

Hunstanton & District Civic Society
Committee Meeting on Tuesday 21 April in the Heritage Centre

Present: Andrew Murray, Chairman (AM), Tony Armstrong (AA), Terry Ashworth (TA), Margi Blunden (MB), Martin Chown (MC), Stephen Kent (SK), Ivy Scales (IS), Ann Stevens (AS), Richard Webb, Secretary (RW),

1 Apologies:, John Little, Treasurer (JL), Mavis Windibank (MW)

2 AM welcomed SK to the committee as Website Manager.

The minutes of the meeting on 17 March (with three amendments) were approved and signed.

Website The renewed website has been well received and SK was thanked for his work. It was wondered if it might be possible to include the number of hits it receives. (**Action: SK**)

AM is to meet Solveig and Derek shortly to renew the lease on the Heritage Centre.

3 The Secretary's report of correspondence has been circulated. AM (as Town Councillor) reported on the Annual Meeting of the Town Council that attracted very few members of the public. There were some heated exchanges there about the lack of response to the Pre-Submission Document and continued support for the proposed Hopkins Homes development. A letter from Geoff Hall (Planning Officer) was discussed. (see Appendix below)

AM had no dates yet for the start of the McCarthy & Stone development (but a digger was reported as being seen on site). It is understood negotiations are progressing for 20 car parking spaces to be used by the developers with a rumoured £100K compensation payable to the Borough. There appears to be no definite date yet set for the next Regeneration meeting when Matthew Henry might report on the details. It is expected that deliveries to the site might take up further parking spaces. MC said the CAAP (Conservation Area Advisory Panel) had no further details yet for the final design or materials to be used. The next meeting of the CAAP is 13 May.

4 The Treasurer's report is attached. There were no questions in the Treasurer's absence.

5 The Heritage Centre Attendance has been good over the Easter holiday. A new volunteer has been recruited and an appeal for more will be in the next Town & Around and on the website. We may have to endure some closures in May as it is proving difficult to cover all the opening days.

The children's quiz is proving popular. We will investigate buying some button badges to give as prizes. (**Action: RW**)

We have been given a folder by Mike Hurn containing photographs of fossils of the Hunstanton red chalk formation.

A lady from Northrepps has loaned some papers found in her loft that seem to relate to early Le Strange family history. She has more still. SK volunteered to scan them into a computer so they can be looked at without harming the delicate originals. (**Action: SK**)

There was some discussion about the obligations of the Trustees of the Heritage Centre. The current Trustees are AA, TA, SK, AM, IS, Bob Clark, Sheila Kent and John Maiden. AM will consult David Jones (about a constitution) and the Clerk (about Trustee responsibilities). (**Action: AM**)

6 Projects

- Plans for the exhibition at Le Strange Arms are progressing, it may be in June. It was wondered if Stagecoach might like to help finance the move and AS was going to try and discover information about relevant historical photographs she had seen at a recent U3A meeting. (**Action: AA,AS**)
- The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan group is next week. TA has been 'walking the streets' collecting information that will be transferred onto the large scale maps. The group will be present at the Blossom Day in the Community Orchard on 2 May.
- There are 16 people signed up so far for the Butterfield outing. We will continue to advertise it at our meetings, on the website, and with Heacham History Society and Docking Heritage Group. MB will ask Brian to produce a poster for display around the town. (**Action: MB**)

7 The next committee meeting will be on **Tuesday 19 May** at **10.00am** in the Heritage Centre.

8 There was no AOB

Appendix: Email sent to Cllr Beal on 13 April and forwarded to the secretary

As you know the Hopkins planning application has now been before the Council for quite a long period of time. Part of this delay has been down to their attempts to re-work the application into a form that would be acceptable (particularly to Norfolk County Council as highway authority) although it should also be noted that Hopkins have submitted their scheme in advance of the Local Plan.

We have been coming under increasing pressure from Hopkins Homes to approve their current scheme in advance of the Local Plan.

Our position to date has been that unless there is widespread support within the community we shall not determine the current application in advance of the Local Plan inquiry which provides an opportunity for local residents to express their concerns over the strategy for development in Hunstanton. Having looked at the representations received, it is clear that various people/groups have expressed concerns over this allocation and we feel it would therefore be wrong to approve the scheme in advance of the public inquiry into the site.

One option available to Hopkins in these circumstances is to appeal on non determination and place the matter in the hands of the planning inspectorate. Such an approach is not risk free for Hopkins and personally I would advise them against such a course. So far they have not indicated to us that this is what they plan to do, although they are particularly aggressive and I would not be surprised if they adopt this course of action.

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