

Bexhill Heritage Members AGM Thursday 8th June 2023 at 7pm.

Committee attending:

Steve Johnson	(SJ)	Acting Chair/Treasurer
Natasha Hamblin	(NH)	Health & Safety Coordinator
Alexis Markwick	(AM)	IT Support Officer/Historian
Simon Allen	(SA)	Projects Coordinator
Anthony Lightly	(AL)	Chartered Building Surveyor
Yolanda Laybourne	(YL)	East Parade
Lorraine Parkes	(LP)	Minutes Secretary

Business Agenda

SJ welcomed those attending to the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest – Simon Allen (SA) - Projects Coordinator; John Swap (JS) - Events Management; Christine Madeley (CM) - Membership Secretary; Dave Hatherell, Alan and Hue Mead; Diane Johnson; Val Hunnisett; Paul Dyer; Judith Fuhr; Chris Eastwood; Anne Andersen; Kate Jackson; Lyn Markwick

Declarations of interest - None

2. Approval of minutes and matters arising from the 2022 AGM

Approval of minutes - Proposed -Rita Wright; Seconded - Jeanette Eason. The minutes were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Tribute to David Beales and to retiring committee members

The sad loss of David Beales will be felt greatly by his family, Bexhill Heritage and the wider Bexhill community. David's "specialist subject" was UPVC windows! Rother District Council (RDC) agreed to change their policy to allow replacements if of high quality. David continued working for Bexhill Heritage (BH) even though he was seriously ill. SJ read out tributes from committee members and these will be sent to David's wife. The committee has decided to create a bi-annual award in his honour, the David Beales Award for Planning Innovation. This will be a wide-ranging award and could be awarded for example a new build or renovation. A minutes silence was held to remember David.

Tony Lightly (AL) has been a member of the committee for five years. Much of that time has been spent negotiating with Sainsbury's regarding the Pallot & Collins mural. It has been frustrating and long journey but some progress has been made recently and we are hopeful it will be given the go-ahead. Tony has lapsed his RICS membership so is resigning from his post on the committee. He will continue to support BH with the Sainsbury's negotiations. SJ presented a small gift to Tony to express the committee's thanks.

4. Chair's Report (including governance and finance) – SJ – SJ read out the list of

trustees SJ, SA and AM and committee members. JS is stepping down from the committee but will still be involved in events. The Charitable Objectives (page 2) are very important and state clearly what BH's remit is.

Summary of achievements - The main achievement is the refurbishment of the Coronation Bandstand and building it as a community resource. It has become part of the Bexhill Festival of Music. All donations from bookings go into a maintenance fund. This will be used towards the repainting of the bandstand in three years time. More help from members is always needed so do let SJ know if you can help. Another achievement

was the successful objection to the Town Hall restructure. The introduction of trips and visits supports our second charitable objective of educating and engaging.

Finances - 2022/23 saw a turnover of £30,000. There was a very large increase in receipts of £27,000 from donations and sponsorship. £28,000 was sent on the bandstand renovation programme. The reserves policy requires six months operating revenue in the bank which amounts to £5,000 - £6,000.

Questions from members:

Q. Can you explain the £7,900 noticeboard cost as this seems expensive?

A. It is a heritage design which matches the noticeboards in the town. The RDC Conservation Officer insisted on the design.

Q. Has BH heard that some RDC councillors may be planning to resubmit a revised planning application for the restructure of the town hall?

A. BH is not aware of this but Val Hunnisett monitors all applications and would inform BH of any application.

Q. Can BH bank details be provided to enable payment of membership fees?

A. Yes, these can be used to pay membership

If members have any more questions after reading the report please email SJ.

SJ asked if the report could be approved and sent to the auditors for verification.

Proposed - David Slim Seconded - John Gardner. Vote carried.

5. To elect trustees from 9th June 2023 for 1, 2 or 3 year terms under the charity's revised constitution following our registration with the Charities Commission – Steve Johnson

SJ explained the role to plan strategic direction, oversee the work of the committee and evaluate progress.

SA and AM continue in their terms of office.

a. Nominate a trustee for a three year term - Steve Johnson willing to be nominated

Proposed - Alexis Markwick Seconded - Natasha Hamblin Vote carried.

b. No additional nominations received

6. To elect officers for the year June 2023 to June 2024

SJ handed over to SA for the next item

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

Proposed - Jeff Webb Seconded - ???????? Vote carried.

No other nominations.

b. Vice-Chair - Alexis Markwick willing to be nominated

Proposed - ?????? Seconded - David Slim Vote carried.

No other nominations

SJ handed over to SA for the next item

c. Treasurer - Steve Johnson currently in post and willing to hand over the role

No nominations. SJ to continue in role. Proposed - Rita Wright. Vote carried.

d. Charity Secretary - currently vacant - SJ explained the role includes liaising with the Charity Commission and dealing with correspondence from RDC. No nominations received.

e. Minutes Secretary - Lorraine Parkes agreed to continue in role

f. I.T. Support Officer - Alexis Markwick agreed to continue in role.

g. Membership Secretary - Christine Madeley agreed to continue in role

h. Responsibility for East Parade - Yolanda Laybourne agreed to continue in role

i. Health & Safety Officer - currently held by Natasha Hamblin. Natasha was co-opted by the committee during the year, is happy to continue and requires members formal approval. Approval agreed.

j. Project co-ordinator - Simon Allen agreed to continue in role.

k. Media & marketing officer - currently vacant - no nominations

- l. Planning Officer - currently vacant - no nominations
 - m. Museum Liaison Officer - Dave Hatherell Agreed to continue in role.
 - n. Transport Liaison - Paul Lendon (not formally a member of the committee). Agreed to continue in role.
 - o. Event coordinator - John Swap - stepping down from the committee but willing to remain an active member
- All the above nominations were carried. There were no additional nominations.
- p. To consider further nominations to the committee and for other officer posts
- There were no further nominations

7. AOB

Paul Lendon advised that there is a bus running day being held from Eastbourne Station on 2nd July. Margaret Hayles has produced a calendar of her photos to support Bexhill Museum.

Trips and visits - Keith Rhodes

Dates and times for the visits have been finalised. There will be two "Bexhill Secrets" tour for 2 hours on a Sunday in August using the Bexhill Community Bus., tickets cost £5. A tour of the De La Warr Pavilion is planned which is free but any donations to the DLWP will be welcome. A visit to Camber Castle is also planned. Access can be made by road for a maximum of four cars with four passengers. Keith will be selling tickets today and at the information stand at the bandstand. Tickets are likely to be popular. If they sell out a waiting list will be operated.

Christmas cards - Yolanda Laybourne

AM and AL have produced some images of the bandstand to be sold as Christmas cards. There will also be some postcards available. The back page will have a QR code linking to the BH website. This will enable donations to be made and memberships purchased. The cards will be in packs of six and will be available from the end of August.

Refreshment Break

Presentation - Trains and boats and planes - what's new at our museum-

Gordon Smith, Bexhill Museum

GS said that he has three roles at the museum, volunteer coordinator, trustee and as part of the management team. The museum opened in 1914 at the side of Egerton Park. It now has over 42,000 exhibits. The primary purpose of Bexhill Museum is to collect, conserve, display and interpret objects and information related to the history and natural environment of our surrounding area.

Recent additions to the collections include artefacts from the shipwreck of the Little Holland ship, dated 1690, that sank off the coast of Eastbourne. There is also a restored air raid siren and Bexhill's first fire engine that is undergoing restoration.

Q. Why is the building in poor repair?

A. It is rented from RDC and the trustees are looking for funding to renovate. Two funding applications have been rejected but a third one is being written.

SJ thanked GS for the interesting presentation.

There being no other questions or business SJ thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 21.00