

## Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting Minutes Monday 17 February 2020

### Bexhill Heritage Committee Meeting Traffs, 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
John Swap (JS)	: Membership Secretary
Jeanette Eason (JE)	: Committee Clerk

#### 1. Apologies

No apologies

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

To correct the spelling of the name of Roger Elias, in reference to the King Offa Charter section in January 2020 Committee Meeting notes. **Action** : JE to amend and reissue minutes.

Role of new Membership Secretary JS: Reported a good start on recovering some 'lost' members, renewals plus the receipt of some very generous donations. There were a number of discontinued numbers, messages left on answerphones, plus several members for whom BH had email addresses only and no home addresses. Difficult to follow up, if there is no response to emails.

There was discussion around ideas for non-renewals, nos. withheld, whether personal letter best option for contact. JS willing to try any or all ideas and will fine tune as necessary.

St Barnabas Church Bookings : RK confirmed that the church has been booked for the BH AGM on 6 May and for Sussex Day on 16 June.

Tony Steer Meeting :TS was taken on a tour of Bexhill Heritage current and completed projects. TS was very helpful and enthusiastic. There was discussion of the level of support and input that could be on offer from TS. It was agreed TS would be a useful contact with regards to future projects and how to access other sources of funding which may be available to local groups.

King Offa Charter Meeting : SA confirmed that an email had been sent to R Elias about this event, but nothing has been heard back so far. It was confirmed that the museum is planning on doing something to mark the event.

Use of Workshop and Tools : SA and AM have spent several hours trying to clear an access path through to the workshop and staircase. If the weather improves, it would be good to have more volunteers involved.

Low Cost printing : RK confirmed the printer has been set up in the Heritage Hub by Claire, and is working well. There has also been a donation of a scanner/printer and new cartridge to the Hub.

Electricity Bill (Devonshire Road) : SJ stated that he has sent an email to the landlord explaining that the amount of the bill submitted to BH is excessive for the level and brief use of the shop. BH willing to consider paying a more reasonable amount.

Town Flag : SJ to ask Keith Rhodes to give BH a clear idea as to what assistance, if any, or support for obtaining funding, he needs from Bexhill Heritage. AM has already provided some presentation materials (slides) but can also make appeal to the membership for donations towards the costs. Keith needs to gain agreement from RDC and Charter Trustees before moving forward with the project. Bexhill Museum has already indicated it will endorse and help launch an appeal then. There was further discussion about ongoing fund raising for the town flag. BH to support the project and could consider a loan for repayment. **Action** : RK to send letter to Keith Rhodes, confirming BH keen to support and to be provided with an outline or plan of the project.

### 3. Planning and Development (DB)

(i) Cemetery Lodge

Very slow progress, nothing further heard on this item. Questions being asked, but no answers to date. Recognised that at the end of 2020 it could just be sold off. SJ suggested that we could set up our own Community Land Trust (CLT), given the danger of it being sold off. After the end of 2020 the officers will be free to offer the land on the open market. It was queried whether any further information had been received from the suggestion by P Cole about the land around the Lodge being consecrated ground. SJ also asked if the current CLT has any other pieces of land it is managing, or if this was the only project. There was further discussion about the aims of the CLT. Suggested way forward be to keep 'knocking' on councillors' doors, and giving RDC a gentle reminder in 3 weeks time for an update/progress report. Also, could be suggested that BH project manage it for them. **Action** : RK to draft letter to Chair of Planning offering help from BH.

(ii) Baptist Church

Nothing further heard on this item.

(iii) Down Cottage

SJ and AM now have a couple of dates to arrange a site visit and ascertain future plans.

(iv) Bexhill Indoor Market, Western Road

Nothing further heard on this item.

(v) Others

Clavering Walk Development – appeal upheld. Permitted development. RDC does not have enough land set aside for housing.

Spindlewood – Again, new councillors may need to give agreement for same reason as Clavering Walk.

DB mentioned that it was queried at the last Council Planning Committee why old planning applications 'not determined' had not been progressed, or annotated as to why there had been no further action.

(vi) Community Asset Register

SJ read out his draft reply to Mr Burgess regarding RDC response to Pages Gap. It was agreed and suggested that it should be copied to Anthony Leonard and Cllr Doug Oliver.

#### 4. Heritage Hub

- (i) Tenure -There are ongoing discussions re length of tenure and future use of building and space.
- (ii) Equipment & Resources – BH has received confirmation of the grant from RDC which has been channelled into resources for the Hub, such as a tablet to enable visitors to browse online for events or local (to RDC) TIP places of interest, accommodation, eating places etc.
- (iii) Arrangements for a 'soft' opening – Claire has all extra items/volunteers in hand and has arranged for two press releases.
- (iv) Tourist Information Point (TIP) – it has been a very positive move, but RDC is unable to hang its banner outside until the church gives permission. It is possible that the Hub may also get an A board display unit too.

