

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES of ZOOM MEETING of H&DCS Committee – Wednesday 23rd June 2021 This additional meeting was called to discuss Heritage Centre Lease & Acquisition

Date – Wednesday 23rd June 2021 at 10.00 am

Venue -The meeting was held online using Zoom hosted by StK

Present on Zoom – Tony Armstrong (AA), Margi Blunden (MB), Amanda Bosworth (AB), John Bridger (JB), Sheila Kent (ShK), Stephen Kent (StK), Andrew Murray (AM), Jerry Simmons (JS).

1) Welcome and Apologies.

AB, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Bob Clark (BC), Terry Ashworth (TA) and Ann Stephens (AS).

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

3) Heritage Centre Lease & Acquisition (deferred from H&DCS Committee meeting on 22nd June 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to:

(a) To consider the Discussion Paper prepared by AB entitled “Securing the long-term future of the Heritage Centre”;

(b) To decide whether to:

(i) Pursue grant opportunities with the aim of securing funding to purchase the building, either in part or in its entirety, within the next 3-5 years;

or

(ii) Continue with rental of the ground floor of the building through the existing draft six-year lease (NB. Terms and conditions of lease still to be finalised and signed)

After discussion of the future of the Heritage Centre post Covid-19, and the uncertainties as to when life would return to “a new normal”, it was eventually decided by all present that the best plan in the short term would be to apply to the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) for a Project Viability Grant (£15,000 maximum, up to 100% of the cost of the work involved) to consider the outline business case for possible uses of the building, based on research and consultation, and how the project could be funded. Such a step would provide answers to issues raised at the meeting and give H&DCS clarity on the pros and cons of lease versus acquisition. At the end of the funded work (if our application were successful) we would need to bring the results together to produce a Project Viability Appraisal that would help us decide whether to develop the project and, if so, provide a route map for the next steps. Beginning this journey would, at the same time, give H&DCS some time to analyse the future of our charity.

It was decided unanimously to contact the AHF and request a paper copy of the online Grant Application Form that could be shared amongst the H&DCS Committee to enable members to consider appropriate answers to the questions asked in the form.

Action: AB to contact Laura @ AHF and request copy of form

Dates & Times of next Meetings in 2021		
Tuesday 6 th July	2.00pm	Extraordinary Zoom Meeting – H&DCS Activities in 2021/2022
Tuesday 20 th July	10.00 am	Monthly Committee Meeting at Heritage Centre