

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

HDCS (HCS) COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Date - Wednesday 27th May 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 (RC) and Mick Smith (MS).

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

3) Minutes of meeting held on 13th May 2020 – An amendment to the minutes referring to Agenda Item 5 (Planning) was requested by AM. Since today's meeting (27th May 2020), ShK has adapted a note made by AM to revise the minutes appropriately and these revised minutes have been circulated to the Committee.

4) Matters Arising – not otherwise on the Agenda

Mary Rhodes Plaque

Minor amends were suggested by ShK. AA showed a blue sample plaque to the meeting which required some re-wording with 'Hunstanton & District Civic Society' around the edge, a green background to be the same colour as the existing plaques around town. No inverted commas around the wording Born and Bred. Likely cost in region of £332.66 inc VAT and delivery. Quotation and sample to be requested from the supplier and circulated to Committee when received. **Action: AA**

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

Hunstanton Town Council – No report on recent ZOOM Council Meeting. No recording available. No minutes yet available on line or on the Town noticeboard. It was however known that Andrew Jamieson had been co-opted onto the Town Council and there is one vacancy still to be filled. AM was not able to join the Zoom meeting. HTC supports the Round Table effort to support those in need during lockdown. Next BCKLWN Committee meeting will be virtual.

6) HCS Accounts. All in order – current balance £12,348.86p. After discussion, it was decided not to renew the current annual subscription to CPRE of £50 pa. The question was raised as to whether HDCS have an official voice on planning applications, or not. **Action: AM to investigate**

7) HCS Membership. Nothing to report.

8) HDCS Newsletter. It was agreed to provide an HDCS input to Town & Around by 12th June for the July issue, focussing on shipwrecks in the wash near Hunstanton. Other suggestions for subjects of interest include some history on Mary Rhodes, and possibly the evolution of the Heritage Centre site from house through NatWest Bank to become the Heritage Centre. It was also agreed to discuss a 're-opening of the Heritage Centre' and an accompanying article for Town & Around later this year when the future was a little clearer.

StK/AA to also circulate any other input for next HDCS Newsletter.

9) Restructuring of Hunstanton & District Civic Society. Grateful thanks were offered by Committee to StK for all his hard work in progressing this important step. Some issues remain such as the Charity Commission's view on redefining the Area of Benefit centring the company on either the Town Hall or the Heritage Centre. It was thought in conclusion that the Town Hall would be a better choice as it would appear on most street maps of Hunstanton. **Action – StK & AM to discuss later**

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

AB continues to research funding for acquisition of the Heritage Centre. She suggested it would also be a good idea to research funding for development of display materials, and also perhaps grants for heating systems. **Action – AB**

11) Preparation of Teachers Packs for Schools, Children’s Quiz. Good contact has been made by ShK and StK through Heacham Primary School to Kate Argyle, Local Heritage Education Manager (East) of Historic England who actually helped the school in preparation for their visit to the Heritage Centre a few years ago. Things are progressing well and will be circulated to Committee before long. A quiz for children has been prepared by ShK and circulated to Committee. **Action – ShK and StK to finalise the quizzes.**

12) Chair’s Discussion Document is progressing and a Board Planning Document will be circulated to Committee in a month or so. Considerable discussion was then focussed on when and how to safely reopen the Heritage Centre, post Covid-19. Do we want to re-open this year/Can we find enough volunteers ready to support a reopening? Availability of volunteers and provision for visitors of sanitisers-screens- gloves-visit booking arrangements-exterior screen were the key issues discussed. It was agreed to keep everything under consideration, but not to take any decisions at this early stage of ‘getting back to normal’. **Action – AB & HDCS Committee.**

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

MB advised that all planting had been done. It was agreed that MB would contact Chris Durham to establish if they will assist in the watering of St Edmund’ Chapel and Signpost Gardens. MB will also ask if there is any news on the Captain Fryett bench. **Action - MB**

14) Pier Project. Zoom meeting of Trustees to be held in the next few weeks. **Rail Project.** Initial Feasibility study by WSB (100 pages) has been provided to NCC. The report is confidential at this stage, but initial impressions of the Study seem mostly favourable.

15) Talks Programme. NTR

16) Outings Programme. NTR

17) Town Centre & High Street. Committee ‘Town Walk’ after lockdown should also include green plaques, benches and street signage.

18) AOB – MB advised that some other civic societies provide regular features to their websites on specialised topics. HDCS could consider doing the same, for example on architecture, fossils etc. StK advised that he was happy to add material to the website although he would need to be supplied with suitable material for adding in. **Action: to be considered by Committee and put on agenda for next Committee meeting.**

Date & Time of next Virtual Meeting	
Wednesday 10 th June 2020	10.30am