

Bexhill Heritage Members Online Meeting

Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7pm.

Committee:

Raymond Konyon	(RK)	Chair
Steve Johnson	(SJ)	Vice Chair/Treasurer
Alexis Markwick	(AM)	iT Support Officer/Historian
Simon Allen	(SA)	Projects Coordinator
David Beales	(DB)	Planning Officer/Consultant
Geoff Tompkins	(GT)	Band Stand Chair
Yolande Leybourne	(YL)	East Parade Liaison
Chris Madeley	(CM)	Membership Secretary
David Hattherall	(DH)	Bexhill Museum Liaison
Jeanette Eason	(JE)	Committee Clerk

Welcome - RK ran through some online procedures for members re muting their microphones during the general meeting and use of 'chat' facility to ask questions, before the Q&A Session. RK then asked the committee members to briefly introduce themselves to the members attending.

Apologies – Anthony Lightly (AL) Ed Peppitt, Ros Clayton, Tim Fenner, Ian Hollidge and Val Hunnisett.

1. Declarations of interests – none except that RK is a Trustee of Bexhill Old Town Preservation Society (BOTPS).

2. Matters arising from the October members' meeting – No amendments identified. RK ask for the minutes to be shown as a true record of events.

3. Urgent planning and development updates – DB provided a review of the national planning situation and government planning changes. BH responded to the consultation document. Government planning changes have been delayed after substantial criticisms. East Sussex Highways proposal, Town Hall Square/London Road Improvement, two proposals. Committee has been looking at policy of Replacement UPVC Windows for properties in the Conservation Area. Although prefer replacement of wood with wood, BH would not be averse to replacement with high quality UPVC 'wood look' replacement windows. RDC has approved some and not approved others. Some discussion re personal response to consultation and disruptions to traffic flow adjacent to a major traffic junction.

4. Main item - Civic Pride Award – slide presentation and vote by Steve Johnson, Vice Chair of Bexhill Heritage plus Q&A - SJ shared his screen and ran through the categories (Shop Fronts; Public Open Spaces; Renovations or Conservation Projects) and nominations for the CPAs for this year. SJ provided some key pointers to recognising key identifiers of original features that have been conserved and retained by buildings and businesses and open spaces locally. Document is available on BH website to aid identifying original features. Votes were taken and noted for each nominee, per category. SJ explained that members who cannot access the online meeting have had an opportunity to vote by post. A substantial number have been received, and will be added to those cast during the online meeting. Presentations are due in February 2022. RK thanked both SJ and AM for successfully dealing with the subject, informative slides and overcoming the technology challenges encountered.

5. Projects update

Bandstand – SJ/SA Work over last few weeks seems to be increasing, with paint stripping and some excellent volunteers, all wearing proper protective equipment, not only for covid but also dust

from old, potentially contaminated paint layers. SJ also mentioned the volunteers assisting in the workshop making replacement items. AL has worked on the tender documents for RDC to use to enable the electricians and other major items/work required to get circulated. GT ran through the type of acts so far showing an interest in performing at the completed Bandstand. He also explained there will be times when people can perform or 'quiet' times and potential for a games café. SJ explained that members will receive an invitation to sponsor certain items being crafted in the workshop or for new equipment, ridgecrest, window etc. All sponsors will be recognised on the item. K6 Telephone Box, Normans Bay – currently lacking money rather than willing volunteers. SA looking to make water tight for the winter. All of the K6 is repairable. Have contacted the Parish and new Town Council, but sadly no spare funds available from the parish. No response to date from TC. If any members know of any other funding sources to assist with the project, please contact Simon Allen.

6. Financial report - SJ

It was reported that BH started the year with £11,000+ and still have £11,000+ despite paying for various items throughout the year, e.g. timber for the Bandstand, PPE, an Interpretation Board for the seafront. BH has had income from donations, membership fees, selling items like calendars and a generous donation of £1,500 from Bexhill 100. Had several successful fundraising stalls too, with help from John Swap.

7. Q & A session - RK

- i). Richard Sage – commented to clarify that monies for Town Hall Square project are coming from a different 'pot' and cannot be used to repair pot holes.
- ii). Richard Brown - Comment re Town Hall Square is good idea, but alternative options for the roads, and why not discussed within BH? DB reply to specific queries, no consultation with members, because period very short and only received a short time before the meeting. Suggested ESCC should be asked to extend the consultation period for organisations and the public re this project.
- iii). Tasha Hamblin – re K6 materials required. Asked for SA and/or SJ to email her with details of what items are required, to see if she can source from any of her contacts. RK and SA thanked Tasha for her kind offer. **Action:** S/SJ to email Tasha with list.
- iv). Edward Darnell – comment re Town Hall Square and stated objects includes 'attracting visitors' to the town. Cannot see how this scheme will attract people to the area, and does not improve the situation with no extra parking for people. DB and RK replied on behalf of BH, and fact that parking is not part of remit for BH.
- v). JE – query re Civic Pride – asked if would be possible for a day to be organised by BH with a mini bus tour of the town with either a talk and/or booklet about all the heritage buildings and features in Bexhill. RK and SJ agreed worth considering. Also, hoping to incorporate window stickers with BH logo for CPA nominees and winners to display in addition to their formal letters/certificates.
- vi). DH – historical comment re Town Hall Square and WW1 and usage of the area as a market. Post war was planned to used as a covered market with underground toilets. Further info available via Bexhill Museum or British Newspaper Archive/Find My Past.
- vii). Robert Brown – made complaint to RDC about the state of the plastic wrapping and activity around Shelter 4. It got cleared up but what is situation with that shelter? RDC decommissioned too early. BH will assist with repair and renovation, but currently fully involved with the Bandstand. Not currently a BH Project officially.

8. Date of next members meeting: Wednesday 9th February which will hopefully be a face-to-face meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.