

# HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

---

## HDCS COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date** - Wednesday 29th 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 all to the meeting. Apologies received from Bob Clark and Mick Smith.

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

**3) Minutes of HCS Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020** – Approved and signed by ShK on behalf of AB.

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

**Funding for purchase of former bank building by HCS** – JB has been in touch with Andy Pritchett of Ugly Studios, Norwich who claim a 100% success record in many funding applications they have made on behalf of museums, heritage sites etc to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Andy said that, because of lockdown, HLF are not accepting new funding applications until at least October 2020, except in case of genuine emergency/imminent danger to assets. Andy Pritchett recommended an alternative funding provider [www.sharemuseumseast.org.uk](http://www.sharemuseumseast.org.uk) that HCS might approach. He also recommended we contact an Accountant based in Cambridge whom Ugly Studio have used on many occasions called Claire Adler. Claire specialises in assessing, monitoring and mentoring museums, art galleries, churches and community heritage projects in their quest for HLF funding. She is expert in writing business plans and applications to NHLF in collaboration with applicants such as HCS. See [www.claireadler.co.uk](http://www.claireadler.co.uk)

Andy will speak to other board members of Ugly Studios and JB will contact him again before the next HCS meeting. **Action - JB**

AB suggested contact is also made with Howard Johnson who may have relevant experience we could utilise. **Action – AM**

**Membership of West Norfolk Tourism Forum** confirmed: Member AS; Seconded AA. Names already notified to WNTF Secretariat. **Action – AS and AA to complete forms and post at Heritage Centre**

**Reports from Coastal Communities Team (CCT).** None available. TA volunteered to act as Seconded on this team (Member AM). **Action – ShK to notify CCT Secretariat.**

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

**HTC** – Nothing significant happening. No news on Committees (Agenda and minutes of March meetings not published on HTC website). Only the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of the two Committees appear to be active during lockdown.

**Hopkins Homes** – Mike Ruston has advised that the current change to the planning permission is ‘non-material’.

**Railway Gates at bottom of Redgate Hill** – AA advised that S. Clarke of King’s Lynn are clearing the boundary area and have taken down the gates. Following discussion, it was agreed that HDCS should try to obtain possession of the gates and then possibly re-install them at the Railway Garden area on the car park. **Action - AA**

**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 HDCS on which criteria are most important to Hunstanton. **Action - Committee to consider.**

**Bingo Cards.** Arrange suitable display in Heritage Centre. **Action – ShK & StK**

**6) Treasurer’s Report.** All In good order – HCS can survive lockdown.

## HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

---

- 7) **Membership Secretary's Report.** All in good order – nothing to report. Thanks to JS for bicycle delivery of newsletter to 18 members of HCS who are not on email.
- 8) **Newsletter for May 2020**  
**Next Heritage Feature on Mercy Grey.** AA expressed concern about the lack of reply from a family member. AA will try an approach to his granddaughter. If no reply from the family, Committee to agree another topic for the Heritage Feature – possibly the story of the conversion from bank to Heritage Centre. **Action – AA**  
**Green Plaque Trail Walk.** This is to contain a link to the HDCS website to enable members or others to print the map before commencing their walk along the Heritage Trail. Map also to be put on HDCS Notice Board outside the Heritage Centre. **Action - StK**
- 9) **Formation of Company limited by Guarantee**  
Members subscribing to HDCS should feel part of the company i.e. able to attend meetings such as the AGM, but not private meetings of the Trustees, unless invited to do so. Cost to HDCS to set the Company up is £375 + VAT plus about £12 for registration of the new company at Companies House. Before proceeding further, it was agreed that it would be a good idea to contact Civic Voice to see if such an arrangement would be an acceptable way to go. **Action – AM.**
- 10) **Heritage Centre Lease & Acquisition (Fund Raising)**  
See Agenda Item 4
- 11) **Heritage Centre – Preparation of Teachers' Packs for Schools**  
**Heritage Centre Quiz** – Draft supplied to be arranged for 2 or 3 quizzes. **Action ShK**  
**Heacham Primary School** – to try to get hold of pack they already have. **Action ShK/StK**  
**New material on loan from John Smith/June Searle about Pauline Gower** – examine & arrange materials possibly within the Searles display in preparation. **Action ShK/StK and TA**  
**Any other ideas welcomed.** **Action - Committee**
- 12) **Chair's Discussion Document**  
**Key issues include:**
- funding for acquisition (see Agenda Item 4),
  - replacing donations not received during Lockdown.
  - Reaching out to other historical and civic societies in the local area (Brancaster, Heacham Docking, Great Massingham etc). JS suggested launching a form of Corporate Membership that could be offered to such organisations. ShK agreed to prepare summary of spread on members by location. **Action – ShK as above. Discuss at next HDCS Committee Meeting.**
- 13) **Gardens, Hunstanton in Bloom & Greening Great Britain.** - Nothing to report
- 14) **Pier Project.** - Nothing to report
- 15) **Rail Project** - Nothing to report – AM noted a TV programme on Wolferton Station on 16<sup>th</sup> June: channel unknown at this stage
- 16) **Talks Programme.** Talks need to be arranged possibly from September when it might be hoped that lockdown will be over. AA suggested the plaque for Mary Rhodes should be the same size, typeface and colour as other Civic Society plaques in Hunstanton.
- 17) **Outings Programme.** Off agenda for the time being.
- 18) **Town Centre & Town Walkaround.** **Action - Committee after lockdown ceases.**
- 19) **AOB.** JB raised the possibility of a WW2 Auxiliary Bunker in Hunstanton. **Action – JB/AA to research further, and investigate after lockdown ceases.**

Date & Time of next Virtual Meeting	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	10.30am