

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

MEETING MINUTES

Date Tuesday 21st August 2018 at 10am

Venue Heritage Centre, 15 The Green, Hunstanton

Present

Tony Armstrong AA, Terry Ashworth TA, Margi Blunden MB, Amanda Bosworth AB, John Bridger JB, Robert Clark RC, Sheila Kent ShK, Stephen Kent StK, Andrew Murray AM, and Ann Stevens AS.

1. Welcome and apologies

AM opened the meeting. MB agreed to chair the meeting and JB agreed to take the minutes. Apologies were received from John Maiden JM, Judy Simmons JS and Alethea Gillard AG.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 24th July 2018, and 3. matters arising.

The minutes of the July 24th HCS meeting were agreed, and signed by MB. There were no matters arising that were not otherwise on the Agenda for the August 21st HCS meeting

4. Heritage Centre – alternative venues (AM)

The clock may be running against HCS as the closing date for sealed offers for the existing Heritage Centre is 31st August 2018. However, AM has undertaken a lot of work on identifying potential sites for relocation of the Heritage Centre. In summary, the main options are as follows:

- a) **Former NatWest Bank.** GVA have offered a viewing opportunity from 12 noon to 1pm on Wednesday 29th August. It is not clear from the floor plan how the front is connected to the rear. Key issues at this site are usage and flexibility of the first floor space, as well as access (separate from ground floor, or not). Options for the top floor could be residential/holiday lets, or even a hot-desk business centre for start-ups. Downstairs toilet facilities and display space are key issues for the ground floor. A special meeting of HCS as soon as possible after the visit on the 29th August was agreed to discuss all the HCS relocation options (AM).
- b) **Big G's Pizza Restaurant.** Not such a good location from the point of view of visibility and visitor footfall, but reasonably priced and fairly inexpensive to modify the ground floor to meet HCS requirements. The top floor apartment has access via a separate staircase on the RHS. The sale is of the freehold and Big G (the current tenants of the property) say they may take the option to break their contact after 3 years of their 5 year lease, and move out in April 2019, if not before. A visit to view this property would be arranged as soon as possible (AM).
- c) **Cornerstone.** Although the price is reasonable, it was felt that that the refurbishment costs (structural, redecoration and services) could be very substantial. Location also is not ideal, although this may become better as a result of developments in the future.
- d) **Tourist Information Centre.** Plans have been mooted for the TIC to be co-located in a brand new building with Hunstanton Library. Co-location of the Heritage Centre with TIC in the Town Hall does not therefore appear at this time to be a feasible option, especially as a hot-desk business centre may be sited in the Town Hall basement area.

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5. Heritage Centre – finance (AM)

Funding for a new Heritage Centre (purchase price, plus cost of refurbishments) was discussed. A possible solution could be a blend of low-cost bank loan, Heritage funding and local funding from the community. Possible links with Hunstanton Rotary and/or Round Table, and the Wayne Hemingway Southern Sea-front Regeneration project were proposed.

This issue will become very urgent if HCS is to make a credible offer for any property that will persuade the vendor to put up the “sold - subject to contract sign”.

6. Heritage Centre Rota (TA)

Still some gaps in the rota for September that need to be filled. The displays from Docking are planned to be in place for mid-September. No change to other displays for the time being. Visits of schools going well. JM to check with Martin Chisholm (BCKLWN) concerning car park passes.

Some visitors have recently queried the origin of the Stone Cross on the Green. It was said to have probably originally been sited in Snettisham/ Gypsy Green, and relocated to Hunstanton by Henry le Strange

7. Correspondence, Planning & Town Council Report (AM)

See Attachment A – dated 21st August by AM. This report provides important local information and details of up-coming events, dates and times.

Public Consultations - Of particular note is the need for as many residents of the local community as possible to take their opportunity to respond to the following current on-line public consultations:

- + Lorne Green – proposal to extend his existing role as Police & Crime Commissioner to encompass the Fire Service. This consultation terminates on 5th September 2018;
- + Hemingway Design – Wayne Hemingway asks for input and ideas from Hunstanton and its local community for the regeneration of Hunstanton Southern Promenade. This on-line consultation began on 21st August 2018 and they are planning to run the consultation for 3-4 weeks, but may extend this depending on the number of responses they receive in this time.

