

1. Apologies

No apologies

2. Matters Arising from August Committee Meeting

Amendments to minutes – Planning

3. Planning and Development

(i) Cemetery Lodge

After a meeting with the council officers, it was understood that RDC will look again at the plans and architects' drawings. Potential meeting of minds? Consider a letter needs to be sent to RDC to agree possible meeting dates, and to ask the reason why there has been no response to date from Trustees of Community Land Trust. It was mentioned that BH could apply for Planning Permission, but acknowledged that it could be expensive. It was also noted that a nearby resident was asked if they had seen any activity around the site. They had seen people taking measurements and looking at the trees, which lends weight to the view that RDC is making progress towards private housing.

(ii) Baptist Church

RDC have made own application for listing. This was checked and followed up with an FOI application to Historic England. The reply back came with puzzling redactions. However overall application was acknowledged to be well written and very positive.

Action : To send all emails and notes to Simon

(iii) Down Cottage

RDC has never mentioned or discussed this property with BH, despite the blurb in the estate agents details. Tim Hickling suggested that BH make an application for listing, which begs the question why isn't RDC doing so? BH felt that the council officer gave a poor response why this has not already been done by RDC. RK followed up on response from Tom Hickling and was told that it was due to vacancies and the fact that the property was not under threat. It is noted that the estate agents board now shows "Sale Agreed". RK confirmed there is a meeting with RDC in October.

Suggested way forward given currently BH has no right of access. BH willing to make application with their support and access approval in order to facilitate the historical research of Down Cottage, similar to the assistance in relation to the cowshed at Barnhorn Manor..

Action: RK to forward email to RDC for response and for BH to liaise and complete documentation.

(iv) Knole Road

Confirmed a letter submitted re principal and design of proposed development, which is now on the RDC web site. Awaiting adjudication from Planning Committee. Under the old system there was no right to speak, other

than residents and those submitting a petition. Understand that others will be permitted to speak at the October meeting.

Action: A representative to be determined at a later date, to attend on behalf of BH. Awaiting RDC Planning Committee notes to verify situation.

(v) Clavering Walk

Bellway have appealed, HE have done a volte face, erroneously. Despite the proposed recreational opportunities to be provided by the developers, the SAM will be a magnet for youngsters from the development and the wider area, and others, in particular diggers and metal detectorists. Damage is inevitable, reliance on brambles as a deterrent is futile. Fencing will be breached. Footpath realignment ineffective.

BH to maintain objection.

Action: DB to check whether BOAG and RDC are maintaining their objection, DB and AM to trawl possible sources of information on similar circumstances.

"Meeting with Planning Committee

RK confirmed that Jonathan Vine Hall has had a meeting with Tim Hickling and offered three dates towards the end of October. Suggest Steve, David and RK attend. Chair of Planning very positive with what BH is doing, with useful meetings and introduction to planning. Showed good knowledge and attitude.

4. BH HQ

There are currently three possible locations available to BH. The church is very positive and after a meeting Ben Hook Melanie Powell both were happy with the location for the TI Point if placed in the church. Tony Leonard advised there were concerns with the Toilet Block site mainly due to poor footfall currently. However, very open to a joint information point. Was not aware of the BH Pop Up Shop, but ok with TI Info point there, but more concerned that it could possibly lead to "Shop Hopping". This would not be an ideal situation for the TI Point. BH does not consider Shop Hopping to be viable due to the potential pressure to sign legal agreements with agents and protracted need for documentation.

Steve explained the longer term option of the Sainsburys site/Toilet Block. It currently has no electrics and would need the interior to be demolished and rebuilt to suit BH. RK noted the timescale for the church to be about the same as the toilet block due to physical alterations also required at the church entrance area.

