

Hunstanton and District Civic Society Extraordinary Meeting

DATE Wednesday April 25th 2018

VENUE Heritage Centre

PRESENT Tony Armstrong (AA) Terry Ashworth (TA) Amanda Bosworth (AB) Margi Blunden (MB) Sheila Kent (ShK) Stephen Kent (StK) Andrew Murray (AM) Judy Simmons (JS) Ann Stevens (AS)

APOLOGIES John Bridger (JB) Robert Clark (RC) Alethea Gillard (AG) John Maiden (JM)

The meeting opened at 10.04. There were 2 items on the Agenda.

1. The future of the Heritage Centre (HC)
2. A report from the Hunstanton in Bloom Committee.

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HC.

The best option is to remain at 15, The Green.

The worst option would be the closing of the HC and the dispersal of the displays.

As yet, there has been no valuation received of the property; it is partly residential, and partly commercial, which makes it more difficult to value.

There were several suggestions:-

MB suggested approaching Michael Meakin, and asking whether he would be interested in a partnership with the Civic Society.

TA mentioned Derek Lloyd as someone who may be interested in a partnership.

An application could be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Community Action Norfolk offers grants, but would need to know time scale, figures, and exactly what is needed.

StK has approached Barclays Bank in the past, but the loan would be limited, with massive commitments from the committee as to upkeep of the building, flat rental etc. so this was thought not to be a feasible option.

BH suggested moving to the Town Hall basement, but this may be rented out to a martial arts organisation.

StK queried whether the Town Council have access to Government grants. AB said loan would have to be repaid, so probably not a feasible option. AS suggested asking for help from Civic Voice.

JS suggested approaching the BBC- would it make a good programme?

AS said as BBC may be coming to film in Hunstanton for Britain In Bloom, we should make the displays outside the HC especially attractive to raise the profile of the HC.

MB said maybe we should see this as a double opportunity- linking in the HC with the Pier Project and the Railway Project. She also wondered whether Griff Rhys Jones in his position of President of Civic Voice may be interested in fronting a programme.

BH suggested having an old railway carriage next to the Coal Shed, although this would not be big enough for all the HC displays.

AB suggested crowd funding.

MB said we should be doing all we can to promote the HC.

AS said that Heacham school had a very successful visit on Monday (April 23rd) JS suggested contacting Elaine Bird at Town and Around to do a feature on school visits.

MB thought an article in the KL magazine would be good for promoting the HC.

ALTERNATIVE PREMISES

The old Infant School- the HC could fulfil the educational clause imposed, but because of very little foot fall in the area, it would only make sense if the Tourist Information and the library were to relocate there too.

The basement of the Town Hall- this may already be rented, but disabled access would be a problem, and it is thought to be too small.

A railway carriage sited in the car park next to the Coal Shed Gallery.

AB suggested that the Council explore with the Borough Council, the possibility of acquiring the Community Centre and grounds, and siting the HC there. The future of NCC run Sure Start nursery unit was in doubt.

There do not seem to be any suitable empty retail units in the town.

ACTION

1. Stk to approach Derrick Lloyd.
2. Finding out value of property.
3. AM to approach Michael Meakin – AM has appraised MM of the situation, he suggested that Nat West Bank should be approached.
4. Mrs Ward to be kept informed about the ideas and thoughts of the committee, and how the HC is under some pressure at present- AM will email her.

5. Elaine Bird at Town and Around to be contacted about the excellent visit of Heacham school.
6. Ask for teachers' feedback with a view to creating a Teachers' Pack.
7. AM to speak to Ian Harvey of Civic Voice, and make him aware we could lose the HC and invite him to visit.
8. AM to talk to Gemma Curtis about the Heritage Lottery Fund.
9. AM to talk to Andrew Jamieson
10. Terry Clay to be approached about the cost of the railway carriages.
11. MB to approach KL magazine about the possibility of an article.

A REPORT FROM THE HUNSTANTON IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

AS said that Helen White from the BBC was at the meeting last week, and seemed to think Hunstanton may be suitable for some filming. This would involve filming the gardeners of Hunstanton planting up the flower beds if it were to go ahead.

AOB

StK said the new town guide book is now finally ready to be printed. Yvonne Bridger proof-read it, and all her amendments were applied. Many many thanks to Yvonne.

The meeting closed at midday.