SNAP Meetings - In JB's absence, AS will attend the next SNAP meeting at 7pm on 14th. November 2018 at the Way Christian Fellowship Building, Downs Close, Hunstanton. JB to send AS a copy of minutes of the last SNAP meeting on 8th August 2018.

New Town Hall Notice Board – a short discussion was held on the frame of the new board but no action was thought necessary. The floral backing of the Community notice board may be changed in due course.

8. Treasurer's Report (StK)

StK distributed this Report in full prior to the committee meeting. The balance in the account at present is £17,320.86. AM pointed out that visitors to the HHC **seem to be** subsidising the HCS, and this should not be ongoing. Discussion of an increase in membership fees is the next item on the Agenda.

9. Membership Report (ShK)

AM and StK recommended an increase in membership subscriptions. After some discussion, immediate increases to subscription rates were unanimously agreed as follows :-

- + HCS ordinary member annual subscriptions to be increased to £15pp or £25 per couple;
- + HCS lifetime member one-off subscriptions to be increased to £150pp or £250 per couple;
- + Corporate membership would increase from £35 to £50
- + HCS talks fee were also reset to £4pp for visitors. Members fee remains at £1pp.

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10. Report on Pier Project (JB)

Progress continues 'below the radar' on the following areas:

- ✚ Logo Competition – Kate Dunbar is working with the entries to the competition and we hope to announce the winner in time for publication in the October issue of Town & Around;
- ✚ Local Resident & Visitor Surveys – continue. Blossom Day, Carnival Day, Military Day & Kite Festival. Working with the King's Lynn-Hunstanton Railway Project in this area;
- ✚ Financial Model & Business Plan – in progress;
- ✚ Pier Publicity Leaflet – in progress.

11. Rail Campaign (AM)

Progress continues 'below the radar' on the following areas:

To bring our campaign to the notice of NCC, BCKLWN, Environment Agency when ever opportunities arise.

To have an input to the Hemingway Design for the Southern Sea Front because access to any new attractions is critical.

To gather support and advertise plans to local residents at parish meetings and events.

To participate in the recently rejuvenated King's Lynn Area Transport Study.

12. Talks Programme (AA)

The talks programme for 2018/2019 is largely in place. Speakers for February and May remain to be confirmed. Any bright ideas to AA.

13. Interpretation Boards (AM)

Jason Richardson is in the process of breaking the BCKLWN's contract with the current suppliers. Hope for resolution in the near future (AM)

14. HCS Visits (JB)

- ✚ Norfolk Club & Norwich Cathedral - completed
- ✚ Elgood's Brewery & Gardens - visit planned on 4th September (6 participants)
- ✚ CITB - cannot be arranged due to difficulties (related to potential closure)
- ✚ Frimstone – yet to be confirmed
- ✚ Ely Cathedral & Stained Glass Museum – StK/JB to investigate

15. 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 (AA)

This is being coordinated at HTC level by Adrian Winnington. Rough idea of the programme on 10th-11th November is as follows:

- a) Town Hall to be be-decked, with photos of Hunstanton residents involved in WW1;
- b) Remembrance Ceremony - AW & British Legion are arranging for 400 crosses to be placed in the flower beds by the statue on the Green. In relation to this, Christine Earnshaw is getting in touch with schools to talk to pupils and display Rolls of Honour;
- c) After the Remembrance Ceremony tea will be served in the Town Hall;
- d) Recitation of a WW1 poem every hour (MB + ano);
- e) Concert at the Town Hall.

16. Annual Report – proposals for changes to HCS Constitution (AM)

AM proposed:

- ✚ Limitation on the time that Officers can serve on the Committee;

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- ✚ Limits on financial liability of trustees, if HCS is to become a property owner as a result of purchase of a new building for the Heritage Centre;

These proposals are to be considered and raised at the next HCS Committee meeting in September 2018.

17 Date & Venue of next meeting

Tuesday 18th September 2018 at the Heritage Centre

18. AOB

- Big black-backed Interpretation Board near the arch of St Edmunds to be re-sited or scrapped.
- Visits to Hunstanton Hall grounds - Thursday 6th September 2018 at 11am, Noon, 2pm and 3pm. Carla Hume & Nick Torry will act as guides;
- Visits to the Old Lighthouse – Friday 7th September 2018 from 11am to 2 pm at half-hourly intervals. Volunteers to assist visitors please contact AM.

Meeting closed at 12.15
