

Bexhill Heritage Annual General Meeting Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7pm. Committee:

Steve Johnson	(RK) Acting Chair/Treasurer
David Beales	(SJ) Planning Officer
Alexis Markwick	(AM) IT Support Officer/Historian
Simon Allen	(SA) Projects Coordinator
John Swap	(JS) Events Management
Anthony Lightly	(AL) Chartered Building Surveyor
Geoff Tompkins	(GT) Bandstand Co-ordinator
Yolanda Laybourne	(YL) East Parade
Christine Madeley	(CM) Membership Secretary
Lorraine Parkes	(LP) Committee Clerk

## **Business Agenda**

SJ welcomed those attending to the AGM. There was a brief introduction of Committee members for the benefit of members.

**1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest** – Dave Hatherell, Russell Norman-Noakes; Alan and Hue Mead; Christine Foley; Steve Hartman; Val Hunnisett; Vernon Findlay; Christine Nee; Cllr. Viv Taylor-Gee; Brian Comber; Lesley Hicken; Louise Hobson; Paul Dyer; Lynn Brailsford; Jeff and Brenda Webb; Leonard and Maureen Sterling; Rachel Hills; Jenny Farrer

**Declarations of interest** - None

### **2. Approval of minutes and matters arising from the 2021 AGM**

There were no matters arising and the minutes were agreed as a true record.

### **3. Tributes to Minutes Secretary, Jeanette Eason, who was retiring and to former Chairman, Raymond Konyn, who had resigned.**

The Acting Chair expressed thanks from the whole committee for Jeanette's hard work. It is a very important task keeping accurate records and Jeanette has also instigated good fund-raising ideas. There was a presentation of a small gift from the committee.

Paul Lendon proposed a vote of thanks to Raymond Konyn in his absence. Paul explained that Ray was one of the initial founders of Bexhill Heritage and had carried out some excellent work. Paul also expressed thanks to all the committee for the good work they do.

**4. Acting Chair's Report** – Steve Johnson thanked all for attending the meeting and stressed how Bexhill Heritage relies on its members.

**Trustees report** - there are currently three Trustees, Alexis Markwick, Simon Allen and Steve Johnson. Bexhill Heritage would welcome more trustees and they can be nominated later in the meeting.

The charity's trustees welcome new committee members and volunteers. The Acting Chair gave an indication of what committee members have done in the past week -

DB - planning enquiry regarding Beulah Baptist Church  
David Beales, Tony Lightly and Steve Johnson - consultees on development of Town Hall site  
John Swap - ran an information point on the seafront  
Tony Lightly - liaising with Rother District Council about the bandstand floor  
Simon Allen, Steve Johnson, Vernon Findlay, John Gardner, Jeff Webb, Ian Garner, Ian Hollidge, Lorraine Parkes and others had worked on the bandstand repairing ceilings and refurbishing fascia boards.

The Acting Chair thanked all volunteers for their hard work and commitment.

The bandstand will now not open in August as there have been issues with the oak wood being

provided. Spring 2023 is the new target date. The Acting Chair thanked members who had raised over £3,000 for the bandstand refurbishment and were hugely supportive of the work being done.

**Annual report** – The Annual Report had been made available to all members two weeks prior to the meeting. The Treasurer outlined the charity's main activities during the year.

Restoration of the town's former bandstand (ongoing).

Consultation with Rother District Council over planning applications and development proposals.

Civic Pride Awards - the shops and businesses who received an award are proudly displaying their certificates in their windows.

Cemetery Lodge - the Edwardian building was in danger of demolition. Now saved with an addition of two units of social housing named after one of the members grandparents - Parkers Place. BH have an information board there.

Bexhill Heritage is registered with the Charity Commission

**Finances- Treasurer's report** – in financial year ending 31/03/22 the charity's net assets were in excess of £14,000. During the year, a £1,500 grant was received from the Bexhill 100 Club and funds were bolstered by £1,260 from a calendar that Margaret Hayles had kindly produced a calendar for sale.

Since 01/04/22 net assets had exceeded £30,000 due to grants and donations for the Bandstand restoration. This will be used largely to buy furniture and fittings. The treasurer expressed huge thanks to all for their generosity.

Questions and comments - none

**The Acting Chair asked if the report could be approved and sent to the auditors for verification.**

Proposed - Hilary Rhodes. Seconded - Lynn Langlands. Carried and agreed that the report should be approved.

## **5.Election of Trustees**

The Acting Chair explained the trustees' role to plan strategic direction, oversee the work of the committee and evaluate progress.

**a. For one year term - Steve Johnson willing to be nominated**

Proposed - Hilary Rhodes. Seconded - Simon Allen

No other nominations. Steve Johnson was elected.

