
- SJ to accept any invitations in the meantime.
- RK to approach Bexhill 100 with a view to a stall at their spring / summer East Parade events.

**Members' meetings**

Some matters had arisen from the September members' meeting including amplification, fire safety and noise from the kitchen.

**ACTION:**

- AM to present at the November meeting.
- AM to contact 'Apparitions' with a view to the December meeting presentation.
- SJ to check fire safety at the meeting hall and make appropriate arrangements consistent with current best practice.
- SJ to provide amplification.

**Newsletter**

This is currently in draft. AM to issue to members this week.

**Quiz Night**

SJ / AM had produced posters and tickets for the committee to distribute / sell. A plan for the night was shared. Tickets were available via website. Tickets could be also be sold separately and used as receipts for web-based sales.

**ACTION:**

- All committee members to advise SJ of tickets they've sold. (He would keep a central record with AM to avoid overbooking.)
- SJ to liaise with the pub landlord and contact Mike French re raffle.

**5. Projects**

**a. West Station Clock**

SA and AM to fit door this week (Wednesday). Nick Perry still keen to visit. RK to liaise with SA over this.

SJ showed commemorative poster that AM had designed – this would be professionally printed and framed in the next few days.

**ACTION:**

- SJ to arrange an opportunity to 'place' the commemorative poster. Patrons to be informed in advance. Paul Wright to be invited to represent members and patrons.

**b. Bexhill Youth Centre Clock**

Clock to open on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 11am. Protocols, formalities and speeches had been arranged. Paul White had kindly agreed to provide refreshments.

**ACTION:**

- RK to liaise with Councillor Joy Hughes with a view to her participation.
- RK to ask Margaret Garcia to take photos.
- SJ to write media release incorporating pictures taken at the event.
- SJ to distribute BH publicity to attendees.

**c. Commemorative Bus Shelter**

SJ reported that Joe Powell had agreed to confirm ownership of the shelter.

**ACTION:**

- SJ to apply for grant.

**6. Engaging members**

DB and SJ had met and had recommendations to discuss with the committee. As some of these recommendations had been agreed with respect to the retention of existing members, this item was deferred until the next meeting due to shortage of time.

**7. Local List / CHART**

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to shortage of time.

**8. Planning**

**a. Cemetery Lodge**

DB reported his concerns about the continuing safety and security of the lodge. He had spoken to Councillor Joy Hughes about this. DB had also requested minutes of the meeting he had attended on behalf of BH.

**ACTION:**

- DB to attend October meeting and report back.

**b. Victoria Hall**

**ACTION:**

- DB to send letter of further objection but without the final paragraph of the draft that had been shown to committee.

**c. Spindlewood**

Application remains stalled. Nothing further to report.

**d. Sea Angling Club**

Planning consent given to RDC's plan without amendment. No further action.

**e. Replacement windows**

Pending - meeting with RDC conservation officer required to develop policy.

**ACTION:**

- RK to set up meeting. He would attend with DB. SJ to attend if available.

**f. Sutton Place**

DB brought sample roof tiles to the meeting for consideration. Agreed not to oppose or comment on the plan for pitched rooves.

**g. Di Paolos**

DB concerned about the scheme – especially the raised height of the building and the top floor window design.

**ACTION:**

- DB to draft an objection.

**9. Telephone Exchange anniversary**

PL had asked for memories of the building and its use to be collected for the anniversary. He would continue to work on this.

**10. Committee Dinner**

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to shortage of time.

**AOB**

- It was agreed that BH would continue to preserve its politically neutral status by declining an invitation to contribute to the D4B newsletter.
- DB gave details of grant available from Aviva for community projects – closing on 9<sup>th</sup> October. RK drew attention to interest from Tesco in a grant application from BH.

**ACTION:**

- SJ to check and apply if the bus shelter project meets the grant-givers' criteria.
- It was agreed that Bexhill Harmony should become a 'partner'.

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 22nd October 7pm – 9.30pm

37 Woodville Road