

**NOTES OF
Hastings & St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group
Held on Tuesday, 13th June 2017 @ 1800hrs
East Hastings Sea Angling Association, Hastings**

Present:

Paul Carter (Chair) – East Hastings Sea Angling Association
Cllr Kim Forward – HBC, Deputy Leader / Lead member for regeneration)
Kevin Boorman – Hastings Borough Council
Christine Boulton-Lane – West of Haven Beach Users Association
Alan Care – Hastings and Rother Disability Forum
Di Cooke – Hastings Lifeguards
Dick Edwards – Hastings Old Town Residents Association
Cliff Meaden – Epic Life
Steve Peak – Friends of Hastings Country Park
Andre Palfrey-Martin – Save Our Heritage Group
Anne Scott – Old Hastings Preservation Society
Jacqui Stanford – Shipwreck Museum
Aaron Woods – Hastings Borough Council
Allison Pascual – Hastings Borough Council

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from:

Cllr James Bacon – HBC (Old Hastings Ward)
Cllr Sue Beaney – HBC (Charity Committee Chair)
Cllr Mike Howard – HBC (West St Leonards Ward)
Chris Richards – Hastings Adventure Golf
Cllr Judy Rogers – HBC (Castle Ward)
Jan Sellens – Fishermen's Museum
Cllr Trevor Webb – HBC (Central St Leonards Ward)
Yasmin Ornsby – Stade Partnership
Jo Stewart – Hastings Pier Charity

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. Cllr Forward clarified that following the elections, she is no longer a member of the Charity Committee and that Cllr Poole is to become a member of the committee. This will be ratified at the necessary committee meetings. With regards to the position as co-chair of this group, clarification will be sought as to whether it will transfer to Cllr Forward.

*Note: the recommendations made at the meeting were agreed by those present but the meeting was not quorate with only 10 voting members present.

3. NOTES OF LAST MEETING (7th MARCH) (attached)

Accepted as an accurate record

Matters arising:

- Public Space Protection Orders – have now been adopted following the special HBC Cabinet meeting last month and came into force yesterday. It was confirmed that the Old Town is covered by the orders.
- Storytelling festival / Safety at the Stade Open Space – Kevin discussed the issue with Paul Cosson (Parking Enforcement Manager at HBC). It is understood that the issue is when there is an insufficient number of stewards at events controlling vehicle access. It was recognised that difficulties will always be encountered and it is not possible to discourage vehicles from entering the space. The meeting was assured that the Angling Association keeps an incident file and drivers could lose parking privileges if they were to be involved in incidents and reported.
- Shopmobility – HBC officers will be asked to broker a discussion between Shopmobility and Hastings Voluntary Action to see how they can be assisted to access more funds. **Action: Cllr Forward**

4. FORESHORE TRUST ITEMS

a. Draft Business Plan 2017-2022

Kevin introduced the item and highlighted items 63-66, Classroom on the Coast. He explained that although there is a need to make more use of the classroom and the Stade Hall, legal charity advice has been taken and due to the terms and conditions in place, having a commercial operator making profit is not permitted. The meeting agreed to keep focus on this issue until a way forward can be found.

The meeting agreed that the following recommendations should be put forward to the Charity Committee:

- That consideration be given to increasing grants to voluntary organisations as this has not been done over the last three years
- That a low cost solution for widening of the walk way from Harold Place underpass into Pelham Place should be considered

Due to the delay in circulating the item, it was agreed that further comments from this group should be emailed through to Kevin at kboorman@hastings.gov.uk no later than 25th June, in order that these can be brought to the attention of the Charity Committee meeting the next day. **Action: ALL.**

b. The Landing

The meeting supported the recommendations as set out in the report.

c. Seafront Splash Pad Water Play and Kiosk

The meeting supported the recommendations as set out in the report.

As there are significant issues in relation to the installation of a splash pad and associated facilities at Pelham Place it is being recommended that the redundant fountain at White Rock be refurbished instead. This will be subject to the necessary surveys and tests being carried out successfully.

In terms of the equipment at Pelham Place playground, Aaron confirmed that a site meeting is taking place next week to resolve any issues.

The meeting agreed that the following recommendations should be put forward to the Charity Committee:

- That the Stade Open Space be considered as a potential location for the seafront water play facility should be put forward to the Charity Committee. This option could be considered alongside the repairs to the hard surface that will be needed in the next few years
- That a garden with a small solar fountain should be considered as an option for the White Rock fountain

d. Charity Committee Minutes – 20th March (attached)

The minutes of 20th March were noted.

