



EGM

Tuesday 13th February 2018

In attendance

12 Full Members, (4 Associates elected to pay the subscription in order to vote, monies collect £8)

2 Non-Voting Associate Members

Motion 1. To incorporate Friends of High Town.

Wide ranging discussion took place with some members expressing the view that they felt it was unnecessary at this point in the life of the organisation, and it would bring with it an undue administrative overhead that would deter potential committee members in the future.

Other members felt the personal liability issues of committee members would act as a larger deterrent.

The question of registering / notifying the Charity Commission was raised, the group were informed that due to the number of sub groups passing funds through the FoHT accounts, and that this would be a requirement if this motion passed or failed. It was suggested if the motion did fail, then the structure with regards sub groups would need to be re-evaluated.

On the question to change the status, **the motion passed** with 11 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstentions.

Discussion with regards the constitution raised two changes.

- 1) The commitment to organise the annual festival, be changed to run annual community events.
- 2) Clarification on the address, seek to gain permission to use 47 High Town Rd as our registered address (currently it is just a mailing address), failings this approval to put into place a virtual registered address.

On the question of where to accept the movement to a “Charitable Incorporated Organisation by Association” and adopt the proposed constitution, **the motion passed** with 10 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.



Motion 2, Election of Treasurer and Secretary

Gillian Berg was unanimously elected to the role of Treasurer. (Requirements in role description for Pensions experience was removed)

Kevin Poulton was unanimously elected to the role of Secretary (in conjunction with his role as Media & Marketing Officer)

Motion 3, Use of name "High Town Community Gardeners". After new evidence on the origins of the name, this **motion was withdrawn**.



Minutes of Friends of High Town

Tuesday 13th February 2018

Attendees David Landau (Chair), Kevin Poulton (Media & Marketing), Gillian Berg (Treasurer), Nick Berg, David Alexander, Russel Cartwright, Maureen Allen, Sam Willis, Kim Greig, John Wright, Pete Savage, Jeremy Williams, Chris Grabham, Simon Barrow, Michael Barker, Urmila Afroz and a Police Sergeant from Bedfordshire Police were in attendance for part of the meeting.

1.) Apologies Cllr Maahwish Mirza.

2.) Minutes of the last meeting Agreed

Police matters,

Confirmed no dedicated Drug Team within Bedfordshire Police Force, the matters were dealt with by the local police teams. Jenifer Edwards would be the contact to report any matters.

22 Edward Street and the activities that it was suspected were taking place was raised from the HTIAG

MA asked for specific advice on preventing Burglaries to be provided. SB felt this would also be useful for Arden Place, who had seen a number of suspected prostitutes enter the grounds around the block. Referred to HTIAG to follow up. **(Action HTIAG)**

Police Sergeant left the meeting with our thanks for attending.

3) Other building works/planning applications

- a) 80 High Town Rd, Building work continues, with brick external walls and a roof being erected, it was noted that the colour of brick was broadly in line with the surrounding buildings.
- b) 37 High Town Rd, on detailed inspection of the plans, it was discovered that the proposed works would not impact the amount of space available for retail. There being no other point of objection, no formal objection was lodged. The planning permission was granted by LBC
- c) 170 High Town Rd, the group will continue to monitor as ongoing building activities continue to take place.

4) Conservation Area

- a) The ongoing monitoring continues to take place, with no further update on any enforcement action by LBC being available. RC asked to email LBC to ask for an update. **(Action RC)**
- b) 78 High Town, Full Metal Shutter, discussion took place on what was and wasn't acceptable, and the fact some seemed to have been able to fit to a similar shutter and due to length of time were able to keep them. DL Informed the group the shutter had been raised with LBC Planning team as not being acceptable in conservation area.



5) Peoples Park

Benches had been replaced, but in need to be repaired, and there remains holes that need filling, DL to continue to chase **(Action DL)**

6.) Parking Kingston Rd / Ridgeway

Still awaiting further feedback after LBC started consulting with bus companies. HTIAG will continue to chase (HTIAG)

No further update from last meeting, DL said the painting of the double yellow lines had seen some traffic now park higher up the road. Cllr Mirza agreed to correspond with LBC. **(Cllr MM)**

GB Raised the issue of parking times in **Reginald St**, arguing that a 7 til 7 requirements for parking permits would deter commercial vehicles. She is in contact with Susan Palmer, who has suggested a signed joint letter (a Petition), may push the council to action. **(Action GB)**

7) New Items

a) New Planning applications

i) Station House. A detailed history of the property was given by CG, and he highlighted his concerns around the enlarged footprint and lack of involvement by “Historic England”. The Group voted to raise an objection, it would be worded in such a manner to reflect comments from the group that they wished for the property to be viable and not left to fall into a state a repair, but any alterations and extensions should be looked to be undertaken in sympathy with the buildings heritage. **(Action DL)**

ii) **Flats by Foxhall Housing Association.** It looks like still at consultation stage, however it was felt the planned development wasn't in line with the Master Plan for the area, that retail space wasn't necessary and was concerns raised over the number of parking places. The largest issue however was the very short notice given before the public consultation that was less than 5 days. The group felt the public consultation should be wider in scope and nature before any planning application is made. **(Action DL)**

8) Hightown Community Sports & Arts Centre.

KP informed the group that due to Active Luton being awarded a contract for mental health, they planned to utilise the centre as a central hub for mental health issues. Interior building works were already underway that would allow the centre to undertake these activities, whilst retain its current provisions for a Theatre, Sports Hall and Dance Studio. RC believed the mental health services would be delivered under a group called “Turning Point”



9) Issues from *High Town Improvement Action Group* has been raised in previous agenda items.

10.) AOB & Notices

KP informed the group a number of litter picks were being organised across Luton for the Great British Spring Clean. In High Town Ward there would be 2 events.

Sat 3rd March, 2pm to 5pm Meet at High Town Methodist Church

Sun 4th March, 1pm to 3pm Meet at Sign Posts HQ, 106 Old Bedford Rd.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday, March 13th @ 7 pm.