

BEXHILL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of meeting held 20th May 2019

1. Apologies: Apologies had been received from Steve Johnson.

In attendance: Raymond Konyn, David Beales, Alex Markwick, Simon Allen, Tony Lightly.

2. Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting of the committee were approved.

3. Matters Arising:

Vacancy for secretary: David Beales produced a table top display for an advert for the position for use at Exhibitions. RK also proposed creating a “faux” newspaper advert for the position that could be placed on RDC Alerts and used in the next newsletter.

ACTION: RK to draft advert and circulate.

RK and AM to place in next BH newsletter

Planning Matters:

David Beales reported on the current situation relating to planning matters outstanding from the previous meeting as follows:

Cemetery Lodge security – Previous letters to RDC re; security measures have not been responded to. This is worrying. We have heard nothing for several months about CHT. **ACTION:** DB to send another letter re: security.

Drill Hall – Letter sent to RDC following meeting. No response received.

Baptist Church / Downs Cottage – letter sent to Tim Hickling regarding BPN and listing of these properties have been inadequately answered or ignored.

ACTION: The failure of Tim Hickling to respond to BH correspondence is regarded as incompetent and rude and this matter is to be escalated to RDC members after the forthcoming Cabinet meeting. RK / DB

Sussex Day – Sussex Day Quiz needs questions.

ACTION: AM / SA to action asap.

Also Charlie needs to know what sort of food to provide for the event.

ACTION: SJ to deal with this on his return.

Promotional videos – RK reported that Patrick at Redwells has advised that he has made some progress with the promotional videos.

AGREED to follow up in due course.

Civic Pride Award – **ACTION:** SJ to deal with this on his return

I-Spy Book – this is looking good but needs to be road tested on some young people. Dr Paul Wright needs help with this.

NOTE: see later item with Keith and Hilary Rhodes

4. Strategy, New Councillors & Governance:

1. Data Protection Policy – AM reported that no changes were required to the Data Protection, Security and Privacy Policy
AGREED – AM to re-issue for the new year.

2. New Councillors – RK reported that he had spoken with Doug Oliver (now Leader of Council) and Deidre Williams regarding meeting with Councillors. DO had advised (DW agreed) that this should be limited to members of cabinet and to be after 22/05/2019. DO would put this in place and advise BH on date etc.

3. New Councillors – RK reported that in manning the BH exhibition at the Anglo-French Market the previous weekend he found himself networking with many of the new Councillors who shown themselves to be very supportive.

5. Planning:

4.1. DB reported that he was very pleased with the revamp of the correspondence page on the website and he would provide some additional updates to be uploaded.

ACTION: DB to provide additional updates.

4.2. Response to request for liaison meeting with Development Management manager.
See previous note under matters arising.

DB also reported that he had spoken with Geoff Pyrah (Planning Applications, Bexhill) regarding the possibility of a meeting, which might prove to be more beneficial. GP advised that this would entail an internal discussion first and he also advised that he now only worked part-time!

4.3 Cemetery Lodge – see matters Arising

4.4 Little Common New Builds – nothing reported.

4.5 Drill Hall – future to be discussed at cabinet.

4.6 Baptist Church & Down Cottage – See matters arising

4.7 Ravenside Roundabout – ESCC undertaking traffic modelling at ‘pinch points’ eg: Ravenside and little Common Roundabouts, which may result in modifications changing the current state. Ravenside is seen as a blight on the Britain in Bloom entry of Bexhill.

6. Events:

5.1 Anglo-French Market 19/05/2019 – RK reported a very successful weekend in which BH had recruited at least 25 new members and taken 2 renewals. The ‘gilets’ (not jaune) were very helpful in identifying the BH members manning the stand. Interest included an architect and a surveyor. Also the badges had sold very well.

5.2 Bank Holiday Sunday – stand to be located in East Parade Shelter No.1 as part of Bexhill 100 Car Show. RK looking for confirmation of members manning the stand. AM to assist in setting up. DB commended the visual display as very helpful in demonstrating what BH was about and achieving. However the easel was a little unstable.

RK advised that he had asked TL about his stands for art exhibitions. TL explained that, whilst it would work it took about an hour to assemble ready for use. TL agreed to investigate alternatives that could be kept secure in windy locations. It was also agreed that a velcro mounting system would work best.

RK noted that AM & SA were conducting BH walk covering projects and points of success and concern on Sunday afternoon. RK suggested this might be limited to 30 people.

ACTION: Membership be emailed about the exhibition stand and the walk.

