

**BEXHILL HERITAGE TRUSTEES**  
**Minutes of meeting**  
**MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2023**

**1. IN ATTENDANCE**

All trustees attended. (Simon Allen, Steve Johnson, Alexis Markwick and Sam Barber via Teams)

**2. Matters arising from the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Matters arising were as follows:

a. Events and projects for 2023

- The K6 project. SJ had missed the April grant application window for RDC's community grants but would submit a grant for 50% the cost in time for the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. SJ will update and enlist support from Jim Dash and local councillors. 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 that the clerk to the Town Council be consulted on whether they would be interested in taking over the De La Warr Road bus shelter as an asset and assuming responsibility for it. (Action SJ)
- The RNLI collection box was nearing completion. SA would complete and SJ would support the painting. (Action SA and SJ)

b. Members' meeting speakers

SJ reported that a speaker from 'The Giants of Brede' would speak at the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Other speakers for the future included the editor of the Bexhill News series. SJ would also approach the Hastings GreenHouse Group. AM offered to suggest other speakers for 2024. (Action SJ and AM)

**3. Bandstand Lease and User Agreement**

Trustees considered the latest draft lease from RDC. It was agreed that:

- References to 'Shelter 1' should be replaced with references to the 'Coronation Bandstand'. This would clarify the purpose of the building in people's minds.
- Content should be reviewed to make it more appropriate for a lease operated by charity trustees.
- Language should be clarified to make meaning clearer in places.
- Payment and amount of rent should be clarified as ambiguity existed.
- Changes should be made to enable the performance of amplified music under clear controls and with due regard to the aspirations of nearby residents. Any 'restrictions' should not be so onerous as to make entertainment overly difficult for organisers to arrange.

- Hours of public opening should be reduced in the months when the Bathing Station would be closed on weekdays (November to February inclusive).
- Wording should be amended to recognise that trustees have no power to compel action from hirers and the public but will 'use their best efforts' to deter unacceptable behaviour.
- Painting should be every three years (rather than every two years) as this had been a realistic interval for the recently redecorated Shelter 3.
- RDC should clarify the need to register the lease at the Land Registry.

SJ agreed to meet with the Director of Community Services the following morning, as previously arranged, to discuss the trustees' recommendations. SJ would inform trustees of progress and outcomes.

SA offered to redraft the lease if necessary.

(Action SJ)

#### **4. Committee review**

Trustees agreed that the duties of the current Membership Officer be transferred to another Bexhill Heritage member. The Membership Officer would be informed of this but invited to continue as a committee member 'without portfolio' until the next AGM.

AM would make the necessary administrative adjustments to facilitate the transfer of responsibility.

It was agreed to check the cost of advertising space in Bexhill News with a view to recruiting more active members. The renovation team was expanding, and members had come forward to fill some non-committee roles but it was agreed that 'team strengthening' would always be both important and necessary.

(Action SJ and AM)

#### **5. Declarations of interest at meetings**

It was agreed that trustees should always declare their interests formally in advance and during meetings as necessary. Trustees were invited to update details of their interests on the appropriate form.

The position was less clear for committee members as they would not normally be responsible for the overall evaluation of the charity's work or for its strategic direction.

SB suggested that a confidentially agreement would be more appropriate to safeguard the charity and offered to circulate a model agreement for future consideration that may be appropriate to the charity's needs.

(Action SB)

#### **6. Any other business**

It was agreed that surplus funds should be invested in a 35-day notice account with our bankers – Nat West. SJ would make an appropriate application.

(Action SJ)

SJ thanked everyone for attending and apologised for the late start and finish occasioned by closure of the A27 during the late afternoon.

**Date of next meeting** Monday January 8th