

Hunstanton & District Civic Society - Minutes of the AGM

held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 14 December 2016

The Chairman, Andrew Murray, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He extended a particular welcome to Mary Ash, a former chairman of the Norwich Society who has recently been elected to be a trustee of Civic Voice. He noted that the motto of the Hunstanton and District Civic Society was “Looking to the Future whilst preserving the Best of the Past”

1. There were 56 members present. **Apologies** were received from ? Jill Bellis, Elaine and Richard Bird, Susan and David Boxell, Margaret Bullen, Harry Croad, Vernia Daniels, John and Pat Maiden, Margaret Robinson and Jeremy Simmons, Adrian and Catherine Winnington.
2. The **minutes** of the AGM on 9 December 2015 were presented. The main points were that the Chairman spoke about the role of the national organisation Civic Voice to whom we pay a capitation fee of £ 1.50 but that only covers half of the running costs. Fortunately they have been successful in obtaining funding for special projects and taken on extra staff. The convention in 2015 was held in Bristol.
The Chairman’s report had highlighted that the public face of HCS was now the Heritage Centre. Tony Armstrong and John Smith had mounted an exhibition at the Le Strange Arms about the history of the Gray family. The shelter had just been moved from Chapel Bank.
The Treasurer John Little had reported a small excess of expenditure over income on the main account but overall there was a surplus of £ 1577 and total assets of £ 13504
The post of Chairman was to be filled at the first committee meeting, Alethea Gillard was appointed as Secretary and Stephen Kent as Treasurer.
The retiring committee members, Martin Chown, Brian Holmes and Richard Webb as well as the active helpers David Jones, Brian Holmes and John Maiden were thanked.
The minutes were approved.
3. A chairman's report had been circulated in September. The main points in that were the management of the Civic Society had been merged with that of the Heritage Centre to which new material had been added. The Civic Society had stepped in to facilitate the twinning of the 67th SOS with the Town in May. Members had visited Wisbech in May and Mildenhall in July. Repairs had been done to the Mercy Gray shelter. Mr Murray gave the following update :- In recognition of the fact that the Town is twinned with the 67th. Special Operations Squadron currently based at Mildenhall, Lt Col Brad Downs and Master Sargent Ken Wilson participated in the remembrance Sunday parade and were then taken for lunch to the Rose & Crown.

Members of the Civic Society and Town Council are being invited to attend the change of command ceremony at Mildenhall on 6 January 2017.

There has been a delay in preparing the interpretation boards to go onto the Mercy Gray shelter because NCC and Natural England have not reached an agreement about the line of the coastal path near to Titchwell. The present route goes a long way inland between Thornham and Brancaster.

The Civic Society intends to take a leading role in getting any footpaths identified on historic maps added to the County's Definitive Map before the deadline of 2026

In September, the Local Planning Authority adopted the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies and has now started the whole process of producing a Local Plan again with a call for possible development sites and suggested policies. The Hunstanton Neighbourhood Plan will form a vital part of that plan once it has been scrutinised and passed a referendum.

There were no questions and the Trustees report was approved.

4. A power point presentation was given concerning of the activities of the past year. These included the Visits to Wisbech and Mildenhall, the funding of the statue of Henry, the success in Anglia in Bloom and thanks to Canny Jones for her role in leading the maintenance of 4 gardens, the Mercy Gray shelter repairs, the Radio Norfolk Quiz, 10 talks, Margi and Tony to take over the talks, the use of Heritage Centre for creative writing, hosting the visit of the Victorian Society, administration and planning.
5. The Treasurer, Stephen Kent presented the accounts. On the income side, subscriptions had been bolstered by 5 life memberships. £74 had been received from standing orders at the old rates. The introduction of a £1 entrance fee for members and £3 for guests had produced an income from the talks of almost £600 On the expenditure side, subscriptions to outside bodies totalled £460. Painting of the fascia of the Heritage Centre and remounting the lettering had cost £220 and window cleaning £135 Promotional leaflets £296. Contributions of £1000 had been made to the statue fund for Henry and £2892 to the cost of re-siting and repairs to the Mercy Gray shelter. The total income for the Civic Society was £2954 with expenditure of £5923 producing a deficit of £2969. Income for the Heritage Centre was £3918 with expenditure of £1729 and a surplus of £2189
Our liabilities are for DVDs sold of £48 and subscriptions paid in advance of £564, which means that we had assets of £13022 at the end of the financial year.
The accounts were accepted. Stephen Kent was thanked for the hard work he had done in combining the two sets and the clarity of the presentation.
6. David Boxell was thanked for going through this year's accounts with a fine toothcomb. His nomination as **auditor** for the coming year was approved.

7. **Election of Officers and Trustees**

Nominations had been received from Terry Ashworth for the post of chairman, Alethea Gillard, secretary and Stephen Kent treasurer and they were duly elected by a show of hands.

Nominations had been received from Tony Armstrong, Margi Blunden, Amanda Bosworth, John Bridger, Bob Clark, Brian Holmes, Sheila Kent, John Maiden, Andrew Murray, Ivy Scales, Judy Simmons and Ann Stevens to be committee members and they were all duly elected.

8. Thanks were given to the retiring members of the committee, Mavis Windibank and Adrian Winnington.
9. The new chairman Terry Ashworth took the chair. She expressed thanks to the outgoing chairman for his hard work. She indicated that future projects would include construction of a new pier and a membership drive. She issued an invitation for members to attend the next committee meeting at Valentine Road at 10.30 on Tuesday 20 December.
10. Thanks were also given to Lisa and the Town Hall staff and the Borough Council for permitting use of the meeting room at Valentine Road free of charge.
11. After the AGM, members enjoyed a very tasty finger buffet prepared by Margi Blunden and Ann Stevens and this was accompanied by a pictorial quiz about features in the town prepared by John and Mavis Windibank.
12. Mary Ash spoke about Civic Voice as a remarkable movement in promoting Civic Pride on the national stage. She highlighted its work in giving civic design awards to projects that had a high degree of community involvement - the northbound service station on the M5 near to Gloucester and the redevelopment of Alder Hey Hospital for Children in Liverpool. She drew attention to the care of World War I war memorials and the importance of safeguarding and enhancing Conservation Areas.
13. The evening concluded with an illustrated talk given by Terry Ashworth about the Heritage Centre including some humorous quotes left in the visitors book.