

**5. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**  
 5.1. Ward District Councillors  
 5.1.1. The Bexhill Trust

**This report has been provided by Cllr Brian Drayson**

**Report to Bexhill Town Council**

1. The Trust was established on 18th of December 1917 for the relief of poverty, advancement of education and any other charitable objects of 'general public utility' within The Borough of Bexhill.
2. The Trust has no more than seven 'Ordinary' Trustees and two ex-officio Trustees in the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bexhill
3. All Trustees are appointed by resolution of the "Town Council", a task that has been undertaken by Rother District Council since 1974 when Bexhill Borough Council ceased to exist.
4. This Trust is a charitable one and is separate to the Bexhill Charter Trust which was responsible for looking after the property and ceremonial aspects of the old Borough Council and ceased to operate once this Council was elected.
5. I do not have the full accounts available, but the Trust has assets of some £165,000 made up of cash and investments.
6. Grants are paid from the interest arising from the investments. Before Covid the average return on investments was about £4,500 pa and since, £3000 pa.
7. Administrative costs amount to £16500 per annum, this figure includes payment for a part-time Clerk.
8. Monies In/Out

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
In (£)	4.58k	3.43k	5.20k	7.1k	3.26k
Out (£)	2.73k	4.08k	8.06k*	4.92k	2.84k

\* Reflects increased Grants given during 2017 to mark the Centenary of The Bexhill Trust.

9. Grants over recent years have included: £200 to a local youth cricket team for new equipment, £200 each towards the costs of 5 local young people attending The World Scout Jamboree, £10,000 to install at new of a lift in the Eversley Road Senior Citizens Centre and smaller grants of between £100-£200 for individuals seeking living 'essentials' such as carpets, cookers etc.

10. During the first wave of Covid19 the Trust provided £500 to the Bexhill Caring Community, £1500 to the Bexhill Food Bank and £500 to the Homeless Unity Group.
11. Of the 7 Ordinary Trustees, 1 has passed away during the last year and 3 others reached the end of their term of office on 31st May 2021
12. This leaves 3 current Trustees; former RDC Councillor Martin Kenward, Current RDC Councillor Sarah Errington and myself.
13. As 3 Trustees are required for a quorum and 2 out of the current 3 are signatories in relation to the Bank Account, barring anything untoward happening, The Trust can operate while discussions are held over its future administration.
14. It seems logical that Bexhill Town Council take on administrate the Trust although this may require a resolution of both Rother District Council and Bexhill Town Council to allow for it. The position of the Clerk will also need to be discussed.

### **Suggestion to Council**

That, in principle, the administration of The Bexhill Trust be transferred to Bexhill Town Council and that Councillor Drayson who is a current Trustee, be tasked to investigate the process for this transfer and report back to the July Council Meeting.

All Members are asked to note the existence of The Bexhill Trust with a view to referring suitable claimants, as necessary.

Brian Drayson - Kewhurst Ward

### **Further information has been provided by Cllr Paul Plim**

The below email is one sent by me to Keith Rhodes who assisted in obtaining the Bexhill Flag for the Bexhill Town Council to fly yesterday. In it i have passed on my findings regarding the Bexhill Trust.

The below text came from Keith's initial email to me.

- \* August 22nd 1917, The Bexhill Trust was inaugurated.
- \* Its objectives were "to provide a Trust from whose income a Fund could provide grants to worthy causes in the Town". The Fund could be used for the: Relief of Poverty; The advancement of education: and for any other purpose connected with the advancement of the Town.
- \* The opening amount of the Bexhill Trust Fund was to be £100, as and when approved by the Charity Commissioners. The Trust Fund was to be enhanced by an Annual Appeals Day - 22nd August.

The Bexhill Day quickly gained momentum but appears to have lapsed during the mid 1920s!

Nobody seems to know what happened to the Trust Fund, nor how much had accrued by the mid 1920s.

Quick search on the charity commissioners website and ive found the the Bexhill Trust still exists.

