

1. Apologies

S. Johnson (annual leave)

2. Matters Arising from July Committee Meeting

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

It was agreed following email communications and discussion by the committee, that the minutes of the March meeting be amended following an observation by a member over a point of factual detail. The minute has been so amended.

3. Planning and Development

(i) Drill Hall

RDC Cabinet meeting 29 July revealed that the scheme redevelopment is to be revamped. Various pieces of land within or around the proposed development site are not owned by RDC. Some belong to ESCC and some yet to be verified may belong to the MOD, who will not release for development. Drill Hall site is safe at present. A masterplan will need to be resubmitted, but it is anticipated that planning permission will be granted. RK confirmed that BH has no formal avenue to suggest or recommend the mix of housing in any planned development, unless it is in a conservation area.

Await further developments. NFA by BH recommended. Current working document to be kept on file, should an amended application be submitted in the near future.

(ii) Cemetery Lodge

Currently unresolved. It was noted that there had been a meeting of CLT and RD Cabinet member, but awaiting further developments.

(iii) Baptist Church

It is understood that RDC have applied for listing. Awaiting further developments.

Action: Question to be raised in September with Chair of Planning, Jonathan Vinehall, to ask what was contained in the application. D Beales to draft an FOI application to English heritage.

(iv) Down Cottage

RDC has taken no action of this matter. It was suggested that BH make an application in the light of the "Sale Agreed" signage, and statement in the estate agents marketing details that the property and site is a "development opportunity".

Action: refer to RDC Chair of Planning re listing at meeting scheduled for 10/9/2019.

(v) Knole Road

It was noted that from various correspondence received it was felt the plans for the site were not good enough for the locale, especially being opposite Marine Mansions. Lee Jubert had commented that the block was too high and would be seen above other buildings in the area. A proposed letter was read out to the meeting requesting that further design changes should be made and that in general it was an uninspiring design and needed more work. RK considered that the Victorian Society has raised an objection based more on the proposed setting/ location. The VS does not feel that this is an appropriate or good use of what should be an open space for residents. There is also a query about the official designation of the area re recreational use in the past (bowls, squash) and access to the open gardens. This scheme has been rejected several times in the past. Previously it failed to get through the High Court, due to poor process.

Action: D Beales to draft letter to support Victorian Society opposition to the scheme. Also should permission be granted, a request to rethink the design.

4. BH HQ

RK reported that the meeting with the church had been very productive, with a better proposal for an alternative site for BH HQ. Some changes would be needed before BH could take up residence, and it is also a positive outcome for the siting of a possible Tourist Information Point. It was felt that the church location was more suited to visitors arriving by train, given it is visible from the station concourse and would be housed in a heritage building.

There was discussion about continuing to follow up enquiries re the vacant former toilet block next to Sainsburys.

Action : RK to write to Fr. Stephen and Judith, should the plans get the go ahead from church authorities.

5. Projects and Priorities

(i) Pages Gap plaque

Pleased to note that more than 50 people attended the unveiling of the plaque. It was also suggested that perhaps a wind and waterproof container on a pole could be erected in the garden of the adjacent house to take some BH leaflets.

(ii) East Parade Shelters

It was noted that there had been progress on No.3 shelter, which is being worked on. No. 2 is completed. Nos. 1 &4, BH needs to monitor progress.

(iii) De La Warr Bus Shelter

A draft letter was approved for sending under Steve's signature to various recipients including the main bus company and Bexhill College, with only one item in need of amendment (BH membership total).

Action: SA to finalise and send.

(iv) West Parade Clock Tower

SA confirmed he had been visiting the clock tower regularly and monitoring the humidity over several weeks. There have been some very positive changes to the humidity levels and visible changes to the slime and plants

that had previously colonised the tower. Also the rungs on the access ladders have been mended and made safe. The next stage, when the walls are suitably dried out, will be to clean them.

(v) Sainsburys Mural

It was reported that the store manager was very sympathetic to the proposed cleaning of the mural. He is awaiting final agreement from Sainsburys own Planning Dept. It was noted that the restoration of another mural by the same artist, located in Colchester, was filmed and posted online. From the film it seemed possible that there would not be any need for costly/ specialist cleaning materials.

(vi) Asset Register

SJ on annual leave. No further information at present.

6. Events

(i) Bexhill 100 – Bank Holiday Monday. Andrew Crotty to deal with.

Festival of the Sea – pitch organised

Others all running well to date.

(ii) Summer/Autumn Events

a) Afternoon Tea (17th Aug) – cancelled due to poor weather forecast

b) No further tea/coffee meetings planned.

c) RK said he had received a phone call from the refreshments team about the lack of volunteers to wash up and tidy after members meetings, and as a result the current team were missing part of the second half of the meetings. Various options were considered. It was agreed that a request be made at the meeting for temp volunteers to help, after the meeting, to wash up.

d) S (?) Day Quiz

It is proceeding. Some tickets were available from the church. RK asked for feedback on ticket sales.

e) Heritage Day

Announcement expected from BOTPS to be shared with members and Alex to place on to the BH web site. Steve has prepared and completed an excellent display for the event.

f) Tour of The Keep, Brighton

JE to check their website/make direct enquiries for a group tour, perhaps in the new year.

7. Finance and Governance

(i) RK was pleased to report there had been several expressions of interest in helping BH. Discussion re possible additional roles/tasks which could be undertaken.

(ii) “Passive Member” - Discussion re the format/design of the BH membership leaflet. It was agreed that if someone ticked the box to be involved with the society, then they should be contacted by email preferably, outlining the different teams.

Action: SJ to compose ‘involvement’ email and liaise with AM

- (iii) Finance Update – query re catering float entry.
- (iv) Draft letter to local Solicitors and Undertakers re potential legacies.
Action : Steve aware. Pending return from annual leave.
- (v) It was confirmed that there are now 288 members. SA noted that a stall at the weekly Friday Market would cost £20. It was agreed to revisit this option in spring 2020.

8. Any Other Business

- (i) AM confirmed that any committee member can add to the shared drive documents on the web site.
- (ii) RK mentioned that he had had several complaints from new members stating that they had not received their “Welcome” letter/email.
Action: It was agreed that those manning stalls or Information Points will need to verify people’s email addresses and clarify if necessary, at the time of completion. AM to check and set up a ‘bounce back’ facility for undelivered emails.
- (iii) RK showed off the new BH badge which can be ironed on to any members own T-Shirt at a cost of £6. Item to be presented to members at the next Members Meeting.

9. Date of Next Meetings:

Members Meeting – Wednesday 28 August 2019 at 19.00 The Friends Meeting House.

Committee Meeting – 16th September 2019 at 19.00, Traffers Bar, Egerton Road, Bexhill