

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

H&DCS COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Date - Wednesday 24th 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), Ann Stephens (AS).

1) Welcome and Apologies.

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

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

3) Minutes of meeting held on 10th June 2020 – No amends requested and minutes signed for AB by ShK.

4) Matters Arising – not otherwise on the Agenda

Mary Rhodes Plaque

Location to be decided by Committee once the plaque has been delivered by the suppliers.

Sanitising Equipment

AA informed the Committee that supplies of refillable sanitising equipment were currently unavailable in England.

Benches in Hunstanton

Committee agreed to wait until H&DCS 'Walk-around the Town' and consider how best to approach the Borough re repairs at a later date.

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

Planning Applications – There are three planning applications currently, which need to be discussed in detail by Committee: Southend Road, the Bus Station and Library and change of use Valentine Road BCKLWN offices to become temporary Library. It was agreed by Committee that a separate meeting should be arranged to discuss our response to these developments and whether they meet the key development criteria including environment and heritage. It was further agreed to discuss planning issues on Zoom after the Special General Meeting on 1st July after concluding the voting process on the restructuring of H&DCS to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Green Areas – circulate to Committee a Civic Voice article on need for Green Space in planning and development. **Action: MB**

6) H&DCS Accounts. StK reported that Payment to Vistra complete. Nothing further to report.

7) H&DCS Membership. ShK reported no action required.

8) H&DCS Newsletter. StK reported that the H&DCS Newsletters 6, 7 & 8 were on the Society's website.

9) Formation of a Company limited by guarantee, not having share capital. The H&DCS vote on this will be taken at a Special General Meeting to be held on Zoom on 1st July 2020. All members of H&DCS have been invited to complete and return the voting form to ShK at the latest by 10.30 am on Tuesday 30th June.

10) Heritage Centre Lease. StK advised that the lease can only be signed once the formation of the new Company has been completed. Fundraising also cannot begin in earnest until this happens.

11) Heritage Centre

Railway Plaques. Howard Johnston has advised that the railway plaques he has offered to the Heritage Centre can be cleaned with a wire brush if required and can be painted but should not be painted on the back and the Engine number plaque should not be painted at all.

Volunteers for Heritage Centre. AM advised that re-opening is probably not imminent due to the vulnerability of aged H&DCS Volunteers and the possibilities of a spike in Covid-19 cases. It was agreed by Committee that a letter to be written to all Heritage Centre to thank all volunteers and say it will not open in July but only when it is deemed safe for all concerned to do so. **Action: TA**

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Grant for businesses re-opening. There may be grants available for reopening museums and similar businesses which H&DCS could access. An action plan for re-opening the Heritage Centre could usefully be drafted. **Action: AB**

12) Chair's Discussion Document. The latest draft of the Chair's Discussion Document had been circulated by AB. Committee Members had been invited to comment. **Action: AM and StK/ShK and JS to look into the length of the Lease and other details.** As regards Planning issues see Agenda Item 5. It was noted by AB that it is important to keep records in future of the provenance and all available history of all items donated to the Heritage Centre. **Action: Heritage Centre Team.**

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

Mercy Gray Bench. AM reported he had given an additional coat of preservative to the bench, but dowel holes still need some attention. **Action: AM**

Cliff Top Gardens. AM/MB are pleased to report that the Borough are watering St Edmunds Gardens and other gardens on the cliff top.

14) Pier Project. It was reported that there were signs of activity at CHS Amusements, perhaps an indication of its re-opening soon.

Rail Project. AM reported that a bid had been submitted to the Department of Trade for £50k funding to take the project forward towards a fully fledged Feasibility Study. A contribution of approximately £12,500 will be need to be raised by the Rail Project itself and HTC have agreed to contribute £1,000 at the most recent HTC meeting. James Wild is also supporting the project from a political perspective noting the benefits of a rail connection to the local economy of NW Norfolk.

15) Talks Programme. A member of H&DCS (Jane Thursby) has proposed the idea of virtual talks being made available online via the H&DCS website. To be put on the Agenda for consideration at the next H&DCS Committee meeting. **Action: ShK**

16) Visits Programme. JB reported this is still in abeyance. AM suggested an early visit to Frimstone Quarry to begin the programme once the Covid-19 position has become clearer. **Action: JB**

17) Town Centre & High Street Walk. This is planned for 2nd July. Progress report to be reviewed as an Agenda Item at the next full H&DCS Committee Meeting on 8th July 2020. **Action: ShK**

18) AOB – Closure of TIC at the Town Hall and replacement by an un-staffed facility at the Coal Shed Gallery. This decision by BCKLWN in conjunction with HTC was a shock to local businesses and residents. There was no prior consultation with the local community of any kind, and no discussion was allowed at the HTC Council meeting on 18th June 2020. It was agreed to draft a letter from H&DCS to BCKLWN/HTC outlining the key issues on lack of due process between HTC and BCKLWN, the risks to public health of providing an unmanned facility in a small Coal Shed Gallery to tourists and the general public during lockdown recovery from Covid-19. Also to request the justification in closing the Town Hall-based TIC which was perfectly capable of being equipped to provide a suitable Covid-19 recovery environment like other businesses in Hunstanton. **Action: JB to prepare a first draft of a letter to BCKLWN and circulate to Committee.**

Date & Time of next Virtual Meeting		
Wednesday 1 st July 2020	10.30am	Zoom Special General Meeting
Thursday 2 nd July 2020	10.30 am	H&DCS Town Walk
Wednesday 8 th July 2020	10.30 am	H&DCS Zoom Committee Meeting
Wednesday 22 nd July 2020	10.30 am	H&DCS Zoom Committee Meeting