Minute 84, Hastings Off-Street Parking Infrastructure Improvements – states that “The Coastal Users Group had been consulted on the matter and were broadly supportive of the proposal.” It has to be noted that an increase in parking charges was not discussed, nor agreed by this group at its last meeting.

In addition, the increase in parking charges has made local residents and visitors unhappy. The meeting agreed to register its objection to the increase in the charges and the application of the hours (charging ‘day rates’ after 6pm, and until 9pm). It also has to be noted that parking is becoming increasingly difficult in the Old Town, it is confusing as to where the different parking zones are and the information available online is often confusing and incorrect.

It was suggested that Rock-a-Nore Road be transformed into a shared space road, but it was recognised that this would be difficult and costly.

5. COASTAL ITEMS UPDATE

a. Harbour Arms Works

Kevin advised the meeting that work will be commencing this coming Monday and it is hoped it will be completed by the end of August. 28K tonnes of granite from Norway will be delivered to Hastings, although the boat has been slightly delayed. As

a result, the concrete facing work will be carried out first. Measures will be put place to determine parts of the beach that will not be affected by the works and to ensure that access points will not be blocked. As there is likely to be considerable interest, Kevin will ensure that sufficient publicity is released when the boat is due to arrive. He also confirmed that £1.4M funds had been received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to carry out the works and that HBC is contributing £30K.

b. Lifeguard Services

Kevin confirmed that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) started its operations in Hastings and Camber Sands during the last Bank Holiday weekend. He further confirmed that there have not been any incidents so far and that he would be happy to circulate any reports if and when they become available and that the portacabins will be stored in the winter. Suitable sites are currently being sought.

6. MEMBER UPDATES / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

West of Haven – Christine raised the issue of a campervan owner being able to get in and out of the site freely, presumably as they know the combination code. There is also a large camper van parked at Cinque Ports Way and problems with a caravan at Grosvenor Gardens, causing unacceptable cleanliness and accessibility issues in the areas. It was recognised that the relevant signage is being prepared, but something needs to be done urgently by the authorities to rectify these problems. It was agreed that this item be kept on the agenda and that this group will provide its support when required.

Hastings Lifeguards – Di alerted the meeting to the fact that the club is struggling to survive. It needs more members and more help with running costs. Unfortunately, she was not given sufficient notice of the RNLI taking on the operations in Hastings, and as it has a good public relations machine, this has affected Hastings Lifeguards. The club needs more support, and the meeting agreed it would do all that is possible to help. Any suggestions should be forwarded to Di.

90 year of cultural and musical experiences in the area – following on from the successful exhibition held at The White Rock Theatre, Andre is now in the process of setting up a database with details of architects, bricklayers and other contractors who helped building the town.

Conservation Area Appraisal consultation – opened yesterday and closes on 21st July. Information available at:

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/planning/policy/consultations/future_developments/

Display boards for St Leonards Pier – Steve is currently drafting these and it is hoped they could be unveiled during Hastings Week in October.

Netshop environment – Steve raised the issue of grass and weeds growing in place of shingle and regret that the issue has still not been dealt with despite being raised months ago.

Beach huts at the pier – Cliff is frequently being asked what is happening. Kevin explained that unfortunately, the prices came in much higher than anticipated but it is still hoped that the huts will be in place before the end of summer.

Shared pedestrian and cycle lane at Pelham Place – is frequently busy and hazardous and it has been suggested that the path is de-segregated. This will be looked into. **Action: Aaron**

Water sports users – Cliff raised the question of whether complaints have been properly recorded. The kayak hire shop at Bottle Alley opened but has not been used in the proper way and kayaks are being hired out to beginners, and users have been going out to sea when they shouldn't have done. There is strong and urgent need for operators to employ properly trained and qualified staff and HBC as a landlord should check this is the case. The meeting expressed its deep concern about the issues raised and agreed that these should be investigated. **Action: Aaron/Kevin**

Rock-a-Nore Road – wheelchair access was supposed to have been sorted but doesn't appear to have been. Issues to be looked into. **Action: Aaron**

Abandoned cars at Winch Road – there are now six that need removing, this will be looked into. **Action: Aaron**

Old Town Carnival Week – taking place from 29th July through to 6th August.

New Resort Manager – Aaron introduced himself once more and assured the meeting that he and the new Beach Inspector, Ken Dullaway, are working closely together to resolve any issues.

Project Management of Stamco site – Paul advised that he has taken on this work alongside Education Futures Trust.

Stamco site near the car wash – believed to be owned by Aldi, clarification will be sought. **Action: Aaron/Kevin**

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6pm, Tuesday, 5th September – Muriel Matters House

Meeting closed 19:40

Distribution:
Hastings & St Leonards Coastal Users Group
Charity Committee