

**BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 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
Yolanda Laybourne	(YL)	East Parade
Lorraine Parkes	(LP)	Minutes Secretary

- 1. APOLOGIES** - Natasha Hamblin (NH), Yvonne Menzies (YM), Hazel Hanley, Philip Howard-Knight, |Jeff & Brenda Webb, Danny O'Farrell, Stephen Tyrrell, Sue Rochefort, Chris Eastwood, Terry Clothier, Brian Comber, Carmen Keeble
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL MEMBERS MEETING:** No matters arising. Minutes were approved.

**3. PLANNING** (Report on the work of the committee)

SJ reported that BH has a new Planning Officer, Edmund Bird (EB). Edmund works in the Mayor of London's office on conservation issues. EB will be looking at planning applications with a heritage connection. 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). As well as voicing objections to some applications BH also comments on applications they consider enhance the surroundings. A current example is the application for a sculpture to be sited outside Bexhill Rowing Club which enhances the surroundings. Another appeal was made by Beulah Baptist Church against the decision of RDC to refuse planning permission to demolish the Victorian tower and hall and replace both with modern versions. RDC opposed this as did BH. The planning inspector refused the appeal. This is the fourth time the appeal has been refused. It is hoped that the church trustees will speak with RDC and BH to discuss how the building can be retained but modernised to allow the church to expand their activities.

**4. PROJECT REPORTS**

**Sainsbury's supermarket – mural – LP**

BH were finally given permission to restore the mural on the side of the Sainsbury's store on Town Hall Square in March 2019. It has taken five years to achieve this. Sainsbury's refused to give a donation towards the work so costs have been borne by BH. A visit was arranged from Oribis Restoration in April who produced a report with advice on techniques and suggested products to use. Work started in May. The mural was cleaned with de-ionised water and brushes. Oily patches remained and were treated with a poultice that worked well on removing most of them. Slight damage to some of the coins was treated with anti rust primer and then filled. Painting consisted of primer, undercoat and two top coats of mica powder mixed with acrylic in red and gold respectively. The back panels were treated with three coats of limewash and wax was applied to the mosaics for protection. The mural was completed at the end of September. A local tiler has been engaged to replace the tiles at the base of the mural. BH has produced an interpretation board that will be "unveiled" on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 10am. All welcome to attend.

**Normans Bay K6 phone kiosk – SA**

The frames holding in the glass were very rusty and panes were broken. The kiosk had been waterlogged which accelerates rust. The kiosk was sandblasted by a local firm and new glazing put in. A live electric cable was made safe and removed. The restoration should be completed by the autumn and will be handed back to the community. The plans are to convert it to a book and seed exchange. The work is being funded by a 50% funding from BH and 50% from a community grant. The kiosk was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, a renowned architect who spent his childhood weekends in Bexhill. A

plaque will be placed on the kiosk commemorating his work.

### **East Parade – Shelter 4 -SJ**

The restoration of the shelter has been delayed due to illness of some of the volunteers. Work started in November 2023. The timbers were very wet and needed to be dried out before any work could take place. Once dried it was sanded many times and holes and gaps were filled. This work took four months. From April to June this year primer and undercoat was applied to the interior and exterior fascias were painted red. The benches were dismantled and the metal ends were sandblasted. The Men's Shed repainted all the bench slats. From June to August a final coat of gloss was applied and the candy twist columns were painted in red and green. From September the glazing commenced. There are 318 windows with 1,272 pieces of beading to be attached with over 4,000 brass tacks. Then the tack holes will be filled and the frames will be sanded smooth. Half the windows are currently completed. The shelter will be open by Spring 2025.

## **5. UPDATES**

### **Eastern Conservation Area**

The volunteer team has been gathering lots of information on the "De La Warr estate". They have looked at heritage aspects of buildings and also the street furniture. The aim is to conserve the heritage features for future generations. The historical context has already been written and the building appraisals completed. The street surveys are almost complete. YH, Dru Tramseur and Carmen Keeble are working with the team. If any members have any historical information, particularly photos, BH would welcome the opportunity to look at them.

### **Third Avenue bus shelter**

Bexhill Town Council has given BH a grant to restore the bus shelter. It is an Art Deco lozenge-shaped shelter. It is very run down and covered in brambles. A working party, led by Cllr. Gareth Delaney, will begin to remove the vegetation on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 10am. Please help if you can. Just bring gloves and secateurs with you.

### **East Parade Shelter 2**

The shelter is deteriorating badly. SJ has submitted a renovation proposal to RDC including costs for a local firm to sandblast the ironwork. It is unlikely that RDC will be able to fund and BH may have to apply for a grant on RDC's behalf. The shelter will be boarded up. Hopefully work can commence in summer 2025.

### **Refreshments and raffle**

## **6. GUEST SPEAKER**

Sally Dickinson from Windmill Hill Windmill gave an interesting talk. The windmill is a post mill of traditional Sussex design. It was erected in 1814, is Grade 2 \* listed and is the tallest windmill in Sussex. Sally spoke about the work that has been undertaken over the years to ensure the future of the windmill by a dedicated team of volunteers. A visit to the windmill for BH members is planned for 2025.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS including questions to the committee**

It is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary tomorrow of the Friday Health Walks. All welcome for the walk. Meet at the De La Warr Pavilion at 10am. A member expressed concerns about the deterioration of the towns notice boards. SJ will contact the appropriate people to raise this issue.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER – 3.30PM – ST BARNABAS CHURCH**

SJ thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.05PM