

BEXHILL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY 15TH JULY 2019 AT 19:00

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY COMMITTEE MEETING

SJ reported that work on the Community Asset Register remained pending.

The minutes of the June meeting were agreed as a true record.

3. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

i) Drill Hall

ACTION: DB to update BH members by letter inviting them to send comments to RDC on the proposed demolition of the Drill Hall. (DB to circulate a draft to the committee for comment.)

DB also to nominate the Drill Hall to the Victorian Society's 'most threatened list'.

ii) Cemetery Lodge

RK and DB had met with a representative of the Community Land Trust and Councillor Brewerton. There had been a positive response and a suggestion that the CLT and BH could work in alignment.

ACTION: Further response to be awaited from the CLT.

iii) Baptist Church, Buckhurst Road, and Downs Cottage

We continue to await a definite response from RDC on our proposal for the serving of a building preservation notice further information from the District Council.

ACTION: SJ to draft letter to the new Chair of Planning informing him of our concerns.

iv) Clavering Walk – new housing

Application refused. BH's points, among others had been mentioned as part of the justification for refusal.

ACTION: Continue to monitor as the applicants are likely to appeal.

v) Meeting with the planning committee

Continuing to await response.

vi) Gulliver's Bowls Club

It was felt likely that a further planning application would be made for this site.

ACTION: Monitor planning applications.

4. BH HQ

RK and SJ had met with Joe Powell and Councillor Williams to discuss options for a combined tourist information base and BH HQ. It was established that RDC do own the single storey building adjacent to Sainsbury's. Following a positive discussion, it was agreed that a base in the town library would be preferable to converting the single-storey building.

RK had also approached a representative of St Barnabas Church to investigate whether it would be feasible for BH to use the former café area as a base. It was reported the leaseholder of No.48 was seeking premises elsewhere and so this previously-discussed option was no longer possible.

ACTION: Await responses from RDC and St Barnabas Church.

5. PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

- i) Pages Gap plaque
Sign now made. Poles and frame fitted. Invitations sent out. Cost now estimated to be in the region of £800. Keith Rhodes has agreed to meet the costs while the outcome of BH's grant application is known. If no grant is forthcoming by the end of October, then BH to fund the scheme directly.
- ii) East Parade Shelters
Work progressing. No. 1 shelter may be completed next. Committee satisfied with outcomes so far.
- iii) De La Warr Road bus shelter
It was confirmed that BH should begin to take the action necessary to renovate the shelter. It was agreed that a roof repair should be carried out first.
ACTION:
SJ to seek funding from the Charter Trustees and Stagecoach
SJ to inform the District Council and 6th Form College of our intentions and to ask how far each body currently maintains the shelter and surrounding land.
- iv) West Parade clock tower
RK and SA had held a productive meeting with RDC's new chief maintenance officer who was keen on ventilating the building and had access to a mobile lift platform. SA had carried out humidity tests to provide a baseline for subsequent measurements. The baseline measurement had shown 81.6% humidity at the top of the tower. It was agreed that remedial work on the tower should be carried out during 2020 once 'drying out' had been achieved.
ACTION:
SA to monitor the effects of ventilation.
SA and RDC to reassess priorities in spring 2020
Committee to discuss the design residents' survey with RDC and ward councillors.
- VI) Sainsbury's mural
ACTION:
RK to ask Andrew Crotty (AC) to follow this matter up and to arrange a meeting with the store manager.
- VII) Asset register
ACTION:
AM had passed SJ a link to the completed forms.
SJ to assess and come back to the next committee meeting with recommendations.
- VIII) Civic pride awards
It was agreed to defer the 'community street award' and concentrate on launching the Civic Pride Award in September.
ACTION:
RK to pursue sponsorship
TL to approach 'Just Property'.
- IX) Sussex Day 2020
RK reported that PL intended to hire Manor Barn for the 2020 event. BH would offer to make some sort of contribution to Sussex Day 2020 as in the past.
ACTION: RK to inform Paul Lendon.

7. EVENTS

- i) Members' meeting, 28th August
SJ to introduce the Civic Pride Award, local history day and quiz night. This would be preceded with reports from committee members and a question and answer session.

- ii) Summer / autumn events
 - a) Great Gatsby
SA, AM and SJ to set up on Saturday. RK to come at 11am. RK to collect equipment from SJ for Sunday.
 - b) Bexhill 100
It was agreed not to attend the seafront event on 28th July as it was close to other events. But it was agreed to attend the annual car rally (Polegrove) on August bank holiday. RK to liaise with Andrew Crotty (AC).
 - c) Festival of the Sea
RK to ask AC to liaise with the organiser (Carol) over pitch and fee.
 - d) Continental Market
RK to ask AC to liaise with the organiser (Lynn) over pitch and fee.
 - e) Afternoon Tea
Madeleine had this in hand. Planned for 17th August at 2.30pm. Aprons had been completed.
 - f) Quiz night. This had been re-arranged for Monday 21st October. SJ had booked venue. AM to update posters / leaflets.
 - g) Heritage Day. This was still 'on' for Saturday 21st September. SJ had been working with Dorothy Smith and publicity had been agreed. Information would be circulated to members of BOTPS, BH, and the Hanoverian Society in August.
 - h) Proposed tour of the Keep. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

- i) Committee Clerk
It was agreed to co-opt Jeanette Eason
ACTION:
SJ would prepare the agenda for the August committee meeting but Jeanette would be asked to take the minutes at that meeting and at the members' meeting.
- ii) Amendment to the Constitution
The committee considered a proposal to recommend an amendment to the constitution that would clarify BH's sphere of influence to particular local government wards. On reflection, it was thought that the constitution should not be amended.
- iii) Finance update
SJ circulated the monthly finance update and reported that the 2018/19 accounts would be prepared for auditing in August by Rother Voluntary Action.
- iv) Amendment to the membership leaflet
It was agreed to amend our main publicity leaflet to include the option of being a 'passive' member.
ACTION:
SJ to compose amendment and liaise with AM.
- v) Keith Rhodes' recommendations including membership cards
These were discussed.
ACTION:
SJ and AM to meet to determine evaluate current arrangements and then ask Keith / Hilary for a meeting to discuss options for the future.
- vi) Complaint from Edward Smith
Mr Smith had complained about inaccuracies on the original Max Faulkner plaque that BH/RDC had reinstated on the site of the former golf links. It was agreed to take no further action.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) It was agreed that we should circulate undertakers and solicitors with respect to legacies.

ACTION:

SJ to prepare letter.

ii) RK reported that he had discussed the possibility of BH having a base with Andy of No. 48. This might be a discussion that resumes once Andy finds a new base in the town.

iii) SA offered to arrange for BH to have a pitch at the Bexhill Farmers' Market on Friday 2nd September at a cost of £20.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

- **(COMMITTEE MEETING) 19TH AUGUST, 19.00, TRAFFERS BAR, 19 EGERTON RD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA TN39 3HJ**
- **(MEMBERS' MEETING) WEDNESDAY 28TH AUGUST 2019, 19.00 AT THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE**