

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

MINUTES of H&DCS COMMITTEE MEETING, 6th OCTOBER 2020 – ONLINE ZOOM

Date – Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 10.30 am

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

Present on Zoom - Anthony Armstrong (AA), Terry Ashworth (TA), Margi Blunden (MB), Amanda Bosworth (AB), John Bridger (JB), Sheila Kent (ShK), Stephen Kent (StK), Yvonne Bridger (YB)

1) Welcome and Apologies.

AB, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Bob Clark (BC), Andrew Murray (AM), Jeremy Simmons (JS), Ann Stevens (AS) and Mick Smith (MS).

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

3) Minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2020 – No amends requested and minutes signed by ShK on behalf of AB.

4) Matters Arising not otherwise on the Agenda. A discussion on ‘Amazon Smile’ to be dealt with later under Agenda Item 18.

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

1) AM was absent at the last HTC meeting on 24th September.

2) No new planning applications.

3) JS & AM have both participated in Civic Voice Planning Webinars relating to the government White Paper on new planning regulations. StK stated that, based on feedback received from JS & AM, local consultation on future planning applications will be ‘challenging’. Deadline for comments to Civic Voice is 18th October 2020. **Action: JS & AM to prepare a resume for H&DCS.**

6) TIC Closure and the Coal Shed

H&DCS has arranged a meeting with BCKLWN (Elizabeth Nockolds and Philip Eke), on Wednesday 7th October in the Heritage Centre at 10am. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a way to work with the Borough to re-instate staffed provision of a Tourist Information Centre in a way that meets the needs of Hunstanton Community, Businesses and Visitors to the area. A blended solution to the issue is to be sought.

It was noted the King’s Lynn Civic Society had been likewise very concerned about the Borough’s abrupt closure of the TIC in the Customs House. **Action: AB to contact King’s Lynn Civic Society (Allison Gifford) to see how they are dealing with their local issues.**

7) Treasurer’s Report.

StK reported a donation from a member, and two additional life subscriptions. Donations from visitors to the Heritage Centre have totalled £95 in the month since the last meeting. The accounts are in order and the current balance in the H&DCS account is £16, 027.51p.

8) H&DCS Membership Report & Renewals.

ShK reported that two new volunteers have recently signed up to help keep the Heritage Centre open as long as feasibly possible. Currently H&DCS has 183 Members. The H&DCS AGM is to be held on Zoom at 7.30pm on 9th December 2020. Up to 100 participants can be present on the Zoom subscription service recently joined by StK on behalf of H&DCS.

9) Newsletter – October 2020.

The next headline item is the story behind Mary Rhodes’ plaque. Other interesting subjects including local residents of Hunstanton for a future Newsletter. **Action: AA to discuss with one.**

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10) Heritage Centre Lease and Fundraising.

Nothing further to report on this pro tem. AB still on the case.

11) **Heritage Centre.** A new electricity meter is to be installed in the Heritage Centre. The new heating system will comprise low-level electric convector heaters in the back room and Railway Room, and high-level fan heaters in the front room. The existing air conditioning units are defunct but being left for the time being. A discussion is to be held with Gerry Desroches, and the new radiators required ordered and installed. **Action StK, AA and MS.**

12) **Chair's Discussion Document.** Work in progress. It was agreed to close the Heritage Centre either mid-November or possibly end November depending on footfall, volunteer availability and the state of the pandemic going forward.

13) **Gardens/Hunstanton in Bloom & Greening Great Britain.** Captain Fryatt's bench has been deemed non-repairable by the Borough and, apart from the named back panel, scrapped. It was agreed that a brand-new bench should be bought, and that the original panel should be attached to the new bench or, alternatively, put on the wall inside the Heritage Centre. Step 1 in the process would be to immediately recover the lettering panel on the original bench from the Borough which is understood to be still available. **Action: MB to approach Borough and to get hold of the lettering panel.**

As noted in the draft H&DCS Newsletter, Margi Blunden and Ann Stevens have both decided to relinquish their work maintaining the Railway Garden, St Edmund's Chapel Garden and the Sign-Post Garden near the Lighthouse. However, they will continue to look after the flower beds around the Heritage Centre. **Actions: MB to ask BCKLWN for their plans to continue maintenance of the gardens relinquished by herself and AS. AB offered to keep the Edith Cavell bench safe in her own garden until refurbishment and re-siting can be arranged.**

14) **Pier Project.** Nothing to report. **Rail Project.** Zoom meeting of Rail team to be held to review progress at 8pm this evening.

15) **Talks Programme.** Potential life story of a Polish lady in Hunstanton with connections to the Polish armed forces stationed in Hunstanton. **Action: MB to follow up.**

AB to contact Allison Gifford of King's Lynn Civic Society: it may be feasible to possibly 'share speakers' in future.

16) **Outings.** In abeyance. But JB highlighted the possibility of adding an item in October Newsletter about RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre opening to visitors on 25th October and 8th November 2020. **Action: JB to provide details to StK & ShK for the Newsletter. Also, StK & ShK to consider putting up a 'Poppy Board' in the Heritage Centre for Remembrance Sunday 8th November, and Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11th November.**

17) **Town Centre & Town Walks.** In abeyance until Spring 2021.

18) **Amazon Smile.** It was agreed by Committee to proceed with StK's proposal to register our new H&DCS Charity with Amazon Smile. All purchases made via Amazon Smile will result in a donation from Amazon to our Charitable company, at zero cost to the purchaser. **Action: StK to register our Charity with Amazon Smile and publicise via October Newsletter.**

Dates & Time of next Meetings		
Wednesday 4 th November 2020	10.00 am	H&DCS Committee Meeting in Heritage Centre or Zoom
Monday 9 th December 2020	7.30pm	AGM on Zoom