

**BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBER'S MEETING HELD AT FRIEND'S MEETING HOUSE, ALBERT ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA, TN40 1DG
ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT 19:00**

1. WELCOME

Raymond Konyn (RK) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Yolanda Laybourne and Steve Johnson.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEMBER'S MEETING ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2018

There were no Matters Arising from the previous meeting and RK signed off the minutes as a true record of proceedings.

4. PROJECTS

i) Bexhill West Station. Simon Allen confirmed that the project was now complete and the clock is also lit. RK informed the meeting that a commemorative poster had been erected in the Café at Eras of Style. There would be an official unveiling on 24th November 2018 and all members were encouraged to attend.

ii) De La Warr Road Bus Shelter. SA said that the ownership of the shelter remains unclear. Rother District Council (RDC) have confirmed that they don't own it and the Land Registry records are unclear. It was suggested that East Sussex County Council might be the owner as the Highway Authority and SA agreed to investigate.

iii) Sackville Road Methodist Church. SA explained that the Church has a spire with several slit windows which could be illuminated. However, there are a considerable number of pigeons in the Tower. One visit had already been made to clear it out, but considerably more work is required.

iv) Bexhill Youth Centre. SA confirmed that the project was now complete. The Centre was now investigating the possibility of lighting the clock.

v) Bexhill Athletic Club. SA said that the clock here had been inspected and it transpired that the entire mechanism was missing. If the Club were able to locate the mechanism then it may be possible to reinstate it.

vi) East Parade Shelter. RK confirmed that we are still waiting to hear the outcome of the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

vii) Ravenside Roundabout. RK confirmed that a letter From Bexhill Heritage and the Bexhill Old Town Preservation Society (BOTPS) has been delivered to Highways England via Cllr Hollidge and we were waiting to hear back.

viii) Local List. Emily Leach (EL) reported that the aim was to compile a better picture of our architectural wealth, in an effort to refine our heritage and

conservation efforts. Practical advice was forthcoming from the Historic Environment Record. EL said that she was aware that members were keen to help with this work and she asked them to come forward so a team could be established.

ix) Pages Gap Project. Keith Rhodes confirmed that the slope to the beach had been undertaken by the military to enable disabled people to access the beach. An mechanical pully system was meant to have been installed but this never happened. Useful information about its construction was coming in via Facebook pages. The original brass plaque had been removed by RDC as the wording is problematic. A priced proposal to repaint the railings and install a replacement plaque was required.

x) Broadoak Stores. RK reported that RDC have undertaken an audit of Broadoak Stores which we are awaiting sight of. This may well unearth some hidden treasures.

xi) Bexhill 100 Motoring Club. RK told the meeting that Bexhill 100 had very generously made a £2,000 donation to Bexhill Heritage. This was a considerable amount of money for this organisation and will require careful handling. It was agreed to hold the funds in reserve awaiting the right project and could be especially useful for any match funding projects.

5. PLANNING UPDATES

i) Local Plan. David Beales (DB) told the meeting that the RDC Local Plan was now out for consultation, with a view to an Inspector from the Government's Planning Inspectorate holding a hearing next year. This Plan will decide where any new development will take place.

ii) Spindlewood. DB confirmed that there is a report on the RDC website about future proposals, which will also be included in the Local Plan.

iii) Cemetery Lodge. DB said that Bexhill Heritage were very keen to see this protected and supported the development of affordable housing on this site. An architect's sketch had been undertaken showing that it is possible to extend the building sensitively. There were concerns in the meeting that the avenue of trees, the original gates and the granite carriage wheel protectors could be at risk. DB confirmed that the gates and the wheel protectors were in the scheme, but many of the trees remain at risk due to their condition.

6. BEXHILL HERITAGE FAVOURITE BUILDING OR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE COMPETITION

RK said the Committee were delighted with the level of involvement in the Junior section of the competition. The standard had been extremely high and he was grateful to all those who had shown their commitment to this project. The three winners all from St Richards school will be presented with their certificates shortly, and the winning entries will be posted on the BH website. The Adult section was rather less keenly contested and the single entry became the inevitable winner.

7. MEMBER'S MEETING

RK explained that Member's Meetings in 2019 would be on different days of the week to enable those members with other commitments to attend at least some of the meetings.

8. BEXHILL HERITAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

RK confirmed that there would be quarterly Bexhill Heritage coffee mornings commencing January. These would provide opportunities for members to socialise and for mini-talks and social activities, such as raffles, to take place. Any additional refreshment team volunteers would be welcome.

9. HERITAGE WALKS AND TALKS DAY – 21ST SEPTEMBER 2019

A joint Bexhill Heritage and BOTPS Heritage Walks and Talks day is being planned. The event will be ticketed and include lunch at Manor Barn. The day would include guided walks and tours around Bexhill by some highly knowledgeable speakers. A date for the diary – 21st September 2019

10. DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS

RK reported that Mike French had agreed to be Fire Marshall for our meetings and he was seeking a deputy to help in the event of an incident. RK invited people to volunteer to Mike.

11. QUIZ AND BUFFETT

RK reminded the meeting that a fun evening is being planned for Monday 19th November. Questions in the Quiz will focus on Bexhill's rich and often bizarre heritage. Bexhill Heritage will help pair up people into teams to make the requisite 4 to 6 people.

12. MEMBERSHIP

RK reported that Bexhill Heritage membership had now passed the 200 milestone and he encouraged those in the audience who were not members to sign up.

13. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

i) Assets Register. Powers were available under Local Government legislation which could be used to identify assets of community value. These powers would be useful in the compilation of the Local List and could have been invoked in the dialogue on the future of assets such as the Bexhill Playhouse Cinema.

ii) East Parade Shelters. The meeting wondered if there was a Plan B available should the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund be refused. RK explained that RDC had committed to minor restoration and general maintenance whilst awaiting another funding opportunity to come along.

14. BEXHILL – OSM – ALEXIS MARKWICK

A presentation followed from Alexis Markwick (AM), one of Bexhill Heritage's Trustees and Committee Member. AM explained that he had created an open,

community mapping project. This presents a wealth of information on places in and around Bexhill through historical overlays, articles and local knowledge. The project had already taken two years to build and receives almost daily updates and refinements. This project, available via bexhill-osm.org.uk is available freely for anyone to use and indeed add to. The meeting was impressed by the wealth, depth and variety of information available and a healthy discussion and questions session followed the presentation. RK thanked AM on behalf of the meeting for showing us this fascinating project and on behalf of the town for the work he had undertaken.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting is 10th December 2018 at 19:00 at Friends Meeting House, Albert Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1DG.