

Committee :

Raymond Konyn
Steve Johnson
Alex Markwick
Simon Allen
John Swap
Anthony Lightly
Jeanette Eason (Absent)

1. Apologies – none

2. Approval of minutes and Matters Arising

- Electricity Bill – SJ confirmed this has now been paid.

3. Planning and Development BD sent an email report (extracts incorporated below)

- i) Cemetery Lodge – TL agreed it was right to have given the CLT two opportunities to provide BH with copies of the drawings/plans for the site. Sadly there has been no response to date, but there is unlikely to be anything happening during the current emergency.
- ii) Baptist Church, Buckhurst Road – there was no reason given for not listing the building and apparently the certificate of immunity from a further attempt is normal.
- iii) Down Cottage request for listing – SJ and AM were still trying to gain access to view but this has not been possible since lockdown. No confirmation as to whether sale is going through. If sold meanwhile, suggest BH could approach new owner in simple "helpful" mode. Await lifting of restrictions before further action.
- iv) Spindlewood - was refused on drainage grounds only, Nothing is currently shown on the RDC website to indicate any further moves by applicants. The officer reports do not appear on the updated RDC website.
- v) Others. -The agreed response on flats and covered market in Western Road was sent to RDC, as was a response on the flats and shops proposed adjoining the railway bridge in Sackville Road(west side). The latter is considered to be a gross overdevelopment of the site. Also it could have a negative impact on surrounding properties. DB will also be looking at the application for alterations to the nursing home at 3-5 Eversley Rd,
Action: Could TL check the plans to Eversley Road site and make comment back to DB.
Action: DB asked committee members to take a look at the revamped RDC website and offer any observations to him, specifically on using the planning section. Unfortunately the website does not appear to have a list of Councillors and their responsibilities.

- vi) Community Asset Register – response from RDC was disappointing as none of the points raised were referenced. Suggested that BH contact RDC Councillor at a future date to discuss situation.

DB has also written to T Hickling with objections to the news that the government is planning to lift building controls and allowing home owners to increase the height of their properties by two floors. It was recognised during discussions that the plans were very dangerous, not only because Building Controls in councils did not generally have the manpower to monitor, but it could cause problems where foundations are not deep enough to take the extra floors and weight loading.

Action: RK to write to DB to ask to make further enquiries as to whether the changes apply to just houses, flats or both.

4. BEXHILL HERITAGE'S WORK / CORONA VIRUS

- i) Chairman's message and remission of membership fees - Generally well received and several 'Thanks You's.
- ii) Keeping in touch with members – SJ recognised the importance of generating activity despite the lockdown. SJ suggested contact be made with the various stakeholders involved with Shelter No. 1 such as RDC, potential users etc., first by circulating a questionnaire in order to complete a scoping exercise and then perhaps arrange an online meeting to discuss in more detail.
- iii) Planning for the resumption of normal activities and keeping in touch with members – suggestion that perhaps initial circulation to the membership about nominations for this years' Civic Pride Awards. Also a need to update the website. It was pleasing to see that the April Fools item was well received. SJ also suggested possibly a quiz to be set on the website and newsletter with a prize for the winner. Communications will need to be set on 3 tiers, those with email, email & social media, and those with no email or social media links (manual copy newsletters). A suggestion from P Lendon that when restrictions are lifted that BH organise a memorial for the victims of Covid19. After discussion it was felt it may be a bit soon, plus there may be a nationally organised memorial. JS asked if there were any more up to date photos of the work being done in the Shelter, to show the public what work has been done so far? SJ was a bit concerned to make any work public at present. At present SJ has been working on his own at the Shelter, carefully shielded from the public to abide by the current restrictions. If that is made public, it could result in pressure to halt the work. Suggested that it would be better to wait until closer to a time when the work was almost complete.
- Action:** Committee agreed for SJ go ahead with the initial consultation re Shelter No.1 and to launch the Civic Pride Awards in about a months' time. Civic Pride awards will need members to begin nominating buildings between May and June, in order to be ready for decisions to be made in November.

5. PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

- i) East parade Shelter – SJ stated it was nicely isolated for continuation of work. Two of the ceilings are nearly completed with all painting done. Will be moving on soon to the pillars. It has been interesting to overhear positive comments from

walkers on the seafront looking at the public display boards. It is hoped that by the end of next week all surfaces will have been painted with at least one coat. The better weather has made the task easier. Other work on the benches has been out sourced to John & Rita for the slats and connecting rods. Have not yet heard anything back from the person hoping to do the shot blasting of the bench supports. SJ has contacted him to say that he is willing to deliver the seat to him. RK congratulated SJ on a fantastic effort.

- ii) Bexhill Town Flag – see latest email from Keith Rhodes. It was agreed to stall this project until next year. SJ concerned that KR thinks BH are launching a funding campaign. It was alternatively suggested that perhaps instead of paying flag makers overseas, it could be kept more local. Suggest that contact be made with craft shops in town, to consider events to train people and children how to make flags, use of sewing equipment.
Action: RK to mention ideas to KR and trying to make more of the local connection. Plus a short piece to be put in the Newsletter.
- iii) De La Warr Road bus shelter – No change. College now closed.
- iv) West Parade clock tower – After SA fixed the clock and put the time right, someone has visited to change the time to BST. Not known who, but good that it is happening. Also Bexhill West Station – SA went to check the clock and to wind up the mechanism, but found someone on site has also been doing it (Mark). Also he has managed to adjust it for BST too. Both clocks working fine and telling correct time. RK asked if there could be any material about both clocks to include in the Newsletter?

6. Finance and Governance

- i) Extending existing terms of office for committee members and trustees – SJ suggested ‘roll-over’ of all officers for another year due to the current situation. Members to be advised via the Newsletter.
- ii) Committee roles – amended role descriptions. Still pending on SJ list of things ‘To Do’.
- iii) The charity’s ‘official’ address – discussion about alternative official addresses before making the application to the Charity Commissioners. Decision agreed to retain St Barnabas Church address.
Action: AM has key to church and although in lockdown is permitted to visit church to collect any BH post.
- iv) Membership update – All memberships extended. Current members 364. Nothing further to report.
- v) Finance update, end of year accounts and resilience issues – SJ stated he had produced a provisional balance sheet, which can be accessed online. Various aspects discussed. It will need formal auditing. It was noted that RDC owes BH money and that they have been in contact to request the bank account details. SJ went through the various items relating to the accounts for the financial year and current asset net value. SJ will prepare a fully itemised set of accounts, but despite fund raising activities being on hold, and extensions of membership, BH is in a good financial position.
- vi) Fund raising – It is known that Trade Paints is willing to sponsor the Civic Pride Awards. Plus companies like Screwfix and Yorkshire Building Society have charity funding grants available. Plus previously The Sackville and Paul Wright have offered donations. It maybe that members may also wish to donate to specific

projects. RK mentioned that he was surprised by the total of the Co-oP fund which jumped overnight from about £800 to over £1000.

7. Any other business

- i) RK mentioned that he had not sent through any of the Monitoring Forms for the Shelter to RDC. Also have received an email from one of the volunteers re postponement of their submission of forms.
- ii) AGM – SJ suggested that BH hold an Extra Ordinary General Meeting to comply with the Charity Commissioners. Or contact all members individually. This could be included with the Newsletter in May.

Action: AM to prepare and issue Newsletter and additional papers.

8. Dates of next scheduled meetings:

- Members Meeting – AGM Wednesday 6th May 2020 (to be postponed)
- **Committee Meeting** - Monday 18th May 7pm – online meeting