

Bexhill Heritage

Minutes of Meeting 3rd January 2018

Attendees

Simon Allen, Steve Johnson, Raymond Konyn, Emily Leach, Paul Lendon, Tony Lightly Alexis Marwick, Sandy Melvin, Doug Oliver, Richard Sage, Carol Thomas, Paul Wright

1. Apologies

Rachel Hills, Ian Hollidge (lateness) Nick Hollington, Val Hunnisset, Dorothy Smith

2. Declaration of interests

No interests were declared.

3. Approval of minutes for the December meeting

These were approved with two amendments.

- The term 'commemorative stone' to be replaced with 'commemorative plaque'.
- Spelling of George Gray's surname to be corrected.

ACTION

- EL to provide corrected copies for the website (AM) and file (SJ).

4. Governance issues

Steve Johnson reported that:

- BH now had 32 members.
- BH should have a balance of approximately £180 at the end of the financial year 2017 / 18. This is assuming continued planned expenditure of around £25 per month (insurance, website fees and phone line rental) and no growth in membership. (An up to date account was shared with members.)
- We had been successful in our application to be accredited as an organisation able to carry out project work in partnership with Rother District Council (RDC).
- A draft policy on working with young people and vulnerable adults. An accident report form had also been produced.

ACTION

SJ to:

- Circulate draft policy and accident report form to the other trustees for comment and amendment.
- Submit final versions for inclusion on our website.
- Draft a policy on data protection incorporating the May 2018 general data protection regulations.

5. Project updates

A. West Station Clock

Progress had been made since the last meeting in that RDC had agreed that BH could embark on a feasibility study as long as a risk-assessment was first carried out. The sticking point was the attitude of the leaseholder who was denying access to BH. (He is legally

entitled to do this.) Several points were made during a detailed discussion. These included the following:

- We should explore the extent of any survey and consequent repairs at the time the lease changed hands in 2011.
- Does RDC have any 'historical obligation' to keep the clock in working order?
- Could RDC be persuaded to conduct a further structural survey?
- Should we seek to persuade the leaseholder to allow us to commission a structural survey for 'our eyes only'?
- Does the leaseholder fully understand the potential benefits for his business that might accrue from cooperation and the resultant good publicity?
- Is the leaseholder clear that he would not be expected to maintain the clock once it was operating?

ACTION

- SJ to arrange a meeting with RDC officer to explore the options. SJ, SA and RK to attend on behalf of BH.

B. East Parade Shelters

A condition report had been completed by RK and an extract covering two of the four shelters had been passed to RDC. Officers appear to have welcomed the report and it had now been passed to Julian Porter (Bexhill Museum) for further verification. IH was chasing progress. (Ian later confirmed that planning for a three-part renovation of East Parade was well advanced and that renovation of the shelters was a key component of the overall plan. EL suggested that we should explore potential sources of funding and alert RDC should we identify a likely source. RK has suggested that, should it be necessary to pursue an alternative source of funding, BH could approach the National Lottery's 'good causes' fund. It was agreed that BH's future involvement in RDC's funding applications would be helpful.

ACTION

- EL to explore funding sources.
- RK to monitor progress and report to members at the next meeting.

C. Heritage Open Days

Training would be offered. PW was awaiting details and would attend. We could then begin planning.

ACTION

- PW to attend training and report back.

D. Blue plaques / Max Faulkner Memorial board

It was agreed that blue plaques should be put on the 'back burner' but that the reinstatement of the Max Faulkner Memorial board should be pursued as agreed previously. PW had written to RDC and the matter was being discussed by appropriate officers.

ACTION

- PW to monitor and report back.
- RK to arrange visit to the Broad Oak reclamation yard.

E. Post boxes and lamp posts

PL reported that he had successful experience of approaching post office staff at Devonshire Square to arrange for particular boxes to be repainted. There was concern that such repaints were not of good quality with no 'stripping back'. AM reported that he was completing a survey of all the town's post boxes.

RK had received a request to investigate the fate of three Victorian lamp posts that had been removed by RDC from the seafront. It was thought that these were now in storage.

ACTION

- RK to check with RDC (Roy Watts).

F. Bus shelter project

This was being pursued by RDC in partnership with Stagecoach. PW had carried out research on the memorial shelter.

ACTION

- Further report at next meeting.

G. Heritage Awards

It was agreed that a single-category 'civic pride' award be organised for 2018. There would be no 'Junior Champion' award this year as it was felt this might be an unrealistic aspiration for BH at present. It was further agreed that the award should recognise appropriate 'restorations of publicly visible period detail' and should contribute to a 'spirit of place'.

The award would be sponsored (BOTPS, Parker Buildings, Icklesham Joinery and Brewers were mentioned in this context) and we would invite nominations to be judged by a jury of BH members. A media launch should also promote BH and the St Barnabas drop-in sessions. Doug Oliver kindly agreed to make the award known to D4B members.

It was felt that the award would help raise public awareness of 'appropriate restoration' (one of BH's aims) and that this should be the main focus of the project.

ACTION

- SJ to draft criteria and circulate to trustees for comment / amendment.
- SJ to secure sponsorship and arrange media coverage.

6. Planning applications

A. Egerton Road, Hotel

After a considerable discussion it was unanimously agreed that BH should object on heritage grounds. The planned development would require the demolition of an existing period building which had clear potential for restoration. If approved, the application would degrade the conservation area and make it difficult to resist further similar applications.

ACTION

- RK to object on behalf of BH
- Other members to respond as individuals

B. Other applications

There were no other applications of note. Val Hunnisset would continue to monitor.

7. Raising our profile and increasing membership

A. Posters and flyers had been prepared for distribution. They were designed to publicise our drop-in sessions.

ACTION

- All members present to arrange a display of posters / flyers in agreed locations.
- RK to place an alert on the RDC site.
- AM to email members.

B. The inaugural 'talk' had been arranged for Saturday 24th March 10am to noon.

C. Heritage trail on bikes 10th June

ACTION

- RK to keep members informed of the details.

D. Rother Voluntary Action (RVA), Health Walk 1st Feb.

ACTION

- EL to liaise with Bexhill Museum and involve all trustees + Paul Wright in a meeting to reassure the museum chairman and curator.
- PW to lead walk.

8. Date of next meeting

5th February 2018.

These minutes form a true and accurate record of the meeting of Bexhill Heritage on 3rd January, 2018.

Signed

Raymond Konyn, Chairman