

## BEXHILL HERITAGE TRUSTEES

### Minutes of meeting MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023

#### 1. IN ATTENDANCE

All trustees attended. (Simon Allen, Steve Johnson, Alexis Markwick)

#### 2. Matters arising from the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The minutes were agreed as a true record with one amendment. It was agreed to replace 'could' with 'would' in line 4 of item 2.

##### a. Events and projects for 2023

- It was agreed that the completion of the Bandstand project had been successful and well received as had the opening weekend. Bookings were as expected. The first few weeks of opening were offering an opportunity to make relatively minor changes to improve operations.
- The K6 project had moved forward. SJ was ready to apply for grant funding and agreed to update Jim Dash and local councillors with news of the latest developments. It was also agreed that local residents should be consulted on the box's fitting out and onward care. SA agreed to visit the Beachlands phone kiosk to view its conversion into a library. (Action SJ and SA)
- It was agreed to 'hold' on the De La Warr Road bus shelter project to determine whether or not the Town Council would be assuming responsibility for bus shelters.
- It was agreed to take further action on the RNLI collection box to avoid further degradation. SA would approach a contractor to check their availability, the cost for sandblasting and the time required on site. It was agreed not to open the box or to restore its function for coin collection. There was already a health and safety statement for the work, but a working platform would be needed on the southern side of the box. It was agreed that a scaffold platform would suffice. SJ would seek appropriate permissions from RDC. (Action SJ and SA)

##### b. Members' meeting speakers

SJ reported that Gordon Smith had kindly agreed to speak at the AGM. It was agreed that the editor of Bexhill News and the Chair of the Glasshouse Group be invited to speak at subsequent meetings.

(Action SJ)

##### c. Domain name

It was decided to take action required to reclaim ownership of the charity's original domain name. (Action SJ)

#### 3. Bandstand lease and user agreement with Rother District Council

SJ reported on productive discussions with representatives of RDC. It was agreed that the draft arrangements for the timing and duration of musical entertainment were reasonable. The draft lease was now back with Rother's legal department and a further version was expected soon. It would then be necessary for all trustees to study the final draft.

#### **4. Committee review and AGM preparation**

It was confirmed that Geoff Tompkins had left the committee and had opted to work independently with the Town Council on the proposed Bexhill Showcase. Trustees wished to put on record their thanks to Geoff for his sterling work in organising the opening weekend programme and for his leadership of the Bandstand Organising Committee. SJ reported that the Bandstand Committee was being reformed to encourage community use of the facility, as part of the existing agreed strategy, and to evaluate progress.

SJ reported that David Beales had resigned as Planning Officer for health reasons. SJ had thanked David for his years of invaluable service to the charity. SA agreed to approach someone who might be able to help in this role. (Action SA)

Progress on 'expired members' was unclear. SJ agreed to follow this up. (Action SJ) Trustees were keen to add at least one other trustee to the groups and to bring additional members on to the committee. It was agreed that appropriate soundings should be taken prior to the AGM. (Action SJ)

A speaker and venue had been arranged for the AGM. SJ would work on the Trustees' Report to Members. (Action SJ)

#### **5. Any other business**

- a. It was agreed that it was inappropriate for the charity to adopt an official position on the possible use of the Northeye site to house asylum seekers. There was no heritage aspect to the proposal and the charity's constitution requires that we should not become involved in political matters.
- b. It was agreed that the Chairman should phone lifetime members to thank them for their support. (Action SJ)
- c. It was agreed that it was important for the renovation group to have further work opportunities. This would be discussed at the forthcoming committee meeting as would the options for more assertive action with regard to the Sainsbury's mural.

SJ thanked everyone for attending.

Date of next meeting Monday October 23rd