

**Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting Trafffers, Egerton Road, Bexhill on Sea**

**Committee :**

Raymond Konyn (RK)	: Chair
Steve Johnson (SJ)	: Vice Chair /Treasurer
Alexis Markwick (AM)	: IT Support Officer
Simon Allen (SA)	: Projects Coordinator
David Beales (DB)	: Planning officer
Anthony Lightly (AL)	: Chartered Building Surveyor
Jeanette Eason	: Committee Clerk

**1. Apologies**

No apologies

**2. Approval of minutes and Matters Arising**

No amendments required. Copy minutes to be signed.

**3. Bexhill Flag Presentation – Keith & Hilary Rhodes**

BH Committee was congratulated on establishing an excellent organisation and increasing the membership in such a short period of time. Congratulations were also extended re other events, such as Pages Gap opening and Information Point, Civic Pride Award and the move into other projects supporting buildings restoration, enabling information sharing and enhancing resident's knowledge of their town. In the light of the Pages gap event, Keith was asked if he could do something similar for the football club, Bexhill United, which has been based at the Polegrove for 90+ years. Keith and Hilary then showed the meeting a proposed layout of the display board, with a brief history of the club and explanation of the photos etc., which included the original mock Tudor style stand and club house designed to be seen from the sea (prior to the building of the flats). BH is being paid by the football club for producing the display board and the plan is to have an official opening, (probably about 2.30 p.m.) on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to coincide with the football match due on that day. There was discussion about sending an email notification to members to let them know about the event, plus the use of the BH unveiling cloth.

KR then advised the meeting of the idea to seek reinstatement of the Bexhill Town Flag. It is not known why or when it fell out of use. Some research information was circulated to the meeting. KR stated that he felt the project came within Article 2 of the BH Constitution and would like agreement to move forward with recovering the costs of the flag (Keith paid approx. £55) possibly through crowd funding and to purchase more flags, bunting and maybe a marquee. It was acknowledged that the Charter trustees will need to be involved and the flag registered, plus perhaps there is a patent on the town flag. It was agreed that a number of issues needed to be researched in order to take the project forward.

RK asked the committee if it felt that the project fitted with BH purpose. There was general discussion which felt that it was part of Bexhill history, it could educate the residents, and enhance the town's built environment if flown from key buildings. Also there is historical information about Edward VII granting of the Charter to Bexhill. It was felt it also fits well with Sussex day celebrations too.

#### 4. Planning and Development

RDC Budget Consultation – Rother DC has issued an invite for residents and groups to comment on its budget plans for the new financial year. It needs to find another £3million in savings, but has one of the highest social care budgets in the country. It acknowledges that there will be reductions and redundancies in staffing, refuse, and parks. It will not be useful to simply oppose. Suggestion that one or two people look through the budget plans and email responses to feed back. Agreed it would be important to restate BH purposes, defend our situation, charitable status and that we are seeking support and “inventive solutions” even if we cannot get involved specifically, BH is there to support.

**Action** : SJ to write and submit response.

(i) Cemetery Lodge

RK noted that he had heard from Councillor J Brewerton and that new architects had come up with 5 alternative plans with affordable housing involved in 3 out of the 5 to secure Cemetery Lodge. Currently trying to secure the adjacent land. RK has asked for a meeting with Community Land Trust and that BH needs to have sight of the drawings. It was noted that an email from Peter Cole queried whether it was still consecrated ground? Retention of the Lodge may offer further leverage regarding other areas of the site.

**Action** : Peter & Alex to check and verify what area/s are still consecrated ground. Facts required to ascertain which groups or exclusions involved and if all parts of the graveyard are still in use.

**Action** : RK to write to firm up meeting date, sight of drawings and ensure CLT aware BH maintaining interest.

(ii) Baptist Church

Awaiting news\_re application for listing.

(iii) Down Cottage

BH possibly need take lead on this item. **Action** SJ

(iv) Knole Road

**Action:** Remove item from future agendas.

(v) Clavering Walk

**Action:** Remove item from future agendas.

(vi) Meeting with Planning Committee

BH unlikely to get assistance or help from the Head of Development Control. Councillors more positive and on board, offering to be mediators. This may be a more appropriate route in future. Suggest that future correspondence is sent to Senior Planning Officers and cc'd to Planning Councillors. If BH is

experiencing problems with officers, bring in members more firmly to get things moving and use Councillors as conduit.

RDC Web Site – BH asked to be included on User Group list to test out any changes and invited to comment on the website and feedback ideas of what they would like to see. It was suggested a list be circulated. DB went through his suggested comments and amendments for the committee to discuss. There were minor suggestions to the tone of the feedback. Also noted that no one knew what “OW PC” meant. It was noted that general usability of the site was poor and that even RDC officers were unable to use it properly. There appeared to be an annoying number of occasions when a search came back with “No Details” because details such as case numbers or references were not inserted. Alex worked with David and suggested that there should be an ‘auto type in’ facility to suggest or pre-empt text searches.

