

Bexhill Heritage

Minutes of Meeting 5th February 2018

Attendees

Raymond Konyon, (Chair) Emily Leach, Stephen Johnson, Alexis Markwick

Barry Welch, Carol Thomas, David Beale, Doug Oliver (Cllr.), Drusilla Tramaseur

Madeleine Gilbert, Margaret Garcia, Nick Hollington, Paul Wright, Sandy Melvin, Simon Allen

Tony Teehan, Val Hunnisset, Steve Samuelson, Julia Penfold, David Harline

1. Apologies

Rachel Hills, Cllr. Ian Hollidge, Dorothy Smith, Leonard and Maureen Stirling, Paul Lendon

2. Declaration of interests

No interests were declared.

3. Approval of minutes for the January meeting

These were approved with deletion of item 4

4. Governance Report

- Total of 55 members, 18 joined in January, 8 joined this month to date.
- There is an anticipated balance of £391.40 to the end of the financial year (March 30)
- RK proposed a donation of £25.00 to St Barnabas Church for providing space for the information centre.
- Data Protection Act, SJ explained the law on Data Protection is being updated and BH should have a policy.
- EL has contacted Eastbourne and Rye conservation societies with a view to meeting and sharing information and experience. Rye is considering the item at their meeting on the 3rd Feb, no response as yet from Eastbourne.
- Tony Teehan observed that the Victorian Society could provide helpful support and advice to BH and generously offered to sponsor BH membership of the Victorian Society for a year.
- RK explained that the work of the group was growing beyond anyone's expectations and there was a real need for extra roles to be filled. He urged those present and other members who had offered to fill roles to let him know what time and skills they might have.

ACTION

£25.00 to be donated to St Barnabas Church

SJ to bring a Data Protection Policy incorporating new legislation requirements to the next meeting for approval

SJ/RK to communicate with TT over Vic Soc membership

5. Project updates

A. West Station Clock

SJ, AM and Simon Allen (SA) to make a preliminary visit to West Station to see the site and view the clock on 6 Feb. Permission from the leaseholder has now been received.

ACTION

Following the site visit a report and Action Plan will be made enabling an initial cost schedule to be developed.

B. East Parade Shelters

Cheryl Poole Officer at RDC currently developing a funding plan for the East Parade, the shelters are part of the scheme. A brief is about to be issued to appropriately qualified individuals and organisations for the renovation work and to help develop the costings for the scheme. William Blake Associates were suggested as an organisation suitably qualified to tender.

ACTION

RK to suggest William Blake Associates to Cheryl Poole .

C. Heritage Open Days

Paul Wright reported he is waiting for the programme list inviting submissions to be released.

D. Blue plaques / Max Faulkner Memorial board

It was agreed at the last meeting 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. At present he had nothing to report.

It was agreed that a visit to the Broad Oak Store was not a priority at the moment and probably best postponed until the weather improved.

E. Heritage Lamp Posts

RK had reported at the last meeting he had been in communication with Roy Watts on the whereabouts of four Heritage lamp posts, removed from the seafront during the redevelopment of the De La Warr and rowing club area. It was agreed this is a public realm issue rather than historic buildings issue and Roy Watts is monitoring the situation.

The lampposts are probably at the Broad Oak store and this will be included in a search at such time as a visit can be arranged

F Bus shelter project PW had carried out research on the memorial shelter as reported at the last meeting. The research was received positively by Stagecoach.

Civic Pride Award

SJ has developed and circulated a draft. He is seeking sponsorship of about £200.00 to promote the scheme. His intention is to be ready to announce the Civic Pride Award at the launch event in March and make the 2018 award in September.

BH Meeting with the RDC Conservation Officer

RK included a brief report on a meeting with the newly appointed RDC Buildings Conservation Officer Tanya Szendeffy. This included a discussion about the value of developing a Local List. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/local-designations/> as advised by Historic England. RK suggested a small working group of BH volunteers might become proficient in bringing together such a Local List for Bexhill. Amongst other things the existence of such a List would assist in considering planning applications and in a future review of the Conservation Area.

Cllr Doug Oliver suggested that the Town Clerks in the historic towns of Battle, Rye or Winchelsea may already have their own Local Lists and it could be worth consulting with them on methods.

Tanya Szendeffy had also verified that it is good practice to regularly review the boundaries of conservation areas and that any research BH regarding could do in regard to Bexhill would be helpful.

ACTION

RK to consult the membership on interest in forming a Bexhill Local Listing working group.

6. Planning applications

A. Bexhill Heritage has commented formally on the following planning applications and these comments can be found in the planning correspondence section of the website.

- Egerton Road, Hotel
- Elleslie Lane Moleynes Mead
- St Andrews Church, Wickham Avenue.

B. Cemetery Lodge;

A planning application has not yet been submitted by RDC. Cllr Oliver suggested it would be helpful to contact the chief planning officer in order to make observations and considerations while the application is in development. The meeting agreed that while it was not desirable to prevent development of much needed social and affordable housing on the site, it was desirable to do all that was possible to retain the Edwardian Lodge; gates and posts as part of that housing scheme, perhaps as three flats.

C. The New Inn Sidley.

BH has been contacted by concerned individuals as the property has recently changed hands. It was agreed that the building is protected by virtue of its listed building status and in order to make any much needed repairs it probably did need to be closed to the public for a period.

D. Victoria Hall

In the last 4 years an oriel window has been removed and replaced with a flush UPVC unit. Permission was given to remove the window and the developer was required to submit plans for the replacement, prior to starting work. This does not appear to have taken place. BH have drawn this to the attention of the planning authority who have in turn written to the developer.

ACTION

- **A meeting with Tim Hickling chief planning officer to be requested – SJ to have an informal discussion with the RDC officer shaping the plan for developing Bexhill cemetery.**
- **A checklist of questions to be developed as criteria for deciding whether a planning application falls within the BH remit for consideration.**

- Possible vulnerability of the New Inn was noted and would be monitored.
- Val Hunnisett to continue monitoring applications.
- SJ to monitor the developer's response to the planning authority on Victoria Hall and to report back.

7. Raising our profile and increasing membership

A. Print Media

Good coverage in the Bexhill Observer every 3 or 4 weeks. Response to Ian Griffith's letter about East Parade shelters to appear this week. Next splash to be about the launch event on the 24th March, including the Civic Pride Awards.

Bexhill Observer has a weekly feature called News from the Groups to which BH could contribute.

ACTION SJ

B. Alex continues to develop and grow the website which now contains sections on planning correspondence, a documents archive, links to mapping of the conservation area and a donate and membership button. A Facebook page also attracts followers and news. Notification about Bexhill Heritage on Rother Alerts has generated at least 200 website visits.

C. Newsletter

- A New Year, post Christmas issue has been circulated.
- A second issue planned for the end of March
- 2 sides of A4 format has been successful
- Thanks to Paul Wright for overseeing this

D. Drop-ins at St Barnabus Church

Three times a week in the afternoon from end of Jan to end to Feb. Very successful, The activity has generated a lot of interest and significant numbers of new members.

E. Meetings

Three meetings took place between the trustees and

- a. Cllr Brian Kentfield (Chairman, RDC Planning Committee).
- b. Hastings Cllr Trevor Webb – informative discussion on Hastings' Grotbuster programme.
- c. Tanya Szendeffy RDC buildings Conservation Officer

8. Date of next meeting

5th March 2018. 7 pm Traffers Bar
AGM 11th April 7 pm

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

Signed

Raymond Konyn, Chairman