Steve also mentioned that the Community Bus would like to come in with BH. RK queried the likely costs involved with the St Barnabas and Toilet Block sites. David provided details of recent council vehicle/pedestrian surveys. The relative merits of each site were considered. St Barnabas is not likely to be as busy as the Toilet Block currently. TB site has difficult issues in addition to lack of electricity and water currently, it is understood the toilet/s are blocked by cement. Depending on the extent (e.g contained within the pan or into the drain/sewer systems) could be costly and delay refurbishment. St

Barnabas has already agreed by letter to charging a peppercorn rent. There was discussion about the Rates due on each site. Unlikely to attract 100% discount due to possible trading on site of the sales of bus tickets and other events/facilities. However, it was acknowledged that there could be a commission paid on sales of tickets and the other positives of bringing people into the shop. It is understood that RDC will cover notional costs, and that labour will be free. Among the items required for the Toilet Block site will be lintels (approx. 4), small windows, remnants of carpet. Possibly ask a hotel going through refurbishment may be willing to recycle some items. RK suggested that decision time should be at a key point when it is known what plans RDC have for the regeneration of London Road. Steve stated that whichever one is finally decided on, that there will be a need to maximise footfall.

Steve mentioned that Rother Voluntary Action are in need of a room now, and currently share with Bexhill Community Bus. Councillor Lynn Langlands has asked if the area can be shared 6 days per week. She also suggested perhaps it could be tried on a temp basis. RK mentioned that the future of the church was uncertain, but they are very keen to have BH and TIP.

It was recognised that some work could be done by members volunteering, but professionals would need to complete plumbing and electrical installations. Tony stated that the Toilet Block work can only go forward if membership agree to contribute.

Pop Up Shop – an application for discretionary rate will need to be completed prior to occupation.

Action : (i) Steve asked if Tony could provide a more detailed plan, costings and business plan. BH insurers need to be contacted re the Toilet Block especially, although not expected to be an issue with the church site.

(ii) Tony to obtain keys to check current state (TB).

(iii) Alex to obtain keys to church to confirm next steps, remedial work or changes required.

(iv) David or Steve to discuss application re Rates and who/where to submit.

5. Projects and Priorities

(i) Pages Gap

Unable to confirm with the adjacent householder re leaflets container, due to ill health.

Action: Simon to make enquiries re waterproof boxes

(ii) East Parade Shelters

Minor damage noted on No. 2 shelter with initials scratched into the wood. At a meeting re No. 3 shelter, RDC asked if BH can help as the council only has one “in house” workman. Noted that council workman has done a very good job to date. Tiles on the roof need attention, but scaffolding too expensive.

May be able to hire a cherry picker for a few days to complete the work, given a suitable weather window. Acknowledged it will need a carpenter to finish off the work. Perhaps a BH member has the right skills to make approx. 20 mouldings. RK asked that volunteers wear BH logo shirts and work wear

when on site, and if hard hats, overalls and steel toe capped boots would be needed? RK also mentioned that the guardians of a young person with mental or capability issues would like to be involved if possible. It may require a DBS disclosure application or advice on safeguarding, to allow him to do some practical work with supervision. RK also asked if BH happy to progress No. 3 Shelter as RDC has budgeted for materials. Also, those working on site should ensure the BH banner is displayed, the charity box is available for donations plus leaflets.

Action: Ian Hollidge has volunteered to project manage, although away on holiday during anticipated timescale.

Query if any risk assessment will be required. Simon to liaise with Ian and RK. Will also need to identify if other H & S issues apply.

(iii) De La Warr Bus Shelter

Steve has written to principal of college, RDC and Stagecoach bus company. Hope to get involvement of Bexhill College students and re-engagement with Stagecoach. No replies yet.

(iv) West Parade Clock Tower

Reported to be drying out 'nicely'. Replacing putty and fillers will need to wait until sufficiently dried out. A verbal survey amongst nearby residents suggests that a recording of bells might be suitable to be installed. Would need to take account of soundings, levels, directional speakers/surroundings. To be discussed in Spring/Summer 2020.

(v) Sainsburys Mural

RK received a message from Andrew advising it will be another 2 weeks before he can make any progress. The manager will be at another store location and then a/leave. Simon said that it will need the use of some detergent to loosen the diesel smuts, but nothing too harsh. BH will need to check the local archives for information on the original installation and to consider preparation of a suitable plaque, when cleaning completed.

