

BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 30th November 2023 3.30pm
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
Lorraine Parkes	(LP)	Committee Clerk

- 1. APOLOGIES** - Natasha Hamblin (NH), Yolanda Laybourne (YL), Hazel Hanley, Philip Howard-Knight, Jane Minter, Robert Brown, Anne Andersen, Alan Mead, Hue Mead, Diana Hughes, Danny O'Farrell, Lyn Markwick
- 2. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND UPDATE:** SJ welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He gave a presentation about the committee members and spoke about their roles.
- 3. APPROVAL OF AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING:** No matters arising. Minutes were approved - Proposed, Sarah Filleul, Seconded, John Gardner.

4. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES - SJ - TEMPORARY PLANNING OFFICER

BH does not currently have a permanent Planning Officer. SJ said he is very grateful to Val Hunnisett whose help is invaluable with checking through all the planning applications. She advises the committee which applications need scrutinising and then the committee may decide to make comments to Rother District Council (RDC). There is still a requirement for a permanent Planning Officer Please let SJ know if you may be interested. There are template letters that can be adapted and training will be given.

Another application has been made to demolish Beulah Baptist Church tower and hall and replace both with modern versions. It has a very fine Victorian tower and the replacement building suggested is not in keeping with the surrounding architecture. BH's view is that the architectural features should be kept but the inside can be modernised. Heritage groups, including BH, are opposing the application, some parishioners are supporting it.

A planning appeal has been lodged regarding allowing non-sash windows in the conservation area. BH are resolute in their their opposition to this.

5. BEXHILL HERITAGE PROJECTS UPDATE - SA

SA has been working with SJ to refurbish the RNLI collection box on the seafront. The door problem has now been rectified and it just needs the final coats of paint.

Sainsbury's Mural - In 2019 BH started discussions with Sainsbury's about refurbishing the mural on the side of their building in Town Hall Square. Tony Lightly has been an invaluable support to SA in negotiating with Sainsbury's managing agents. Finally a draft agreement has been issued and returned with minor amendments. BH are waiting to see if Sainsbury's agree with these. It is estimated that the project will take up to four months to complete. Work should start in spring.

Shelter 3 opened after restoration in August 2020. The three year repaint by BH volunteers is almost complete. There is some painting to finish and work on the benches which will be completed when the weather allows.

Restoration work has started on Shelter 4. BH volunteers are working on Monday and Friday mornings. Currently there is a lot of sanding needed to prepare the bare wood. As the shelter is boarded work can continue throughout the winter months.

Normans Bay telephone kiosk - BH are waiting to see if a funding application has been successful. RDC has pledged to give 50% of the funding required if match funding is obtained.

Coronation Bandstand - question from member

Q. Can we have some updated music in the bandstand?

A. SJ thanked the member and said he had received his suggestions and these will be implemented.

6. 2024 CIVIC PRIDE AWARD - SJ

The BH bi-annual Civic Pride Awards ceremony will be held at the April members meeting.

Members can nominate inventive modern architecture and/or buildings preserved or restored to a very high standard. The Bexhill Heritage Civic Pride Award showcases outstanding work to improve our town and, in particular, to design and build, preserve, enhance or maintain Bexhill's public open spaces.

There are five categories for you to nominate entries in: heritage homes, modern homes, shops, public open spaces and public buildings.

The nominations so far are as follows:

Heritage Home, 2 Albert Road

- Original clay tiled path
- Traditional iron gate
- Original garden wall
- Original sun canopy
- Wooden sash windows and door
- Late Victorian style front garden
- Heritage Home, Marina Court Avenue
- Unique to Bexhill
- Street-level homes all preserve original features
- Note Mughal style windows and chimneys
- Original colour scheme

Heritage Home, Marine Mansions

- Original Victorian features preserved
- High standard of exterior maintenance
- Wooden sash windows
- Iron balustrades
- Dutch design influences

Modern Home, 16A South Cliff

- Modern family home on small plot
- Reflects the modernist buildings in Bexhill
- Doesn't overwhelm adjacent properties
- Panoramic south-facing 1st floor with balcony

Shop, Maltby's - Sea Road

- Traditional glazing above the transom
- Traditional vertical columns and panelling
- Raised lettering for shop sign

Shop, Holly Blakeley Hair - Sea Road

- A very sympathetic restoration
- Traditional glazing above the transom
- Traditional vertical columns and panelling
- Striking raised lettering for shop sign
- Traditional tiled entrance
- An attractive and sympathetic restoration

Public Open Space, Tree of Hope

- A very fitting and well-executed memorial
- In a prominent position and easy for friends and relatives to sit and reflect
- Links with the surround memorials

Public Building, St. Barnabas Church

- Nicely maintained
- Bexhill on Sea's 'mother' church
- Lovingly maintained
- Superb internal brickwork
- Impressive roof
- Skilled use of flint and stone
- Hugely impressive

Members are free to nominate any of their own suggestions in any or all categories. Please send nominations to info@bexhillheritage.com Accompanying photos will be greatly appreciated.

7. Consultation on Rother District Council's 2024/5 budget

BH has been asked to respond to Rother District Council's (RDC) budget consultation. A draft response has been prepared and members are requested to read this and give their views to SJ or to email info@bexhillheritage.com

8. REFRESHMENTS and RAFFLE

9. MAIN ITEM

Guest speaker: Barbara Atkinson - Chair of the Brede Steam Engine Society

The "Giants of Brede"

Barbara gave a very interesting talk about the history of the heritage site, including the original necessity of needing to bring clean water to the area. A pumping station was required and the equipment to build this was all transported by barges and narrow gauge tramways. The first pumping house was built in 1905 and the second in 1939 as demand for more water grew. In 1964 new electric pumps were built and in 1974 the site became all electric. In 1994 the Brede Steam Engine Society was formed. Permission was given by Southern Water for a team of volunteers to restore the steam pumps. Since then, they have been given other machinery to restore. The volunteer team is very active and enjoy the work immensely. They are currently fund-raising for a new power house for the compressors. On the first Saturday of every month there is free entry and a guided tour. BH will be arranging a members group tour to Brede next summer.

There were no questions asked.

10. Questions for the committee and any other business

There were no questions asked or any other business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 8th FEBRUARY - 3.30PM - ST BARNABAS CHURCH

SJ thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 5.15