

HUNSTANTON AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

MEETING MINUTES

DATE Tuesday December 19th 2017 10am

Venue 2, Clarence Road, Hunstanton

PRESENT

Tony Armstrong AA, Terry Ashworth TA, Margi Blunden MB, Amanda Bosworth AB, Robert Clark RC, Alethea Gillard AG, Sheila Kent ShK, Stephen Kent StK, Andrew Murray AM, Ivy Scales IS, Judy Simmons JS, Ann Stevens AS, Jason Richardson Regeneration Projects Officer at Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES

AM opened the meeting and Apologies were received from John Bridger JB and John Maiden JM.

2. ESPLANADE GARDENS/ INTERPRETATION BOARDS- JASON RICHARDSON

Jason explained that at present an external design company, Fitzpatrick Woolmer, based in Rochester, Kent, still has the contract to design and also to produce the Interpretation Boards. This company is happy to work with the Civic Society CS and discuss further the layout and content of the Boards. However the CS must reach a point where a meeting with a representative of this company in Hunstanton would be worthwhile, as Fitzpatrick Woolmer is based in Kent, so a visit would incur cost.

There is also the legal agreement with the Heritage Lottery Fund HLF to be taken into consideration, as the HLF have certain constraints that have to be adhered to.

AM said that, 'to date he had seen nothing which would suggest that the new boards would be an improvement on the original boards. The one outside the Tourist Information Centre TIC needed to show where the other boards around the town were situated.'

StK said there have been complaints that the old Interpretation Boards were too fussy, but that the new ones were equally so.

MB asked what the remit of the HLF was. The HLF stipulate the contents of the boards, and want them to tell the history of Hunstanton.

AM agreed with the premise of the boards, but had issues with some of the content, in particular, the slogan "Lost but not forgotten" as the CS feels the present and the future is also important and relevant.

Jason then suggested that a local designer, Michael, should attend a CS meeting early in the New Year, in order for ideas to be shared, and then to invite Stuart from Fitzpatrick Woolmer to a meeting in early February, once the CS have formulated some ideas with Michael. It would be hoped that the boards could then be ready to be put in place by the Spring.

Jason thought the boards should also signpost people to the CS website.

MB asked whether there was any financial flexibility for a board describing Hunstanton's splendid architectural heritage. Jason said he could order this as an outsider project.

The interviews for Rosie Djurovic's replacement are taking place on December 20th 2017.

Chris Durham CD is trying to keep things moving forward for next year's Soap Box Derby, following the success of the event earlier this year. He is also organising the gradual removal of the slate and bark mulch, and putting membranes down in some of the gardens.

StK read an email from John Bridger requesting that the four Pier stumps- at present in his garden- should be placed in a rectangular formation in the Time and Tide Garden, with a carpet of sea lavender surrounding them. CD thinks the anchor should be displayed there too, and the

meeting thought that a board explaining the Pier stumps would be necessary and welcome in this garden.

Jason said that the 20th Century Society only agreed to images in the top butterfly shelters, but that he does have additional images. He also said that the HLF have to balance everything, and openly have discussions about the decisions they make.

3. MINUTES of MEETING held on NOVEMBER 21st 2017, and MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were signed by MB, who chaired the meeting.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS INTERESTS and AREAS of RESPONSIBILITY

AM is Chairman of the CS, and the link and coordinator between the CS and the Town Council TC, keeping the CS informed on issues such as planning, and is also involved in the creation of the interpretation boards. His role also includes being the link with the national organisation Civic Voice.

JB is organising the Pier Project, and will try and arrange visits to the Norfolk Club in Norwich, and RAF Mildenhall.

IS has an interest in Hunstanton's history and architecture, and will be involved in the creation of the interpretation boards.

AB will be a liaison between the TC, and the CS, and has links with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce, and will give feedback at CS meetings about community events.

MB chairs the CS committee meetings, organises the care of the gardens that the CS look after in Hunstanton, is involved in creating the new town information leaflet and interpretation boards, and helps with the catering for the monthly talks.

AA is the Talks coordinator, does much of the maintenance and carpentry at the HC, is building a Ticket Office as part of the railway exhibition in the HC, and is happy to help generally.

RC does the HC leaflets distribution, and is involved in promotion of the HC.

AS is involved in creating the new town information leaflet and interpretation boards, organises all the catering for the CS, and looks after the CS gardens.

AG will look after the CS gardens with Margi and Ann.

StK is Treasurer, organises the CS website, and the touchscreen information, is the CS archivist, and is involved in the Pier Project and creating the new town information leaflet.

ShK is the CS Membership Secretary, creates displays in the HC, makes all the soft furnishings for the HC, has been coordinating the HC volunteers rôta, and is involved in creating the new town information leaflet.