**b. For two year term - Simon Allen willing to be nominated**

Proposed - Christine Madeley. Seconded - Tony Lightly

No other nominations. Simon Allen was elected.

**c. For three year term - Alexis Markwick willing to be nominated**

Proposed - Paul Wright. Seconded - John Gardner

No other nominations. Alex Markwick was elected.

**d.** No additional nominations were received.

## **6.To elect officers for the year June 2022 to June 2023**

Steve Johnson handed over to Simon Allen for the next item.

**a. Chair - Steve Johnson is Acting Chair and willing to be nominated as Chair for one year.**

Proposed - David Beales. Seconded by Keith Rhodes

No other nominations. Steve Johnson was elected.

**b. Vice-Chair - currently vacant – Simon Allen willing to be nominated.**

Proposed – David Beales. Seconded by Tony Lightly

No other nominations. Simon Allen was elected.

**c. Charity Secretary - currently vacant**

No nominations

**d. Minutes Secretary - Lorraine Parkes co-opted by the committee.** Members gave approval for her to continue in the role.

**e. Treasurer - Steve Johnson currently in post and willing to be nominated for one further year.**

Proposed - Alexis Markwick. Seconded by Jeanette Eason

No other nominations. Steve Johnson was elected.

**f. Media and Marketing Officer -** No nominations were received.

**g. Planning Officer - David Beales willing to be nominated for one further year.**

Proposed - John Swap. Seconded by Keith Rhodes

No other nominations. David Beales was elected.

**h. IT Support Officer - Alexis Markwick willing to be nominated for a further term.**

Proposed - Jeanette Eason. Seconded by Simon Allen

No other nominations. Alexis Markwick was elected.

**i. Project co-ordinator - Simon Allen willing to be nominated for a further term.**

Proposed - Paul Lendon. Seconded by John Gardner

No other nominations. Simon Allen was elected.

**j. Bandstand Management Group Chair - Geoff Tompkins willing to be nominated for a further term.**

Proposed - Tony Lightly. Seconded by Simon Allen.

No other nominations. Geoff Tomkins was elected.

**k. Events Coordinator - John Swap willing to be nominated for a further term.**

Proposed - Christine Madeley. Seconded by Juley Ross.

No other nominations. John Swap was elected.

**l. Surveyor Consultant - Tony Lightly willing to be nominated for a further term.**

Proposed - David Beales. Seconded by Simon Allen

No other nominations. John Swap was elected.

**m. Membership Secretary - Christine Madeley - co-opted by the committee.** Members gave approval for her to continue in the role.

**n. Responsibility for East Parade - Yolanda Laybourne co-opted by the committee.** Members gave approval for her to continue in the role.

**o. Museum Liaison Officer - Dave Hatherell co-opted by the committee.** Members gave approval for him to continue in the role for a further term.

**p. Transport Liaison - Paul Lendon (not formally a member of the committee).** Members gave

approval given for him to continue in the role for a further term.

q. There were no ex-officio nominations to the committee.

## **5. AOB**

Roger Elias advised that St Peter's Church is reaching its 1250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Events will be held w/c 25<sup>th</sup> June. There will be an exhibition at the community centre at St Peter's from 10am until 4pm from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July with lots of support from local schools. Please support these events. BH has agreed to have an information stall and volunteers are requested from members to help run the stall.

### Questions

Patricia Konyon asked why the minutes of committee meetings are now on the confidential pages of the website only. SJ explained that members do receive newsletters with detailed information on and it was not thought helpful to have minutes of meetings on public view.

BH considers they have fulfilled their democratic mandate. SJ reminded the membership that any member is entitled to propose a motion at the next members' meeting on the matter should they wish to do so.

## **Refreshment Break**

### **Presentation - Simon Richard - RDC Conservation Officer**

Simon gave a lively talk and slide presentation.

Simon explained that his role is to advise the public regarding conservation issues on their properties. He is very pleased that Bexhill Heritage has been formed.

He grew up in Bexhill and has experience of refurbishing listed properties.

Bexhill is an excellent example of planned late Victorian / early Edwardian town with many commercial properties and associated residential development. The town has a Conservation Area in place that covers this town-centre commercial and residential area. The local authority is committed to preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the conservation area in any development that requires planning permission.

Why is the conservation area important now?

- there is a social and cultural appeal to visitors and residents
- properties are worth 23% more on average when they are located in conservation areas
- agencies may offer funding to conservation areas

What can RDC do?

- improve the appearance of buildings and restore character
- bid for funding
- encourage private investment

Simon said that further improvement can be made but only if the community wants to do so.

Rother District Council would like to see occupancy rates rise and footfall improve. With determination and the support of organisations like Bexhill Heritage he was confident that the town would become even more vibrant and attractive.

Questions and comments followed Simon's presentation who was thanked for being the guest speaker.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9pm.