**Action** : DB (no internet at present) to amend with suggested changes and copy to RK before sending to the Chairman and Councillors attending. David to confirm who to send to and relevant cc’s.

## 5. BH HQ/Shop

It was agreed to launch the new BH Info point at the Methodist Church in January. Times/rota to be arranged to clean, tidy and prepare the space for the opening date. It was suggested that the BH IP start with one day per week to start with, probably 14<sup>th</sup> January to cover 10.00 to 15.00 hours of opening. Volunteers to attend the week before to clean and prepare the space.

## 6. Events

- (i) Christmas at the Seafront Shelter  
Noted there has been a change to the date.
- (ii) Civic Pride Award  
There was a very good discussion at the Members Meeting. Alex is currently working on the certificates. The information will be included in the newsletter together with details of the date of the Town Hall event. There was discussion as to whether the invitations should include all the nominees, just the winners and immediate runners up. It was agreed that Greys House should be included, despite receiving no votes, it was a nominee in a specific category.
- (iii) Update on events and meetings in 2020 It was agreed that the Committee Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020, should be held at 2 – 4 p.m. due to the BH event in the evening.
- (iv) Members Meeting speakers for 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4 March and 7 Oct  
Suggestions are Ian Jarman (Statue of Edith & Harold, St Leonards), Daryll Holter (Sussex Police Heritage Crime Officer) and Keith Rhodes (Bexhill Flag & Shelter No.1).

## 7. Projects and Priorities

- (i) East Parade Shelters  
Roofers stripping roof at present and making lots of progress, although not impressed with their abilities. Advised the tiles are to be fitted next year, which are being made in Battle. The ridge tiles are to be made and cornices may be sourced via reclamation. Steve has produced a work plan. There were

discussions re need for protection of glazing with masking. Also need for protection of putty before work done on the roof and ceiling. It was noted that some of the boarding would need fixing to replace nails that have rusted to nothing. Sand will also need to be removed urgently. So far 8 bags of sand have been removed from the roof space. Suggestion is for now that the only painting to be done is Primer, with plastic sheeting to cover the putty areas. Another worry is the use of Twopac type filler on holes in woodwork. Because the filler dries very hard, and is very difficult to sand smooth unlike others normally used in DIY. If Twopac used it will need to be smoothed down immediately and not left uneven. SA said he was pleasantly surprised at the state of the rafters. There were no 'bugs or beasties' lurking and it turned out to be well vented. Suggest when roofers replace the tiles that the breathable membrane be similarly vented in a few places. There was discussion re venting and possible inclusion of louvres. There is due to be a meeting on Weds with Steve & Simon. The fascia board on the west side has rotted and needs replacing.

There was also discussion about monitoring the cleanliness of the East Parade Shelter (suggested twice a day until further notice). BH will seek the cooperation of any volunteers, perhaps dog walkers wearing a BH logo jacket, to monitor the state of the shelters. Request for help to be made via email direct to the members. RDC have stated that the contractors, Biffa, are cleaning regularly including with pressure washers. However, despite enquiries no one has ever seen this being done.

(ii) De La Warr Bus Shelter

No response from Stagecoach to date. The college has just had an OFSTED visit and now they are preparing to break for Christmas.

(iii) West Parade Clock Tower

SA stated he will try to have a look at the Clock Tower. Believe that despite the recent continuous rain, the water that was in the clock face was condensation, rather than water ingress.

(iv) Sainsburys Mural

No change to current situation, but will try to progress post Christmas retail pressure.

(v) Civic Society Affiliation

Alex suggested possible affiliation through Civic Voice (online) like Victorian Society. Membership and costs depend on numbers/ size of group. If was agreed to defer this item to another meeting in the new year.

## 8. Finance and Governance

(i) Student Membership : It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

(ii) Finance Update : Copies of the BH balance sheet were circulated and items discussed and agreed.

(iii) Circulation and approval of agendas and minutes : After discussion it was agreed that only approved copies of the minutes and agendas are published on the BH web site.

**Action** : Defer until SJ available. To be brought back to next agenda

## **9. Any Other Business**

- (i) "Friends of Roof for Edith" – As it is located in St Leonards, it is not strictly within BH area but group is willing to offer limited support, information share.
- (ii) Community Noticeboard – It was confirmed that this is not within BH obligations. However if Town Forum is willing to pay for a notice board it could be housed at new BH Info Point.
- (iii) Museum Briefing – allow the invite to come from the Bexhill Museum. DB to discuss direct with museum.
- (iv) Change of Committee Titles – Alex to change to new title which includes Project Researcher and Historian. Keith Rhodes to be asked if he wishes to have the title of Project Researcher and be formally added to the web site.
- (v) 2021 Diary – suggestion that perhaps BH order some diaries for 2021 in the colours of BH and with the logo for members to buy/be given. To include a separate slip listing BH events.
- (vi) Sand Timers – generally received well. Felt it was a good and amusing way to keep to timings at meetings.

## **10. Date of Next Meetings:**

Members Meeting – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 19.00 The Friends Meeting House.

Committee Meeting –20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 19.00, Traffors Bar, Egerton Road, Bexhill