

Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

25th March 7PM

Opening

The regular meeting of the Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting was called to order at time on 25th March 7PM in. Traffers 19 Egerton Road Bexhill on Sea TN39 3HJ

Present

Ray Konyn (Chair) David Beales, Stephen Johnston, Alex Markwick, Tony Lightly, Amanda Dowsett

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

1. Apologies Tony Teehan

2. Matters arising

It was agreed that the charity's officers could make people aware of (signpost) particular brands or companies but should not offer either recommendation or endorsement. It was further agreed that officers should always make it clear that enquirers should carry out their own checks before purchasing goods or services 'signposted' by Bexhill Heritage

3. Finance and Governance

I. AGM Preparation and draft agenda.

- An email will be produced with details of the AGM
- The Civic Pride Award is to be rescheduled
- Community Asset Register
- Clock Tower
- Copy of the Constitution
- Details of the community Financial Report

II. Composition Committee and Trustee group

- Simon Allen was nominated as a Trustee
- Nomination of further trustees, it was proposed that an odd number would be preferable, for voting ease, unless Chairman held casting vote. When appointing Trustees, it was suggested that they should hold a professional qualification that would be of use to BH i.e. Solicitor or accountant. RK asked if Trustees could be Co-Opted, if yes would Simon be

prepared to step up. Simon agreed and this was accepted by the committee.

- Vacancies Ray is to continue as Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Media/Marketing
- IT Support for Alex
- Surveyor

III. Finance update

See Attached – as balance stands there is no statutory requirement to register with the charities commission. Alex informed the committee that current membership stands at 210.

- IV. The purchase of badges was discussed and Steve Johnson passed two samples around the table it was decided unanimously that the soft ones were preferable and this was passed by the committee. It was suggested that they could be purchased by members or given away as prizes for competition winners. It was decided that 200 should be purchased for £404.00 Alex and Steve Johnson are to get together to work on the design, a sale price of £2.00 was decided to cover the cost.

- The refreshments team have asked for aprons to wear at events that had the Bexhill Heritage logo on, an initial enquiry put the cost at £15 each. Patricia is going to source and the budget was set at £100
- Purchase of amplifier – discussed later

V. Responses to letters to political parties/letters to candidates

- Steve Johnson to write to independent candidates. Ray asked if a copy could be sent to Tom Liddiard and copy Pam Doods in as he is not responding.
- Ray has had some feedback from Doug (Oliver) he is concerned that as the independents were not affiliated to any Political Party, he will be reluctant to fill in the form, it was suggested that forms should be sent to all the independents as they declare themselves.
- Doug wants to remain a member of BH but this may become a problem as BH There is an issue with councilors declaration of interest particularly with planning committees, it was suggested that they could become lay members – affiliated but have no voting rights. SJ suggested that all councilors should be encouraged to join BH and just declare an interest when necessary. A sub category of lay members would cause unnecessary

complications; it was decided that they would simply declare an interest when necessary. All independent candidates are to have a letter but it won't be composite. Ray is going to report back to Doug -, Steve is going to wait for the list and all candidates are to be sign - signposted into joining BH.

- VI. **Alliance with Sussex Heritage Trust** Ray is going to investigate the possibility of aligning with Sussex Heritage Trust and will email members to that effect, discussion is to be held at the next meeting. Membership to the Victorian Society is not going to be renewed, as AM told us that there had been no benefit to membership. Carried unanimously.
- VII. **Bexhill Heritage Head Quarters** Ray is going to look into the possibility of acquiring the disused toilet block adjacent to Sainsburys overlooking townhall square. If there is any way of getting this for a "Peppercorn "or very low rent, it would be worth the investment of applying for change of use planning permission and renovating the building accordingly. It was discussed that this is in an area that is very visible to traffic queuing to turn left and has significant footfall thus increasing the visibility of Bexhill Heritage. David Beales said that BH should make the leaseholders an offer and to email BH members to find out if there are any builders who would be willing to get involved with the project.

4 Events

- I. **Spring Summer events.** No change to the agenda. The sea front shelter that was going to be used as cover for the Easter event has been vandalized. Ray is going to retrieve a gazebo from Steve's cellar to use if needed
- II. **Coffee/Tea meetings:** - need a speaker: - Ray is going to talk about the Civic Pride award. Marketing material is needed – Steve to contact the Observer
- III. **Sussex Day quiz,** date and venue discussed. Possibly Sunday 16th June in the Education Room at the museum. Dave Hatherall
- IV. **Heritage Day** Ray asked who the gardener at Manor Barn was and if he'd give a guided walk round the gardens, It was felt that Dorothy may know. Decision for Agenda - Alex to lead a history walk, Julian to host a talk. Approval for the provisional agenda was passed, Stuart Drew and/or Ian Hollidge are going to step in if a contingency is needed.

5(6) Projects and Priorities

- I. Simon reassured the committee that despite vandalism the seafront shelter was not going to fall down. It's been sign posted and a budget of £30000 has been set aside for repairs.
- II. **De La Warr Bus Shelter Letter (see copy)** owned by the Crown Estate. Shelter is too expensive for BH to consider buying the shelter or the lease as the crown estate won't consider a pepper corn rent and have no interest in selling the bus shelter. . It was suggested to Approach: -
 - o Rother (Deborah Keneally)
 - o St Richards School
 - o College
 - o Bus Company

There may be a possibility that RDC could purchase and BH renovate, in which case the value needed to be ascertained, discussed whether Ian Hollidge could ask Huw Merriman could ask prior to contacting RDC.

- III. **West Parade Clock Tower.** It was discovered that there is a severe damp problem in the tower due to the air bricks being sealed up. BH said they need opening and offered £250+ VAT to go toward the cost of this. RK suggested that this cost could come out of the 30k budget allocated to the East Parade shelter repairs.

- IV. **Max Faulkner plaque** to be reinstated at Sutton Place see Photo
- IV. **Pages Gap See photo and Google map Representation.** The brambled area to the right of the pathway. There are 42 beach huts not 27. ????? doesn't think it will qualify under Quality for Localism Act 2007 as it was so over grown with Brambles, if it is purchased for the reason of building a garage there may not be much that could be done to retain it.
- V. **Local list**
Compilation of Asset Register – Meeting date to be confirmed
- VI. **Heritage Resource** Mr. Stapleton is going to do video talks on the history of Bexhill, consulting with BH – motion passed,

7 Planning.

- I. **Cemetery Lodge.** The Council has granted themselves planning permission for a new access opposite The Ridings .Thus is to increase development opportunities at the Turkey Road end. The condition we asked for to control this had not been agreed.
- II. **Spindlewood.** No information as to what is happening. Should be reported to Planning Committee.
- III. **Drill Hall.** We await an answer to our request that the application be amended so as to retain the front section of the building.
- IV. **Baptist Church.** We have asked RDC to apply a BPN and listing. The Committee endorsed this and agreed that it should be pressed.
- V. **Down cottage Listing.** We have asked RDC to apply a BPN and listing. The Committee endorsed this and agreed that it should be pressed.
- VI. **Sutton Place.** DB said that planning for a metal pitched roof was denied and then approved after amendments.

8 AOB

- I. **Pages Gap.** Does it qualify under the localism Act? Opinion of Committee was that it probably didn't.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Attached AGM Agenda

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9.32pm. Next meeting 15th April at Traffers Egerton RD
7.30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Amanda Dowsett

Approved by: Name

Attachments 10