

Charity Committee Agenda

Monday, 17 June 2019 at 6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, TN34 3UY.
Please enter the building via the Tourist Information Centre entrance.

For further information, please contact Coral Harding on 01424 451764 or email
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Agenda Item 7

NOTES OF

Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group

Held on Tuesday, 11th June 2019 @ 1800hrs

East Hastings Sea Angling Association, Hastings

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Christine Boulton-Lane (Vice Chair) – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Aaron Woods – HBC (Resort Manager)
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Karl Beaney – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Cllr Leah Levane – HBC (Castle Ward)
Di Cooke – Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
Isabel Dorman – Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Lead Lifeguard Supervisor)
Joe Mitchell – Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Area Lifesaving Manager)
Kevin Boorman – HBC (Marketing & Major Projects Manager)
Peter Wheeler – Hastings and District Canoe Club
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Tim McDonald – Shipwreck Museum
Allison San Diego – HBC (Secretary)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from:

Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Chief Inspector Sarah Godley – Sussex Police
Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Kim Forward – (HBC, Deputy Leader/Lead Member – Regeneration)
Cllr Ruby Cox – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Helen Blanche – Groundworks South
Melanie Clark – Hastings and St Leonards Sailing Club

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (12TH MARCH)

The notes were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- Item 4 – briefing paper has been requested from the council
- Item 5 – Rock-a-Nore Road and Winch Road petition was put together. The Chair extended his thanks to Cllr Bacon for all of his help. Help is now required from CUG members to get as many signatures as possible on the petition. **Action: ALL**

- Item 6 – Foreshore Trust items – Foreshore Trust Business Plan – was approved by the Charity Committee and amendments will be made as necessary
- Item 7 – Member updates – Isabel Blackman Centre – the working group is still meeting and a business plan is being drafted. A Freedom of Information request has been submitted to East Sussex County Council and the reply is awaited

3. ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION UPDATE

Isabel Dorman and Joe Mitchell gave an update:

- The lifeguard season started on 25th May, which will run on the weekends until 6th July, after which point a full time service will run until the end of September
- The service covers three sites: Marina, Pier and Pelham. These sites were identified through beach safety and European bathing water assessments. The RNLI should be informed if there is a need for support in other areas
- The signage is being reviewed and will be updated as required for the covered areas. This will include the numbers to contact in an emergency
- There have been some incidents to date, including missing children, which were quickly dealt with and the general feedback received regarding the service has been good
- The water quality has been identified as satisfactory rather than good and work by Southern Water is ongoing to ensure issues are dealt with
- Training courses have been run and an open dialogue has been taking place with Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards to ensure both organisations are aware of each other's work. CUG highly recognises the contributions of both parties

Di Cooke updated on Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards:

- They are looking for support as new boat engines are needed. Aaron has recently been contacted by the Emergency Planning team at East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and was made aware of a new scheme by the Marine and Coastguard Authority, where used motors are being made available. Details will be passed on
- A fundraising event will be held from 15th-18th August at EHSAA, where one member will be doing a 72 hour swim; there will also be a music event on 18th. Further information is available via the website, Facebook and leaflets.
- Kevin mentioned the Foreshore Trust small grants scheme and it was suggested an application be made. Contact details will be passed on.
Action: Kevin. The meeting agreed to provide a letter of support for the application

4. SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Kevin Boorman gave an update:

- In February, the council passed a motion banning the use of any type of single use plastic at events run by the council or taking place on council land, with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030
- Hastings is one of the first towns to do this and although challenging, it is hoped that a good example can be set
- This news was very well received by the meeting
- Cllr Levane explained that along with the agreed motion, Cllr Maya Evans, who represents the Hollington ward, has been appointed as the climate change portfolio holder
- Any association that needs advice on the matter should be asked to contact the council

5. FEEDBACK FROM ISSUES ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

There were no issues requiring attention since the last meeting, although the chair advised that he has been asked to attend meetings with the council in the next few weeks and that if anything discussed warrants an extraordinary CUG meeting, this will be arranged.

6. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

The items were noted by the meeting.

