

**BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBER'S MEETING HELD AT FRIEND'S MEETING HOUSE, ALBERT ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA, TN40 1DG ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 AT 19:00**

**1. WELCOME**

Raymond Konyn (RK) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. FIRE SAFETY**

Mike French explained the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from David Beales.

**4. PRESENTATION ON APPARTIONS BY LUCIANA HALL**

RK introduced our guest speaker Luciana Haill of Apparitions. She is an artist who demonstrates the power of Augmented Reality to bring back lost landmarks. Apparitions uses smartphone technology known as 'Augmented Reality' to take the audience back in time with models and soundscapes encapsulating the life span of missing heritage gems in the local area; Bexhill's Edwardian beach-huts, St Leonards Pier and Hastings Clocktower Memorial. The meeting was impressed by the information available and RK thanked Luciana Haill on behalf of the meeting for showing us this fascinating project.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEMBER'S MEETING ON 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

There were no Matters Arising from the previous meeting and RK signed off the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

**6. PROJECTS**

**i) De La Warr Bus Shelter** – Simon Allen (SA) reported that Kensey Investments Limited owned the shelter, but they ceased trading in 1963 and ownership has now been vested in The Crown. Treasury Solicitors have said they will recommend The Crown divests itself and the likely outcome of that will mean ownership will pass to Burgess Salmon Solicitors. SA will write to the Solicitors to seek clarification.

**ii) Sackville Road Methodist Church** – SA reported that following the removal of pigeon waste by Bexhill Heritage and the repair of a gap in the roof the slit windows in the Tower were now lit and the Church was very happy with them.

**iii) Max Faulkner Placard Reinstatement** – RK reported that the Plaque is now in the Town Hall and had been inspected by Bexhill Heritage and should be restorable and placed at Galley Hill, where the old golf course was sited. Thought should be given to it being included on the Bexhill Heritage Trail with a similar information board. It was also wondered if it might be feasible to install a Putting Green at this site and RK said that Bexhill Heritage would explore the possibility with RDC.

**iv) West Parade Clock Tower** – SA reported that Bexhill Heritage had been contacted by Clock Tower Court Residents to see if it were feasible to reinstate the bell into the clock. The bell is currently housed in the Bexhill Museum

opposite. The clock however has some major defects including mechanism issues and water ingress. SA had written to RDC but had yet to receive a reply.

**v) Local List** – RK said there was nothing new to report, but work continues apace on this important project.

**vi) East Parade Shelters** – RK reported that the RDC's Heritage Lottery Fund bid had been unsuccessful for the second time. It had progressed to the final selection but only 4 projects had been selected for funding. Bexhill Heritage had met with RDC to look at plans to refurbish the shelters. There were 2 or 3 possible funding opportunities in the coming year which might help. In the meantime, RDC will look at seeking some funds from Public Realm to use for the shelters. Bexhill Heritage had undertaken an inspection of the shelters and will submit a report to RDC next week. The Cavendish Court Shelter was in particularly poor condition due to vandalism. RDC were seeking to take this work forward separately from the wider regeneration of the East Parade.

## **7. PLANNING**

RK explained that our Planning Expert – David Beales – is unable to attend today so we have a report from him which he will now read out, however the Committee were unable to answer any detailed questions in David's absence.

**i) Local Plan** – Bexhill Heritage had sent a response to the Development and Sites Allocations Plan after the discussion held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**ii) Cemetery Lodge** – there was nothing new to report as a reply is still awaited from RDC. A new access application has been submitted and the consultation period would expire on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

**iii) Spindlewood** - the applicants had submitted a full drainage scheme to English Nature and we are awaiting their response. This has been heavily criticised by SPINDAG under guidance of a qualified engineer. There is no plan for foul drainage in the scheme and the local system does not have the capacity to cope.

**iv) Replacement Windows** – there had been two significant applications made for replacement UPVC windows opposite the DWLP. RDC seem to be considering the best way forward and DB is in contact the two RDC case officers to get a greater understanding of their position.

**v) Di Paolos** - a new application had been refused by RDC and another application had now been submitted which looks much better.

**vi) Little Common Co-Op Site** – another application had been submitted but it was no improvement on the previous one

**vii) Conversion of shops into Residential Units** – the old Halifax building in Devonshire Road had been converted into residential use. Clarity was needed from RDC as to the planning process for this conversion as no one had seen a request for Change of Use. A lot of these shops have original features under the new shop facades and these need to be preserved.

## **8. MEMBERS MEETING IN 2019**

RK confirmed that the first three meeting in 2019 would be on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – which is the AGM - and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**. All meetings start at 19:00 and will take place in the Friends Meeting House, Albert Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1DG.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

RK asked those present to consider if they would have the capacity to help with any of the following areas where Bexhill Heritage was currently stretched: Refreshments Team; Committee Membership and Bexhill Heritage Events.

## **10. COFFEE MORNINGS**

RK told the meeting that the first of a programme of Coffee Mornings will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January from 10:00 – 12:00. This will be a social event for members to interact and relax. There will be a short talk; cakes and scones; a mini-quiz; raffle and hopefully live background music.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RK confirmed that the date of next meeting will be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February at Friends Meeting House, Albert Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1DG. He thanked everyone for coming along and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of the Committee.