

Charity Committee Agenda

Monday, 16 March 2020 at 6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, TN34 3UY.
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Agenda Item 12

NOTES OF

Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group Held on Tuesday, 10th March 2020 @ 18:00hrs East Hastings Sea Angling Association, Hastings

Present:

Paul Carter – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Aaron Woods – Hastings Borough Council
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf
Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Karl Beaney – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Haydon Luke – Shipwreck Museum
Isabel Dorman – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
John Bownas – Love Hastings
Laurence Bell – White Rock Hotel
Melanie Clark – Hastings and St. Leonards Sailing Club
Nick Fawcett – 1066 Boardriders
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Allison San Diego – Hastings Borough Council (notes)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies were received from:

Cliff Meaden – Epic Life
Cllr Dany Louise – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Leah Levane – HBC (Castle Ward)
Cllr Ruby Cox – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Paul Joy – Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society
Peter Wheeler – Hastings District Canoe Club
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park

2. CURRENT SITUATION UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

As agreed at the last meeting, Chris Richards, Dick Edwards and Yasmin Ornsby met with HBC officers to identify a way forward. Chris explained that in discussions CUG's willingness to continue was reiterated but subject to a Liaison Officer post being appointed to support the group's needs. It was agreed, in principle, subject to

Charity Committee approval next Monday, that this post be created. It was also agreed that a smaller CUG group be set up to deal with any Foreshore Trust issues that arise in between meetings. These points are set out as recommendations in the Coastal Users' Group update report.

The creation of the liaison officer post was welcomed by the meeting, although concerns were raised that whoever is recruited may not have the specialist knowledge of the interests held by CUG members to deal with issues or know who to chase when issues arise and responses are required, but the smaller CUG group would be able to point them in the right direction. The post will not have any decision making abilities, nor will it be able to speak on CUG's behalf. Kevin will remain the lead officer for CUG.

In terms of recruitment of the post, Kevin explained that HBC's Human Resources department has advised that there could be an informal meet and discussion with potential candidates. It was pointed out that in the past, CUG members had been part of interview panels. Kevin will take this point back and make the necessary request, pointing out past practice. **Action: Kevin**

Concerns were also raised with regards to the creation of a smaller group as this could potentially create a two tier structure and mean that some members may not be kept informed on matters. It was agreed that complete transparency should be ensured and that all information would be copied to everyone who will be given the opportunity to respond and contribute. The smaller group meetings could be held on the same day as the regular meetings and individual meetings with CUG members could also be held if necessary.

The meeting welcomed the idea of a training session being held in order to gain clarity on the group's role and it was agreed that the liaison officer should attend this.

Amendments are required to paragraphs 4 and 13 of the report – these will be made and presented to the Charity Committee. **Action: Kevin**

The meeting accepted the recommendations as set out in the report and agreed these will be trialled and then reviewed after twelve months. The next stage is for Kevin to report back to the Charity Committee on tonight's discussions and assuming the recommendations in the report are approved, recruitment of the liaison officer will commence as soon as possible. This post may become part of HBC's redeployment process, as there are currently around 25 members of staff being made redundant. Kevin will report back to CUG after the Charity Committee meeting.

The informal part of the meeting closed at 18:34 and the AGM opened.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Anne Scott nominated Paul Carter for the position of chair and he was unanimously re-appointed as chair. Paul accepted on the proviso that the Foreshore Trust works on the existing issues and doesn't neglect CUG and its role. If the same issues re-occur, he will stand down immediately.

Yasmin Orsnby nominated Christine Boulton-Lane for the position of vice chair and she was unanimously re-appointed.

4. CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was agreed that the list of members needs to be reviewed and those who do not attend the meetings be consulted before a new list is finalised. As written in paragraph 5f, failure to attend three consecutive meetings may result in expulsion from the group. It was agreed that the attendance records over the last 12 months should be reviewed. **Action: Alli**

It was suggested that the new liaison officer, when appointed, could look into why members are not attending meetings once the records have been reviewed, and ensure members are invited to the training session, which may well review the constitution as part of the process.

Anne suggested that paragraph 9b is removed and this was agreed unanimously.

The AGM closed at 18:57 and the routine meeting was opened.

5. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (3RD DECEMBER 2019)

The notes were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

- None

6. FEEDBACK FROM ISSUES ARISING SINCE THE LAST MEETING

- Hastings and St. Leonards Angling Association – Landlord’s consent to install solar panels on the beach winch shed building
- Goat Ledge – proposal for sandpit. H&S concerns passed to Estates Manager
- FLAG programme survey – input was requested regarding the programme and future needs for funding. A survey link was circulated and closed on 21/02
- Go Kart Track – Landlord’s consent for an inflatable play area. The tenant has advised the inflatables will be:
 - operated outside, kept outside and covered when not in use to save from the elements
 - will be brand new and built in the UK using the British and European standards for construction and designed for a coastal location
 - fixed on a concrete padding
 - daily safety checks and annual inspections will be carried out
- Flamingo Amusements – Query regarding creation of Article 4, circulated letter from conservation team advising that this will not be done as it is unlikely that the points raised in the Planning Inspector’s report could be

countered. Kevin clarified that HBC did not support the inspector's decision. The meeting discussed the issue of the footpath. Unfortunately, the issue has been ongoing for sometime and it is still not known when this will be re-opened. The chair explained that he had a recent discussion with Mike Lee, who has agreed to meet with CUG in the near future to discuss his future plans, this was agreed by the meeting.

7. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

Dick suggested that officers be thanked for the detailed reports. There was however general agreement that again, there has not been sufficient time to review these prior to tonight's meeting.

Dick raised concerns that in Hastings in 2019, there were 4,476 pensioners. Of those, nearly 20% are defined as living in poverty. The list of proposed themes on page 25 for the pack on the Proposed Large Grants Programme report, does not include any reference to pensioners. It was requested that an addition is made to line E to include "pensioners living in poverty." This was agreed by the meeting and will be raised. **Action: Kevin**

Kevin explained that it is possible for request that the Charity Committee look into relevant issues at any time. He also explained that he is happy to receive any questions from CUG by 1700 on Monday, 16th March so he can raise these at the Charity Committee meeting which is taking place at 6pm that day. **Action: ALL**

8. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

Shingle shifting – currently, 30,000 tonnes of shingle is being shifted and a press release should have been released but unfortunately has been delayed. **[POST MEETING NOTE :- This was issued Wednesday 11th March]** Aaron explained that the Environment Agency has committed to provide continued protection for the local area and a Shoreline Management Plan is in place and will be circulated. CUG recognises that this is a serious issue and Aaron and the Foreshore team were thanked for the excellent work that is being carried out.

9. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Youth Training Officer – the chair explained that East Hastings Sea Angling Association has linked up with the Angling Trust and a Youth Training Officer has been appointed for the region. This officer will help schools and young people to learn about the beach and will deliver training programmes for 8-18 year olds. Posters have been circulated and information is available on Facebook. John explained that web hosting can be done through Love Hastings if needed.

Isabel Blackman Centre – Dick explained that the consortium has submitted an offer for purchase to East Sussex County Council. This also includes a social investment

plan for the area. The meeting congratulated Dick on the brilliant work to date. Dick will update once a response has been received.

Coronavirus – Haydon explained that this is hitting the heritage industry very hard. There are major concerns for the economy and various sectors in Hastings, including lifeguard training. Hastings is also one of the biggest language destinations in the country and will be severely impacted. Public Health England continues to give updates and advice, and the next couple of weeks will be a critical time. Kevin added that he was also aware of the very serious impact on the language school business, and had raised it with Sally-Ann Hart MP, and British Destinations (the local authority trade body for resorts), of which he was a board member.

West of Haven – Christine advised that the membership is currently down and new membership forms haven't been sent out due to the lack of resources. This needs to be addressed.

Bathing pool site – Christine queried how HBC can think of West St. Leonards as a destination if the suggested proposals go ahead. A chance to speak to the developers was proposed but hasn't happened. Is this something the Foreshore Trust should be involved in, perhaps HBC's Legal team could look into this?

Hastings Town Deal – Kevin explained that Hastings has been invited to develop proposals for major infrastructure improvements. A Board has been formed and an investment plan has to be submitted by the end of the summer. If successful, up to £25m could be awarded.

Staff changes at HBC – Kevin advised that Simon Hubbard, Director of Operational Services, will be leaving in the near future. As most are aware, HBC has had to make reductions to its staffing structures.

Crime prevention bid – John is currently working with John Whittington, Community Safety Manager at HBC to put a bid together for crime prevention in St. Leonards, from London Road up to Warrior Square.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1800, Tuesday, 9th June 2020 – East Hastings Sea Angling Association

The meeting unanimously agreed that all future meetings will be held at EHSAA.

Meeting closed 19:46

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Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee

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