

**These are DRAFT Minutes that will need to be submitted to the next AGM due to be held in December 2018 for approval.**

**Hunstanton & District Civic Society - Minutes of the AGM**

held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 13 December 2017

As Andrew Murray had been acting chairman since Terry Ashworth became ill in April 2017, he opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. There were 48 members present. **Apologies** were received from Terry Ashworth Brian Holmes, John Maiden and Ivy Scales. Mr Murray said that Terry was making a good recovery from her stroke but had been to the hospital during the afternoon. Everyone joined in sending her their good wishes.
2. Sections of the **minutes** of the AGM on 14 December 2016 were read out. The main points were the merging of the management of the Heritage Centre with that of the Civic Society. The Civic Society had to step in to facilitate the twinning of the town with the 67<sup>th</sup> SOS. The minutes were approved and signed.
3. The **Chairman's report** had been circulated with the invitations to renew subscriptions in September. Mr Murray gave the following update –
4. Since that time
  - a) Derek Ward, the owner of 15 The Green passed away and his funeral was in October.
  - b) There have been further delays in producing the Interpretation Boards to go with the HLF renovation of the Esplanade Gardens. Jason Richardson is available to come to meet us next Tuesday morning.
  - c) A response was sent to the Norfolk Strategic Framework consultation. The results should have been available by mid November but have not appeared.
  - d) Following the refusal by the Borough Council to approve an extra 3 entrances to the development planned for the east side of Cromer Road, the developers Bennett Homes have gone to appeal. I have written requesting that the appeal be dismissed.
  - e) The Neighbourhood Plan is making slow progress. There is a proposal to develop the remainder of the sheep field with access from Alexandra Rd for mainly affordable housing.
  - f) There has been no decision or consultation about One Public Estate.
  - g) The Town Council is trying to take over the freehold of the Community Centre and would then install a children's play area there.
  - h) A 20 mph speed sign has just been erected on Collingwood Road that will flash during the periods of operation.
  - i) There are 5 candidates for possible co-option to the Town Council on Friday evening – Anthony Boardman, Peter Gohegan (Mr Bun the Baker) Maureen Howard, Paul Kidd and Debbie le May.
  - j) Andrew Jamieson, County Councillor wants help in identifying areas of poor mobile phone reception. This is very important for the issue of flood alert warnings.

k) I have had a meeting with Simon Wilson, the new head at Smithdon High School; he would like the school to become more involved with the town and community.

Mr Murray went on to thank all those who helped behind the scenes, the members of the committee as well as the members of the society. He said that particular mention should be made of Jan Roomes the new Town Clerk following the resignation of Lisa Powell, Angie Green, the facilities manager, Kevin Green, caretaker. Brian Holmes for the graphics to accompany the AGM, John Windibank, David Jones, Margi Blunden & Ann Stevens for the refreshments. Also Pat Richardson for his efforts with Chris Durham's team to make the town attractive and congratulations on winning another Gold award.

4. A PowerPoint presentation was made of the **activities of the past year** including the talks, the unveiling of the statue of Henry le Strange, the party at the Le Strange Arms to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 67<sup>th</sup> SOS being activated at Sculthorpe as well as the involvement in planning policies and applications. Hunstanton had for the first time been able to participate in Heritage open Day because we were able to take groups of people up the tower of the lighthouse and into the courtyard of Old Hunstanton Hall. Mr Murray attended the National Convention of Civic Voice in Wakefield and was going to a regional forum meeting on the following day.

A proposal by ..... and seconded by .....that the reports from the trustees be approved was carried by a show of hands.

5. The Treasurer, Stephen Kent presented the accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

On the Balance Sheet he reported that Cash Balances had increased over the year mainly thanks to the level of donations at the Heritage Centre and explained the reasoning for items in Current Assets and Liabilities.

As regards the Income and Expenditure Account was concerned, the Heritage Centre income had increased over the year both for donations from visitors as well as the increased quantities of DVDs sold. Subscription income reflected a drop caused by no new Life Memberships being paid for as against five new ones in the previous year.

Expenditure during the year showed an increase in the cost of Speakers at our talks which is likely to increase. A new item for rent of the Heritage Centre appears this year albeit apportioned over the rental period much of which relates to the next year. Much of the equipment expenditure included the cost of the Touch Screen in the Centre and Miscellaneous Expenditure included the cost of planters for the front of the Centre.

The accounts were accepted. Stephen Kent was thanked for his hard work he had done in keeping the accounts in such good order.

6. David Boxell was thanked for thoroughly scrutinizing the year's accounts. His nomination as **Independent Examiner** for the coming year was approved.

## 7. **Election of Officers and Trustees**

Andrew Murray was elected as chairman, Judy Simmons as secretary and Stephen Kent as treasurer.

Nominations had been received from Tony Armstrong, Terry Ashworth, Margi Blunden, Amanda Bosworth, John Bridger, Bob Clark, Alethea Gillard, Sheila Kent, John Maiden, Ivy Scales, and Ann Stevens to be committee members and they were all duly elected.

#### **8. Future Activities and Projects.**

It has been suggested that we should arrange visits to Bircham Newton Construction Training area and the Norwich Society. The Heritage Trails leaflet is being revised and the plaque list is being incorporated into it. An approach is to be made to English Heritage to see whether the following are eligible for listing – the former infant school, the Waterside Bar, the Nat West and Barclays banks, the Cenotaph, the Valentine Road Offices. The interpretation boards for the HLF Esplanade Gardens and the Mercy Gray shelter need to be completed. The Civic Society will support the groups to explore the building of a new pier and to investigate the feasibility of building a new railway from King's Lynn to Hunstanton. We would like to recruit more members and to have help from those whose careers have given them relevant professional expertise.

The displays in the Heritage Centre are being revised, the touch screen information is expanding and the Centre will be open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from February 2018.

Mr Jewell observed that the front of the building was not very welcoming and suggested laying it out with tables and chairs to serve refreshments but this was not possible under the terms of our present lease. However, efforts would be made to brighten it up.

Members would be welcome to attend the next committee meeting at 10.00am on Tuesday, 19 December.

9. After the AGM, members enjoyed a very tasty finger buffet prepared by Margi Blunden and Ann Stevens.
10. The evening concluded with an excellent illustrated talk entitled "Heavens Above" presented by members of the King's Lynn and District Astronomical Society.