TA will take over the coordinating of the volunteers rôta again in the New Year, and is involved in creating the new town information leaflet and interpretation boards and the organising of the village and Church displays, and is liaising with Searles about a possible future display.

JS is Secretary, and is involved in creating the new town leaflet and interpretation boards, the Church displays, and helps with gardening when possible.

5. CORRESPONDENCE PLANNING AND TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

AM distributed this Report in full to all the CS committee members prior to the meeting. A letter has been sent requesting that the Inspector should dismiss the appeal by Bennett's Homes to have three extra access points from the A149, and attention has been drawn to the destruction of the symmetry of the pair of Ibberson houses by the replacement of uPVC windows.

Mrs Maureen Howard and Mr Paul Kidd have been co-opted onto the Town Council.

The Town Hall has been repaired, and the project was delivered on time and on budget. AB said that the public and press will be invited in to look around in January.

County Councillor Andrew Jamieson has been very active in persuading NCC Highways to visit the area to actually see the problems, and is looking into increased and improved mobile phone coverage.

AM encouraged the committee to think about the Design Awards, and asked whether anyone would like to contribute to future CS reports.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

StK distributed this Report in full prior to the committee meeting. £45 was paid to John Bridger for a gift of thanks in appreciation of the support Rosie Djurovic had given the CS, and there were expenses for the AGM, the Talks and some new Christmas tree decorations for the HC. The balance in the account at present is £15,102.57

It was pointed out that visitors to the HC are subsidising the CS, and this should not be ongoing. Discussion of an increase in membership fees will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT and RENEWALS

ShK reported that a couple attending the Railway Exhibition at the beginning of December had expressed an interest in joining the CS, but otherwise, there has been no movement on numbers. Some members have yet to pay their membership fee, and reminders have gone out to them.

8. TALKS PROGRAMME

AA reported that he has speakers for most of the upcoming Talks, and that all is well with the Programme.

9. WEBSITE MATTERS

StK reported that the CS website had thirty eight hits in the last month, and he will update it with the new committee members names; otherwise there were no changes.

10. HERITAGE CENTRE- NEW DISPLAYS of FEATURED VILLAGES

TA reported that the Christmas trees were looking good, and StK said the new LED lights use minimal electricity, although there was a query as to why electricity was used at night throughout the year, when nothing is left on. AA will paint the boards in the windows, and he said that some of the pictures on the boards at present may therefore need replacing. AA will also build the Ticket Office as part of the Railway display, but the actual work will be deferred until after the next HC Team meeting on Monday January 8th 2018 at 3pm in the HC. The next leaflet meeting will now take place at the HC on Thursday January 4th 2018 at 2pm, and the meeting will be combined with the dismantling of the Christmas trees.

11. PROPOSED LEAFLET about CONSERVATION AREA

AM pointed out that we are in a Conservation Area, which many people do not realise. Therefore a leaflet is proposed to explain the benefits and obligations of being in one.

12. PROJECTS- LISTING of IMPORTANT BUILDINGS

AM has listed the important buildings on the Neighbourhood Plan area, but we need to think about others in our area of benefit. English Heritage need to be approached about the possibility of some being given the status of national listing.

MB spoke with regards to the importance of Hunstanton's outstanding architecture, and wondered about making contact with the new Head Teacher of Smithdon school, with a view to creating links with the students and the CS, and getting the students interested and involved with the architecture of the town.

AB suggested that walks and talks for the students about Hunstanton's architecture should be on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

13. REVIEW of HERITAGE TRAIL LEAFLETS

This is an ongoing project, and the next meeting will take place on January 4th 2018.

14. PIER PROGRESS. RELOCATION of PIER STUMPS

StK and JB gave a Presentation about the proposals for rebuilding the Pier to the Borough Council last Wednesday December 13th 2017. StK reported that this initial meeting went quite well, and that the Borough are looking forward to good communication about this project. The relocation of the Pier Stumps was mentioned in item 2.

15. REPORT from the RAILWAY PROJECT MEETING

AM reported that there was a lot of interest in the official launch of the Railway Project, which took place at the HC on December 2nd 2017. The next meeting of the Railway Project will take place on December 21st 2017 at the Fire Station- Am will keep the CS updated.

16. REPORT from CIVIC VOICE REGIONAL FORUM MEETING DECEMBER 14th 2017

AM attended this in Birmingham , and the next Civic Voice Annual Convention will take place in Birmingham in October 2018.

17. DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM- DECEMBER 13th 2017

AM circulated the draft minutes of the AGM on December 18th 2017.

18. DATE of NEXT MEETING

The next CS Committee meeting will take place on January 16th 2018 at 10 am, with great appreciation and thanks to ShK and StK for hosting it.

19. AOB

The village of Holme is holding an exhibition of the Neighbourhood Plan, and has asked to borrow some of the display boards from the HC for a small donation.