(vi) Asset Register

NFA – busy with arrangements for Bexhill History Day

6. Events

(i) Summer events Feedback Bexhill 100 : gazebo 'expired'. No need to replace until Spring 2020. Some new members signed up. TBC numbers.

Festival of the Sea – stall was not in best area. There were missed opportunities and if repeated next year will need a pitch in the main arena.

(ii) Future Tea/Coffee meetings Agreed to consider what to do at next committee Meeting on 28 October. Possibly consider another email to members for assistance at Members Meetings. RK to issue. Noted that Jan Marner is moving away. Andrew asked if flowers and a card should be sent to say 'Thank You'. Agreed RK should send card on behalf of BH but no flowers. Nice gesture but an expense from limited budget and would need to be offered across all volunteers.

(iii) Members meeting 28 August. Next meeting 28 Oct needs suggestions for speaker. Acknowledged having a speaker appears to attract better numbers

attending. Suggestion for 4th December meeting, was Alan Star as he has a new book about Bexhill out now.

- (iv) BH Quiz Night 21st October. Posters and flyers have been made available. It is open to non-members too.
- (v) Heritage Day sold out for whole day, but limited no. of a.m. slots available.
- (vi) Tour of The Keep spaces need to be booked online individually, but if BH knew in advance who would like to go small groups could be booked centrally as and when dates are made available. No facility at present for special group tours lasting more than an hour. Potential for other day trips/tours for groups of BH members to heritage sites of interest, windmills, ruins etc.
Action : BH check interest at next members meeting.

7. Finance and Governance

- (i) RK would like a Membership Secretary to keep people in touch with BH organisation. Aim to keep members in organisation. Alex mentioned possible reprint of forms to include more prominent indicator for those wishing to be more involved.
Action: Steve to draft email for Alex to email to all new members.
- (ii) New screen has been bought to feature in the Heritage Day and next Members Meeting.
- (iii) Letter to Solicitors and Undertakers – completed. As there are only 9 in Bexhill they will be hand delivered.

8. Any Other Business

- (i) Civic Pride Awards RK awaiting confirmation that Redwell estates are willing to sponsor. Recognised that a members will need time to nominate buildings. Also that Redwell will purchase a plaque to place on the building at a cost of approx. £300. Plan to get photo and write up of award into local newspapers.
- (ii) BH Branding Promotion of branding and information relating to contact details Superstitch, to be placed on to BH web site. Also, an email to be sent to all members re badges and Superstitch contact.
- (iii) Advertising for temp BH Pop Up Shop Discussion re immediate purchase of Feather style flag to indicate shop open. May need to verify insurance liabilities for use of A Board in addition. There was also a request for large size branded 'tabards' for projects and events next year.
- (iv) DLWP and Bexhill Museum Query raised whether BH could be 'partnered' with both organisations.
Action : RK to pursue with Diedre
- (v) Members Meeting Feedback : Some complaints received from people who couldn't hear the speaker and some disliked the screen used for the talk. It was confirmed the screen problem has already been dealt with. The sound system should be better if guest speakers in future are given chance to have a sound check and training/familiarity session with the headset or use of microphone, before any future meetings.
- (vi) Card Payments Alex agreed to make a tablet available and provide training in order that members or public can make card payments in future. Discussion

and agreement to purchase a card reader at approx. £55 per unit. The unit will also enable email or text receipts to mobiles. It was queried if the purchases can be itemised e.g. badges, events etc. TBC

- (vii) Non Delivery of Emails Previous complaints from a few members has been checked by Alex, who confirmed that undelivered emails were receiving a 'bounce back' with no problems. Nothing in the weekly report to show any potential reasons other than incorrect email addresses, or members own settings for 'Spam'.

9. Date of Next Meetings:

Members Meeting – Monday 28th October 2019 at 19.00 The Friends Meeting House.

Committee Meeting –Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at 19.00, Traffors Bar, Egerton Road, Bexhill