

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

H&DCS COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING - MINUTES

Date - Wednesday 10th June 2020 at 10.30 am

Venue -The meeting was a virtual one using Zoom; all participants joined in from their homes.

Present - Anthony Armstrong (AA), Terry Ashworth (TA), Amanda Bosworth (AB), Margi Blunden (MB), John Bridger (JB), Sheila Kent (ShK), Stephen Kent (StK), Andrew Murray (AM), Jeremy Simmons (JS), Ann Stephens (AS).

1) Welcome and Apologies.

AB, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Bob Clark and Mick Smith.

2) Minutes Secretary. JB volunteered to write up the minutes.

3) Minutes of meeting held on 27th May 2020 – No comments. Minutes approved and signed by ShK on behalf of AB.

4) Matters Arising – not otherwise on the Agenda

Mary Rhodes Plaque

Thanks to AA & ShK for their work. Cost confirmed as £332.66 (AA) and just within the total collected from sale of Mary Rhodes books (StK). AA to pass on the colour code for the background green (RAL 6007) and confirm the new plaque will be a near identical shade of green to the existing plaques in Hunstanton, before the order is confirmed with the suppliers. Location of the plaque to be agreed by Committee later on - either inside the Heritage Centre or maybe outside on Northgate. H&DCS will mark the installation with a small ceremony. **Action: AA**

5) Correspondence, Planning and Town Council Report (AM).

Hunstanton Town Council – Nothing to report. It is still unclear if H&DCS is a statutory consultee on local planning issues. AM to continue investigation. **Action: AM**

Christine Dean – the material she has kindly gifted to H&DCS has been forwarded to AA for examination. There is a lot of it and it will take some time to go through it. **Action: AA**

Charity Commission – the change in H&DCS's area of benefit from named parishes in the local area to "within a ten-mile radius around the Town Hall, Hunstanton" has been accepted by the Commissioners. This is a more inclusive definition for the area covered by H&DCS and includes smaller parishes.

6) H&DCS Accounts. All in order. The claim for Gift Aid for the last financial year has come through – a total of £1225.91. A refund cheque to Rev and Mrs Tucker for £25 has not been cashed and is now treated as cancelled.

7) H&DCS Membership. All in order. Nothing to report.

8) H&DCS Newsletter . Comments received from recipients of the latest H&DCS Newsletter have been favourable. H&DCS must ensure that regular input is made each month to Town & Around.

AB suggested that H&DCS produce a document or leaflet on Hunstanton's historic objects, or a 'Year Book'. It was agreed that this idea should be considered by Committee, and should be added to the H&DCS Agenda later this year. **Action StK**

AA suggested an article on the MS Sheraton and its history leading up to the shipwreck. JB also has a 130 page book written by Peter Gunn on the WW2 history of RAF Great Massingham – book to be lodged either with H&DCS Library or Great Massingham History Society. **Action: AA to advise.**

9) Formation of a Company limited by guarantee, not having share capital. Some queries were raised by Committee members, mainly in respect of the complexity of the Articles & Association. Resolutions and Procedure were agreed to be OK. A special AGM would be needed to agree everything, and this was provisionally set for 1st July 2020. **Action – StK to make a few alterations to the Rules & to discuss later with Committee as required.**

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10) Heritage Centre Lease and Acquisition (Fund raising Ideas).

The Lease can only be completed once the Articles of Association and the Rules are agreed by all parties. AB will look at possibility of grants for a new heating system for the Heritage Centre. It was said that relocating the boiler originally located in the upstairs apartment into a new location in the empty space between the two floors would be too expensive and a potential fire risk.

Action – AB to continue to examine funding possibilities. AA to investigate costs of purchase of an electric boiler.

11) Heritage Centre

Preparation of Teachers Packs for Schools, Children’s Quiz. Committee unanimously approved the quiz for school children that has been prepared by ShK and already circulated to Committee.

Action – ShK to continue her good work.

Railway Exhibits. Howard Johnson has gifted H&DCS a number of wagon plates for exhibition in the Railway Room; he has also loaned H&DCS a larger rectangular engine plate. Some of the plates could be cleaned up, but we await to hear from Howard Johnson if and how these should be cleaned. Action: StK.

Searles Display. It was agreed to add the materials provided about Pauline Gower to the Searles Display. Some better quality photos of the Searles family are awaited including pictures of a speedboat and aeroplane. A separate small group of committee members will look at how best to utilise the material later when all the material has been received.

Post Covid-19 planning. To be discussed again in July 2020.

In the meantime, it was agreed to put all articles about Heritage items reported in the Newsletters and provided to Town & Around onto the H&DCS Website as well. MB will do some research on the websites of other heritage centres/museums to see how they present information and engage with their readers. Action: MB to circulate a note on her research to Committee members for discussion at the H&DCS meeting in mid-July.

12) Chair’s Discussion Document is progressing. Action – AB to recirculate the document to Committee with updates.

13) Gardens, Hunstanton in Bloom & Greening Great Britain.

MB advised that the back rest on the Edith Cavell bench at St Edmund’s Chapel gardens is badly cracked and needs urgent attention. Also there is still no news from the Borough on the whereabouts of the Captain Fryatt bench. AB suggested H&DCS write a letter recapping the issues relating to the two benches as well as the need for refurbishment work on the table and benches at the Signpost Garden. Action: AB to draft a letter and circulate to Committee for comment before despatch.

14) Pier Project. Zoom meeting of Trustees is being arranged. Action: JB

Rail Project. Initial Feasibility study by WSB has been backed in principal by David Cummins (NCC) and James Wild (MP). The next stage, to refine the Feasibility Study, will involve funding of around £60k; local government may provide £50k or so, but the Rail Project may have to fund-raise £11-12k from local sources. There is to be a webinar on 11th June 2020 to discuss this further. Action: AM to keep H&DCS informed of developments.

15) Talks Programme. Nothing to report apart from a provisional booking of the Town Hall by StK for 2020/21.

16) Outings Programme. Nothing to report.

17) Town Centre & High Street. Committee ‘Town Walk’ after lockdown should also include green plaques, benches and street signage. A provisional date for the Walk was agreed for 2nd July 2020.

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The Committee will divide in two groups, and follow different routes around the town. **Action:**
Committee

18) **AOB** – Nothing to report

Date & Time of Meetings		
Wednesday 24th June 2020	10.30am	HDCS Zoom Committee Meeting
Wednesday 1st July	10.30am	Zoom Special General Meeting
Thursday 2nd July 2020	10.30 am	HDCS Town Walk
Wednesday 8th July 2020	10.30am	HDCS Zoom Committee Meeting