Foreshore Trust Finance report

- The meeting did not endorse the report because it had only been received earlier that afternoon
- Very strong disappointment and concern was expressed that the report was received late and there was not enough time for CUG members to provide their input
- It was suggested that additional time should be given to CUG to consider reports. Ideally, reports should be received seven days before a CUG meeting; however, Kevin explained that the Charity Committee papers are published on the Friday of the preceding week, which is five working days before the Charity Committee meeting, which means, unfortunately, it is not possible to provide CUG with reports any earlier than this. The CUG meeting then takes place during the following week and the minutes then have to be published in time for the Charity Committee meeting the following Monday in order that CUG feedback can be passed on. This was accepted, but the chair said reports must be circulated by 1800 on the Friday before a CUG meeting i.e. immediately after they are published. It was not reasonable to expect members, who are often part of a larger organisations and need to consult with them, to have less than four days to read and be prepared to comment on charity committee papers. The chair said that if reports were received later than 1800 on the Friday preceding a CUG meeting in the future they would not be discussed, and charity committee told why
- It agreed that explanation should be requested as to why a budget deficit is being planned

- Delays to projects starting was also queried and Kevin explained that the White Rock Fountain project was a project under Coastal Communities round 4 and should have been completed last year. After the funding was awarded and the contract signed it became clear that plans had to be changed as a lot more work than anticipated would be required to the site and additional funds required. Work is now to start at the end of next month

Maintenance – The Source Park

The report was endorsed by the meeting. This was received on the Friday when the Charity Committee agenda was published.

7. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

a. Harbour Arms Works

The works have now been completed. This has made the area more sheltered and it is now easier to launch boats inside it. There haven't been any reports of accidents or incidents and the displayed warning signs are in several languages.

b. Marina

No update.

c. Rock-a-Nore and Winch Shed Service Roads

As discussed, the petition has now been set up and requires as many signatures as possible. **Action: ALL**

Rock-a-Nore Road traffic lights – as most are aware, traffic lights were installed in the area due to works that had to be carried out to the cliff. Complaints were received due to the timing and the lack of communication. Kevin apologised profusely for the lack of communication, clearly the council should have done far better. He also explained that unfortunately, the works have to be carried out this year because they are safety critical and there was only a small window of opportunity within the year – immediately after the May Day bank holiday – in which to do so, and if the lights were to be removed every weekend this would impact on the duration of the works. It has now been made clear to the department concerned that if there is likely to be any impact on businesses and the public then advice should be issued beforehand.

d. West Marina Bathing Pool Site

Discussions continue although it is understood that a contract has not been signed yet. Public meetings are planned and Christine asked that CUG members take a look at the website and Facebook page for information. There is a strong view that

the site should be kept as a bathing pool site and not transformed into a housing estate. There needs to be a destination in West St. Leonards, the western part of town, not just in the east.

There are still caravans in the area and although a lot of work has already been carried out to deter these, without proper enforcement in the area, the problem will continue.

e. External funding initiatives

A £25m 'Future High Streets' bid has been submitted and it is hoped a decision will be made later this year. If the bid is successful, Hastings town centre will be transformed.

8. MEMBER UPDATES/ ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Family day – The chair advised that a family day to learn about the sea was held by EHSAA. This was received very well and schools have asked if additional events could be arranged for them
- Thank you to HBC – Christine expressed her thanks, in particular to Aaron and the Foreshore team. She is really pleased with how working together has been going
- Thanks to EHSAA – Di expressed her thanks and reminded all to support Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards
- Debris under the pier – Peter advised that he has been monitoring the beach levels and there has been a lot of debris from last winter which needs to be cleared out. It was confirmed that some of it has been removed where possible when it was first reported
- Signage between Shipwreck Museum and Bluereef – Tim queried the signage and was advised that a wayfinding strategy is being put in place which covers the beach area, although people will not be signposted to walk along the Winch Shed Service Road and the signage will be taken down. Signposting will not be done either for the toilets at the end of Rock-a-Nore Road as the toilets at The Stade are used more frequently by the public
- 1066 open top bus – Tim advised that the Shipwreck Museum was unfortunately not included in the promotional material prepared by Stagecoach for the 1066 open top bus. Kevin apologised and confirmed that the museum was included in the launch invitation, which they attended
- Fishermen's Museum – Anne advised that a new exhibition will be opening during Old Town week and that the Old Town Carnival programme should be available from 1st July. Kevin commented that the website is really good, this feedback will be passed on
- Anti-social behaviour outside RNLI – Joe advised that there have been reports of anti-social behaviour over the last 12 months outside the RNLI, including smashed glass and needles being left, but as soon it was reported it has declined

- Midsummer Fish Festival – Kevin advised this is taking place on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd June. Tickets are now available and cost £1.50 in advance and £3 at the gate
- Repairs to Groyne 1 – Aaron advised that responsive repair work will take place ahead of the school holidays and will take 3 weeks. Any potentially affected parties will be notified in advance

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6pm, Tuesday, 17th September – Muriel Matters House

Meeting closed 19:32

Distribution:

Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee