

**BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 2pm**  
**At ST BARNABAS CHURCH, SEA ROAD, BEXHILL**

Committee attending:

Steve Johnson	(SJ)	Chair/Treasurer
Simon Allen	(SA)	Projects Coordinator
Alexis Markwick	(AM)	IT Support Officer/Historian
Yolanda Laybourne	(YL)	East Parade
John Swap	(JS)	Events Management
Lorraine Parkes	(LP)	Minutes Secretary

Also in attendance - David Beales (DB) - Planning Officer

The Barnabas Futures group gave a presentation of their proposal to BH members and guests. Linda Redden, heritage champion and John Bailey, conservation architect, spoke about the funding that is needed to ensure the future of St Barnabas. They gave details of the heritage of the building, the proposed plans for changes to the church and the need to realise land values. BH will consider their response to the proposal after careful consideration.

The meeting started at 15.45.

- 1. APOLOGIES** - Anthony Lightly (AL), Geoff Tompkins (GT), Natasha Hamblin (NH) Christine Madeley (CM), John Gardner, Deirdre Earl-Williams, Hazel Hanley, Philip Howard-Knight, Val Hunnisett, Paul Wright, Dru Tramaseur
- 2. APPROVAL OF AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NOVEMBER MEMBERS MEETING:** Proposed, Simon Allen, Seconded, Hilary Rhodes. Minutes were approved. Matters arising: SJ confirmed that the Town Hall planning proposal had been rejected. This had been opposed by BH. SJ thanked DB and AL for their work on this.
- 3. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND UPDATE:** SJ welcomed members to the meeting. Discussions would include the bandstand opening and members' visits in 2023.
- 4. MEMBERS VISITS:** Keith Rhodes has agreed to be the BH Tour Events Coordinator. KR has taken into account the members votes from the last meeting and this year's programme will consist of four visits. **1.** A Bexhill Hidden Secrets tour - a minibus tour of Bexhill with AM acting as guide. **2.** An Aldershaw Handmade Tile factory visit. Members will be asked to make their own way and car share where possible. **3.** A guided tour of the De La Warr Pavilion, no transport needed. **4.** A Camber Castle guided tour. The castle is a mile from Rye Station. A minibus may be sourced to take members nearer to the castle. Where transport is used, a charge will be made and a non-refundable deposit will be required for bookings. Empress Coaches are the only local firm that has a 33-seater and cost is likely to be £10 - £12 per head. The Bexhill Community Bus may be available on a Sunday. Volunteer drivers with a D1 licence will be sought. As soon as visit dates are finalised they will be published in the newsletter and on the website.
- 5. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES - DB**

**Town Hall planning proposal.** DB confirmed that the planning application for the new Town Hall design has been refused. The whole of the site now has a Grade 2 listed status. To date, there have been no further options suggested. The two villas on the site have been closed and staff moved into the main building to save on energy costs.

**Replacement Windows.** DB & AL attended a recent Rother District Council (RDC) Task & Finish Group and presented BH views on replacement windows in the Town Centre Conservation Area. BH policy states that BH will not oppose an application to change to UPVC provided that the replacement windows are of the highest quality of design, detail and finish. RDC currently requires wooden

replacements. The Group reports back to Council members with their recommendations. There has been no decision yet.

- 6. A NEW CONSERVATION AREA FOR BEXHILL?** SJ is scheduling a meeting with Cantelupe Community Association and Knole Road Residents Association to discuss their views to the proposal and enlist their practical support to record heritage buildings and attractive streetscapes.
- 7. BANDSTAND OPENING.** The bandstand opening weekend is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Paul Plim, Bexhill Mayor, and Kathy Harmer, RDC Chair will formally open the bandstand. There is still some work to be completed namely adjustment to the ramps and painting of the floor with non-slip paint.
- 8. SUPPORT NEEDED FROM MEMBERS.** SJ said that there are three projects that BH would like members support with. **1.** NH has agreed to head a group to support BH participation at the Bexhill carnival on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The carnival route goes from Sidley to The Polegrove. **2.** A group of 3-4 members is required to help with the refreshments and organise a raffle at members meetings. They will be supported with this. **3.** Members are required to organise and manage the use of the bandstand. A small committee is needed to contact local games clubs, charities etc. to showcase their activities and make the space a real community venue. Interested members should speak to SJ after the meeting or email [info@bexhillheritage.com](mailto:info@bexhillheritage.com)
- 9. NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE.** SJ advised that the BH newsletter will be issued at the end of the month. Members should also check the website for the upcoming tour visit dates and booking information.

SJ thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 16.15

**Date of next meeting - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 7pm, St Barnabas Church**