5.3 Sussex Day - see matters arising. RK advised that there was a clash with the date of the next committee meeting, which would need to be re-arranged.

ACTION: Re-arrange Committee Meeting for June, suggested date 19/06/2019.

7. Projects:

6.2 Bus Shelter – SA reported that he had sent a letter to Huw Merriman seeking his assistance with the cost of the legal fees. In the absence of a reply he had chased and there had been a response from Craig (assistant to HM) sent to RK. Craig has written to RDC on behalf of HM asking for action. SA not optimistic.

AGREED: To monitor and follow up in due course.

6.3 West Parade Clock Tower – SA advised that DK at RDC needed to have a copy of BH Insurance Certificate before access could be permitted. The certificate is lodged with SJ and would have to await his return.

ACTION: RK stated that this had to be avoided in future and-to liaise with AM to have essential documents digitally accessible to the Committee.

SA reported that when (not if) it happened access was proposed to be through Julian at the Museum. This would limit access to weekdays only.

ACTION: SA & AM to investigate more flexible access arrangements.

RK stated that the type of paint used for the recent redecoration was crucial and would affect the breathability of the building. Information on the paint to be obtained when access available.

ACTION: SA to record relevant data once access is available.

6.4 Max Faulkner Plaque – DK (RDC) proving to be very difficult over this. SA reported as follows:

DK has been “flummoxed” by the information from DB pointing out that the re-erection of sign does not need planning. It appears that she still proposes to go to planning. DK had proposed setting the sign on a rake but SA pointed out that originally the sign was vertical. DK asked for the colour of the supports. SA had advised that she could choose but received no advice from DK on this.

ACTION: SA to pursue DK to ensure this is complete for Sussex Day as DO wishes to unveil the new sign that day.

6.5 Pages Gap – Reported that the panel is with RDC for approval of content and with the manufacturers! DK concerned about background colour. Fabrication by 17/06 and erection by 03/07 unveiling 26/07 55 years to the day Harry Secombe cut the original tape.

6.6 Local List – Some progress is being made on this. Following previous meeting trial surveys of selected roads have been undertaken. A meeting is to be convened to review these and try to resolve a common standard. TL has been asked by Emily to produce a sheet of architectural terms with explanations.

ACTION: meeting of Local List group to be convened and TL to produce Architectural terms sheet.

6.7 Civic Pride – see matters arising.

Keith and Hilary Rhodes joined the meeting.

8. Promotion:

RK introduced Keith and Hilary Rhodes and invited them to present their ideas.

HR recommended that BH should issue Membership Cards as these provided a physical connection to the organisation. It also provided an opportunity to provide members with a schedule of events and the names of the officers of the organisation and contact points. Lastly it acted as a receipt for subscriptions. It was pointed out that BH had originally considered membership cards in the early days of the organisation and these were ruled out at that time. Perhaps now was a good time to review the decision.

It was suggested that better use might be made of the Bexhill Observer and their experience has been that to ensure publication of editorial it was essential to include a photograph.

NOTED

It was suggested that better identity of BH could be achieved by having logos on clothing. It is not necessary to buy clothing as members can supply their own. This can be done by Stitch 86 in Hastings. Set up costs £25 and each logo is charged at £5. It is suggested this would be charged at £6 to recoup the set up costs from the orders! It takes 14 days for the set up and 10 days for turnaround of orders.

A sample of coasters that have been produced in the past were tabled. These were based around a specific event on one side and linked to a participating group on the other. This arrangement is not necessary but helps sales. Cost is about a £1 each.

HR advised that she would be able to help Dr Paul Wright with finding young people to undertake trials of the I-Spy Book.

ACTION: HR to contact Dr Paul Wright.

KR advised that they could not commit to being committee members but were willing to be involved in individual activities.

RK proposed that K & HR be involved with marketing and promotion on an invitation basis.

9. Any other business – See next page below.

9. Any Other Business:

8.1 Toilet Block – RK has spoken with DO/DW about the idea, which received a positive response. DB reported that he had spoken with Lee Joubert about a sketch design, which was in hand.

RK advised that he had suggested without promising DW a Tourist Info service. It was essential that BH develop a business plan for the project particularly regarding finance. He also reported that there was currently a covenant on the building for its use to be limited only to toilets but this can be overcome.

8.2 Ramp to Splash Deck at South Cliff – RK reported that BH had been approached about this but had advised that this was not a heritage project and outside of the BH constitution.

10. Next meeting: To be confirmed, possibly 19 June 2019.