

# HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

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## HDCS COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date** - Wednesday 15th April 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), Margi Blunden (MB), Amanda Bosworth (AB), 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) **Agenda** – As circulated by ShK prior to the meeting

### 4) Matters Arising – not otherwise on the Agenda

**H&DCS Newsletter** – In view of the COVID-19 crisis, AM suggested and it was agreed to provide a hard copy and distribute these (19 of approximately) by hand delivery (JS volunteered to cycle them around) as a special one off. Also agreed that within the Newsletter should be a request for a neighbour to take delivery of the email version in future as it is not advisable or viable to deliver them every month by hand. The article on an item from the Heritage Centre was to be offered to Elaine Bird for incorporating into Town & Around. At the moment, T&A is only available from 'non-restricted outlets' such as Lidl. **Action - JS & StK & ShK**

**Ideas for content for HCS Newsletters in May & June** – For the May Newsletter (June Town & Around) an article on the Gray family and siting of the Mercy Gray bench, recently restored by AM, outside the Heritage Centre (suitably locked down). Then possibly for the following months articles on the Sheraton wreck and then on Mary Rhodes (**AA to follow up with John Smith about the plaque that needs to be acquired out of the funds raised from selling her books**) and the history of the NatWest Bank and its conversion into the Heritage Centre. It was also discussed about incorporating the BBC Charles Gray 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday recording onto the Touch Screen display in the HC and possibly on the website and even a Facebook page that needs to be set up. **Action - AA to contact Mr Dearne to first check that the Gray family are in agreement with the proposed publication of an article about the family in T&A. StK to put onto Touch Screen etc.**

### 5) Representation on other fora

No reports, except for West Norfolk Tourism Forum. **Action – AB to contact Phil Eke re representation of HCS by AS (primary) & AA (secondary).**

### 6) Correspondence, Planning and Town Council Report.

**HTC** - AM has contacted the Town Clerk to enquire about the minutes of recent meetings. No minutes have appeared on the Council website since January 2020.

**Green Beer Bottles** - Derek Cosbey has given AM 3 green glass bottles that were found on the Northfields Allotments. They are labelled 'Golden Lion Hotel Co. Ltd. Hunstanton' and are to go be added to the displays in the HC. **StK to create a new label**

**Green Plaques** - AM has discovered in HCS records that these were made by 'Signs of the Times' in Telworth, Bedfordshire (01525 874185) and total invoice of £6083.45 The seven interpretation boards cost between £450 and £500 each. A sum of £2462.11 was paid to the Borough once they were thought to be satisfactory. HLF awarded us £18,700 for the plaques and interpretation boards. Subsequent to this meeting, AM circulated the press release for 4 April 2007 when the Plaque Walk was opened by John Bunting's grandchildren.

**Southend Road & KitKat Developments** - AM also circulated the response from the Town Council to the Southend Road Development proposals as well as a very detailed analysis of

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the potential for the development of the Kit Kat site to harm the Conservation Area, produced by Armour Heritage Planning of Somerset. The full report can be found under 19/01558/FM in the BCKLWN Planning site.

**Civic Voice** – have advised they will be making bids to funding agencies to help support civic societies and local communities in the wake of the crisis and have requested views from HCS on which criteria are most important to Hunstanton.

- 7) **HCS Accounts.** In order – nothing to report
- 8) **HCS Membership. In order** – nothing to report.
- 9) **Formation of a Company limited by guarantee, not having share capital.** In process – not yet completed. **Action - StK**
- 10) **Heritage Centre Lease and Acquisition (Fund raising Ideas).**

Research continues on potential opportunities available from the Heritage Lottery Fund and elsewhere.

**Action – AB/AM/StK/ShK. JB to provide information on Ugly Studios, who supported the new Maltings Centre in Wells-next-the-Sea and may be able to advise HDCS on funding sources.**
- 11) **Preparation of Teachers Packs for Schools, Children’s Quiz etc. ShK/StK – in hand. They need to contact John Maiden re material from Heacham Primary.**
- 12) **Chair’s Discussion Document. Action - AB to look at prioritising items to bring forward at next meeting.**
- 13) **Gardens, Hunstanton in Bloom & Greening Great Britain.**

Adopt a Bed, Heritage Centre flower displays, Cliff-top flower beds. BCKLWN (Chris Durham) advises that minimum maintenance work may continue by both Borough and HDCS providing it is undertaken on a ‘solitary basis’ and that the government social distancing rules are observed. Christine Earnshaw is stepping down from Hunstanton In Bloom. Canny Jones has carried out some weeding and it was agreed that some plants can be purchased and planted.
- 14) **Pier Project.** All 61 Piers in the UK are closed to the public until further notice. The National Pier Society (NPS) AGM planned for June 2020 in Southsea will most likely be cancelled. A comprehensive and extremely professional 72-page National Pier Sustainability Review was published by NPS in April 2020 which will be of considerable use for the Hunstanton Pier Project and Business Plan. Anya Chapman (Hon Sec NPS and a great supporter of the regeneration of Hunstanton Pier) was the driving force behind this work. **Action – Anya Chapman Review attached separately.**
- 15) **Rail Project.** NCC are still working on the Feasibility Study and have been advised by AM and members of the Hunstanton/KL Rail Project to take proper account of potential ticket revenues from tourist visitors to North West Norfolk from the Midlands and beyond.
- 16) **Talks Programme.** Nothing to discuss at this time.
- 17) **Outings Programme.** Nothing to discuss at this time.
- 18) **AOB.** None

Date & Time of next Virtual Meeting	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	10.30am