#### 5. Events

- (i) Civic Pride Awards – Arrangements for Presentations have been agreed for 2nd March at RDC Council Chamber, with light refreshments and formal presentations by RK. SJ will introduce each category, runners up and winners. SJ Awaiting confirmation that a representative from The Sackville Bistro will be attending.
- (ii) Update on events in 2020 and VE Day
  - (a) So far, the only item suggested for VE Day has been another attempt to create the biggest 'VE' image using residents to spell out the letters and filmed from above by drone. It is understood that R Crouch is arranging.
  - (b) It was also mentioned that both War Memorials in Bexhill (at little Common and the Marina) will be reaching their centenaries this year, as they were both erected in 1920.
  - (c) It was also explained that BH may be given possible use of the Colonnade, which is currently empty and which may be useful during the VE Day Bank Holiday. If so, BH may also need to invest in a new gazebo for the summer.
  - (d) An email has been sent to the organisers of the Sea Festival, but to date nothing further has been heard. Query if it is still going ahead, and whether they have managed to source some funding.
  - (e) It was agreed BH would not be doing the Great Gatsby fair.
  - (f) It was agreed that BH may possibly consider a stall if the Anglo/French Market goes ahead this year.

## 6. Projects and Priorities (SA)

### (i) East Parade Shelters

Good council contractors on site – helpful, professional and enjoying the job. Some of the surfaces still need filling and sanding. There is no painting being done at present while waiting for the roofers to finish. There are schedules of work for each day and it is important that volunteers stick to them.

It is also important that the work is not rushed and potentially spoil what has already been achieved and completed. It was noted that two new people had come along to help out and were very good at following instructions.

There was discussion re tiles, finials, and possible reclamation opportunities for two pieces to finish off the roof. A letter has gone out to all the residents of flats and apartments along the parade to ask if they could keep an eye on the shelters and either report litter etc, to RDC or incidents of vandalism to the Police. The letter also asked if others who regularly walk the prom or take their dogs for a walk could be vigilant for interference or damage and report back. It was agreed that the current info board at the Shelter be modified to include a request for walkers to report back any incidents. SJ asked about plans for an Interpretation Board or subtle plaque to be placed on the Shelter/s. RK mentioned that he had emailed J Brotherton regarding the Town Telescope and any further update, or if there was a possible contact that BH could have for the project. AM mentioned that he was doing a walk for the museum on 17<sup>th</sup> and that he hoped to make the Shelter a ‘drop-in’ for the event.

### (ii) De La Warr Bus Shelter

SJ confirmed he has had no response. **Action:** AM to send a copy of his email for SJ to follow up.

### (iii) West Parade Clock Tower

SA stated it is still his plan to check the Clock Tower in spring time, to see what state it is in and try and give it a clean. The plinth that was recently damaged by a vehicle collision has been repaired.

### (iv) Sainsburys Mural

Nothing further heard from Sainsburys

## 7. Finance and Governance

(i) Charity Commission application – It was noted that a change was proposed under Objective 2 for BH, which recommend the wording be amended to include “and cultural heritage”. This was agreed.

(ii) Protocols – There as discussion around the request to display the Democracy4Bexhill banner in the Hub. It was agreed that if the process was endorsed by RDC and banner carried an official RDC logo, it would be acceptable for the Hub. If not, then it would be best to remain neutral. In addition, RK clarified that if BH is asked to attend any meetings, that people go as individuals on a personal basis, and not as formal BH representatives.

(iii) Proxy and Postal Voting – After discussion it was agreed that this item and future procedures be put forward and any changes agreed by the membership at the AGM. The application to the Charity Commission will be ready to go

after the AGM. In future it is recommended that Proxy Voting forms should be sent out with the newsletter 3 weeks before either EGMs or AGMs.

- (iv) Finance Update – SJ confirmed there is a ‘hole’ in the budget because BH has not so far received the grant from RDC for setting up the Hub. Membership renewals are averaging an income of approximately £200 per month. The Co-op community fund is building but will not be paid to BH until October, at the end of their process. Although the finances look healthy, it is sensible to be cautious until BH receives reimbursement for expenditure. The accounts will need to be checked and it was proposed that Rother Voluntary Action be asked if they can do so again this year.

## 8. Any Other Business

- (i) Electronic legacy/Donations Board – There had been a suggestion from a member to purchase a sign blazer or similar equipment for the Heritage Hub to detail who had given donations or on receipt of a legacy. It was acknowledged that some people would prefer to remain anonymous, but that something simple could be incorporated with the BH slide show already in place at the Hub.
- (ii) Publicising membership numbers – Similar request as above. It was agreed that this information is already included on the Bexhill Heritage web site and therefore there is no need for any special arrangements to be displayed at the Hub.
- (iii) It was noted that P Lendon (member) had made various suggestions for raising the BH profile locally e.g. sticky BH logos, when people make donations at events. It was also suggested that these could also be placed on the Town Council banner and posters around town e.g. on banner near Bexhill Friday Market. This idea was not agreed due to BH wishing to remain neutral on the matter. However, it was agreed the idea for sticky logos could be trialled and that an initial supply would be purchased. **Action** : AM to send latest PDF to be used.

## 9. Date of Next Meetings

- Members Meeting – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 19.00 The Friends Meeting House. Speaker will Ian Jarman on the Friends of Edith & Harold
- Committee Meeting – 16th March 2020 at 19.00, Traffors Bar, Egerton Road, Bexhill

## 10. Confidential Item

The committee discussed personnel and proposed action to address an issue.