Charity number 208028

DEED DATED 1 DECEMBER 1917

Charitable objects

(A) FOR THE RELIEF OF POVERTY; (B) FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION; AND (C) FOR ANY OTHER CHARITABLE OBJECTS OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITY, PROVIDED THAT IN NO CASE SHALL IT BE APPLIED DIRECTLEY OR INDIRECTLEY IN AID OF RATES.

Activities - how the charity spends its money Payment/donation of grants for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education, any other charitable objects of general public utility. The recipients resident within the area of the former Borough of Bexhill.

Income and expenditure

Data for financial year ending 31 December 2020

Total income: £3,260

Total expenditure: £2,844

6 Trustee(s)

Name	Role	Date of appointment
Jacqueline Potts	Trustee	16 May 2016
Brian Drayson	Trustee	22 May 2019
Sarah Errington	Trustee	22 May 2019
James Carroll	Trustee	16 May 2016
MARTIN KENWARD	Trustee	
Maurice Watson Councillor	Trustee	27 May 2015

Income / Expenditure	31/12/2016	31/12/2017	31/12/2018	31/12/2019	31/12/2020
Total gross income	£4.58k	£3.43k	£5.20k	£7.61k	£3.26k
Total expenditure	£2.73k	£4.08k	£8.06k	£4.92k	£2.84k

Address: BEXHILL TRUST  
TOWN HALL  
BEXHILL ON SEA  
EAST SUSSEX  
TN39 3JX  
Phone: 07815410433  
Email: [bexhilltrust@yahoo.com](mailto:bexhilltrust@yahoo.com)

## **6. OFFICER'S REPORT**

6.1. Membership of Standing Committees – see attached chart showing Members' 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices.

### 6.2. Standing Orders – Training

The majority of Councillors stated they would prefer face-to-face training or were happy with either so enquiries were made with Solicitor, Ian Davison to gauge the availability and cost of his specialist training.

Two hours remote training the fee will be £500 plus VAT.

Training in Bexhill would involve six hours for which the normal rate would be £1,500 plus VAT and disbursements.

He suggests that for reasons of practicality remote training would be preferable, less time, less money and less CO2. He could only offer face to face training on Wednesdays while he can offer remote training on any weekday.

### 6.3. Financial Regulations – Training

The Interim Town Clerk contacted Mark Mulberry and he can carry out finance training face to face to include Financial Regulations for a cost of £400.00 plus VAT. The training would take approximately 2 hours and Mark is available on Wednesdays 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### 6.4. Visioning Exercise (see below and attachment)

The Interim Town Clerk spoke to Trevor Leggo who usually facilitates this exercise for local councils at a cost of £250 for six hours officer time.

There is another person who also provides this service and it is hoped to have a second quote in time for the meeting.

## **7. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### 7.1. Budget and Precept agreed by CGRSC

### 7.2. Delegation of budgets to Standing Committees

The above two items are shown together in the report detailing the budget and precept agreed by CGRSC and shown in [red] is the suggested committee split for consideration by Council. When the Council starts its budget process this Autumn it will be more aware of what it wishes to do so can add items against each of the committees.

### 7.3. Items deferred from previous Council meeting

After discussion it was AGREED to take the following items together and to rename Recovery Team to "Best way of Recovering from COVID" and they were then deferred to the Council meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### Best Way of Recovering from COVID

There is £10,000 in the budget for post-COVID recovery. It is proposed that a Working Group be set up to explore the best way to spend this responsibly on appropriate initiatives, in conjunction with community organisations, to report back to Full Council by the end of July.

### Neighbourhood plan

It is proposed to start work on a neighbourhood plan, exploring its funding, scope and timing. This to be done by the relevant committee.

### Audit Team

Many residents are baffled by who does what, and who should do what. The Council proposes to create an audit team to monitor how East Sussex and Rother are delivering on their contractual obligations to the town, and work with them to improve communications and results.

### Bexhill, a fair rent town

Propose that a working group be set up with estate agents, residents groups, landlords and tenants to implement the proposed 10 principles for the Betterment of Bexhill, as a standard to aim for in the town.