

MINUTES OF THE BEXHILL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2019

ATTENDEES: Raymond Konyn (Chair) (RK), Emily Leach (EL), Simon Allen (SA), David Beales (DB), Steve Johnson (SJ), Alexis Markwick (AM), Anthony Lightly (AL), Tony Teehan (TT)

1. APOLOGIES: There were no apologies for absence.

**ACTION
LEAD**

2. MATTERS ARISING AND CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 21ST JANUARY 2019

RK

No matters were reported and RK signed off the Minutes as a true and accurate record.

3. BEXHILL MUSEUM LIAISON

RK welcomed David Hatherell (DH) to the meeting as the newly appointed Museum Liaison Co-Ordinator (this is a non-Committee role). DH explained that as there had been changes in the Bexhill Museum governance and this might present an opportunity to re-explore the relationship between the two bodies. RK explained that BH had developed as an organisation since the earlier meetings and would now be looking to establish a working relationship with the Museum. DH undertook to explore the possibility of a meeting with John Crane, the new Museum Governor, and report back to RK.

RK

4. "I-SPY" STYLE BOOK

RK welcomed Paul Plim to the meeting who presented the Committee with an exciting outreach proposal, aimed primarily at young people. He had created a mock-up of an "I-Spy" style book, which detailed a trail from the West Parade to the War Memorial. The book contained questions and answers with "points" to be gathered along the journey. The Committee were enthralled at the idea but wondered about the costs involved. Questions such as whether it should be a charged for item, whether sponsorships might be available, what format the "book" should take arose and will need to be addressed. The use of the Bexhill 100 funding should also be explored if other avenues failed. Depending on the success of the West Parade version, an East Parade version could be incorporated into any new funding bids from the Heritage Lottery Fund etc. It was agreed that the next step was to road test this on some young people – were they engaged? which format (including electronic versions) worked best for them? etc.

RK

5. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

i) Committee Membership - Co-opting Amanda Dowsett

RK reported that Amanda Dowsett had been co-opted onto the Committee and given her background would be ideally suited to support work on Local List and taking the minutes at future Committee and Members meetings. Tony Lee was investigating whether he would take on the Secretary role, following Tony Teehan's resignation from the Committee.

ii) Monthly Financial Report. SJ reported that £130 had been taken in membership fees this month, alongside £29 from catering. The membership now stood at 211. SJ reported that he had a suitcase sized Bluetooth speaker with headset and roving mike that could be made available at cost to BH.

iii) Head Counts. It has been suggested that head counts should be taken at members meetings to assist in the case of fire evacuations. It was, however, pointed out that many members come and go during the course of the meeting and this would quickly be rendered useless. It was agreed that a clipboard should be circulated at future meetings to see how many people attended meetings and what percentage were members. This would assist with the introduction of a £2 charge for non-members to attend meetings with speakers. TL undertook to produce a draft. RK undertook to ask Hilary <surname> or Rachel <surname> after the AGM if they would be willing to organise such a list and operate the charging regime at future meetings.

**TL
RK**

iv) Membership Leaflets. EL undertook to ask the De La Warr Pavilion if they would carry BH leaflets.

EL

SJ

SJ

v) Bexhill Heritage Lapel Badges and Pens. It was felt that the production of pens was not a good use of BH funds. Lapel pin prices varied wildly and SJ undertook to seek samples to judge quality.

RK

vi) Preparations for AGM. SJ agreed to do a short talk on the Community Assets Register at the AGM. The AGM agenda needed to be posted online by 27th March to comply with the constitution.

vii) Review Constitution prior to AGM. The Trustees undertook to review the constitution before the AGM, especially looking at the lack of any information about the Committee.

SJ

4. EVENTS

i) Heritage Day 21 September – Planning Progress. SJ reported that planning was progressing well. SJ will talk to speakers to see what topics they will cover and what equipment they will need on the day.

**SJ
AM
RK**

ii) Attendance at Bexhill Public Events 2019

a) Sussex Day. SJ and AM agreed to investigate the viability of holding a Quiz Night as part of Sussex Day.

**TL
AM**

b) Town Forum. BH had been cut from 15 minutes to 5 minutes at most. RK undertook to give the talk.

RK

c) Photo Boards. These were needed for events, TL offered the use of wooden frames from which appropriate photos could be hung. TL and AM to take forward.

d) Refreshments. The Refreshments Team had asked for a speaker for their Afternoon Tea on 27th April. RK would try to identify a suitable internal candidate.

SA

5. PROJECTS

i) West Parade Clock Tower. SA and SJ undertook a site inspection with RDC. The inside of the Clock Tower is in terrible condition. Ventilators have been boarded up and there is a heater inside the Tower. This has resulted in mould, moss, fungus and algae with water dripping inside, but crucially it has rusted the clock mechanism, which is now ruined. The bell weighs over 200kg and the practicability of reinstating it on really wet and rotting timbers was questionable. SA is compiling a report for RDC on the

SA

RK

overall condition.

ii) Max Faulkner Plaque. A site at Sutton Place has been identified for the plaque. SA is taking this forward.

iii) De La Warr Bus Shelter. SJ presented a paper on the options for the shelter. Broadly this consisted of RDC acquiring the land and ceding the bus shelter to BH or BH acquiring the land and ceding all the land apart from the bus shelter to RDC. RK suggested the next step was to arrange a meeting with RDC to explore the options.

**RK AM
SJ AL**

6. PLANNING

i) Cemetery Lodge. DB reported that nothing has been heard back from RDC.

ii) Spindlewood. RB reported that RDC are facing well organised opposition on this proposed development.

iii) Drill Hall. RK has requested a meeting with the Leader of RDC and is currently awaiting dates. RK, AM, SJ and AL will represent BH.

iv) Clavering Walk. DB reported that the opposition campaign here is also well organised, BH's interest is in the adjoining Historic Monument.

7. RDC PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY – RESPONSE

RK

BH's response needs to be sent in within the next few days.

8. REVIEW OF MEETING WITH RDC CONSERVATION OFFICER

The discussion revolved largely around the suitability of the use of UPVC windows in the conservation area. DB and AL supported the promotion of windows from a single supplier, citing support for them by RDC. RK and SJ however were unhappy to endorse a single named product. A consensus was not reached, but it was agreed to approach RDC and point out the seeming inconsistency between the stance taken by Tanya Szendeffy, who is opposed to all UPVC, and the Planning Officers, who are happy with wood and high quality UPVC.

9. ASSETS BELONGING TO BEXHILL HERITAGE

SJ

AM reported that a list of assets owned by BH was already on the G Suite online.

10. BEXHILL COMMUNITY ASSETS REGISTER

SJ had drawn up a template explaining what a Community Assets Register is and asking members to nominate places. The Committee would then assess the suggestion before presenting them to RDC. The template needed to be presented to members at the forthcoming AGM.

RK

11. POLITICAL HERITAGE POLICY

SJ presented another paper which was to go to the Leaders of the 4 main local political parties before the May elections. This set out BH's objectives, it posed questions on the relationship between RDC and BH and sought views on BH's assessment on several high-profile issues. The paper asked the recipients to indicate the degree of support they felt on the issues raised. The paper will also be sent to prospective candidates once they have been declared. RK agreed to send the questionnaire.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AM reported that the new e-mail system is now up and running successfully,

13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

**COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 25TH MARCH 2019, AT 19:00
AT TRAFFERS, 19 EGERTON RD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA TN39 3HJ**

**MEMBERS' AGM WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2019, AT 19:00 AT
FRIENDS HOUSE, ALBERT ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA,**