

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hunstanton & District Civic Society - Minutes of the AGM

held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 12 December 2018

Having called for any last minute nominations to serve on the committee, the Chairman, Andrew Murray opened the AGM with a welcome to all those who had turned out on a cold night.

1. There were 61 members present. **Apologies** were received from Mrs A Battcock, Jill Butler, Mark Harriman, Peter Gillard, Mr & Mrs Robertshaw and Ivy Scales.

2. Copies of the **minutes** of the AGM on 13 December 2017 had been placed on all the tables. It was proposed by Mavis Windibank and seconded by Sam Daniel and unanimously agreed that they should be signed as a correct record.

3. The **Chairman's report** had been circulated with the invitations to renew subscriptions in September. Mr Murray gave the following update: the **interpretation boards** remains an open sore of contention. The original ones provided by the Civic Society with HLF funding were ripped out and discarded by the contractors engaged to revamp the Heritage Gardens. Jason Richardson has failed to break the contract with the supplier in Rochester and Roger Partridge has now been given the task of sorting it out. The **Norfolk Strategic Framework** was published in January 2018 and co-ordinates the plans of all the districts in Norfolk with the utility companies and predicts population and housing needs covering the period up to 2036. Although the Town Council and Borough had been opposed to the **Bennett's Homes** site opposite Old Town Way having additional entrances, the developer went to appeal and the planning inspector granted permission for 3 extra entrances. It seems that a start date has been deferred probably for commercial reasons. The favoured access to the **Sheepfield** development is now via Waveney Road and the Victory Housing area. There has been no obvious progress about **One Public Estate** initiative. The Town Council is negotiating with the Borough with the aim of taking over the freehold of the **Community Centre** and its grounds. The **Neighbourhood Plan** is now open for consultation.

It was proposed by David Jones and seconded by Michael Ruston that the Chairman's report be approved and this was carried by a show of hands.

4. A PowerPoint presentation was made of the **activities of the past year** including the monthly talks, the visits to Elgood's Brewery and Norwich arranged by John Bridger, the Heritage open Days, the continuing liaison with the 67th SOS at Mildenhall and the displays arranged by John Smith and Tony Armstrong to mark the centenary of the end of World War I.

The Heritage Centre had had another successful year. The information available on the touch screen had expanded considerably. We are particularly keen to promote it as a source of information for the school parties who come to visit Hunstanton. This worked particularly well with a school from Heacham whose teachers had done much

preparatory work. The promotion of the heritage of the villages had been good. In April, Solveig Ward had indicated that she was going to have a house built in Sweden. 15 The Green was put on the market and has been sold subject to contract. A small presentation was made to Solveig at the end of year party for heritage centre volunteers. The former Nat West Bank is being purchased on behalf of the Civic Society. A professional survey was done and a drone survey of the roof. A meeting has been held with Pam Lynn, Conservation Officer to discuss possible alterations to the external appearance. A change of use planning application will be required. King's Lynn Signs have been asked to suggest the most appropriate signage, probably "Heritage Centre" on the west and south faces and maybe a crest over the porch. Ann Stevens, Margi Blunden and Stephen and Sheila Kent were thanked for the Christmas tree with the theme of moving from 15 The Green to the former bank. More volunteers would be needed for the new centre. Sheila and Stephen and the sub-committee were also thanked for the production of the new Guide Book to Hunstanton.

The other administrative work done by the society was mentioned including the setting up of an East of England Civic Voice Forum.

Members of the Civic Society attended at the funeral of Mary Rhodes, the author of several books about Hunstanton. In November, our Secretary, Judy Simmons passed away. Although she had only been resident in Hunstanton for a couple of years, she had made a great impression with her enthusiasm to be involved and will be sorely missed.

5. The Hon Treasurer presented his report to the meeting. Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2018 were distributed at the meeting and reviewed by Stephen Kent. He highlighted items on the Statements covering Subscriptions, Gift Aid Claims (in particular Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme), Guide Book publication and sale, 'Hunstanton on a Postcard', increased Hall hire charge for Talks, Heritage Centre leaflets and specific items on the Balance Sheet.

On a motion proposed by Michael Ruston and seconded by Bob Clark, the accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

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

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 proposed by Canny Jones and seconded by John Maiden and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

7. **Election of Officers and Trustees**

No nominations had been received for the posts of chairman and secretary. Stephen Kent was prepared to continue as treasurer. Mr Murray proposed that the committee be elected and that they elect a chairman and secretary at their first meeting. That was agreed.

Nominations had been received from Tony Armstrong, Terry Ashworth, Margi Blunden, Amanda Bosworth, John Bridger, Bob Clark, David Harris, Sheila Kent, John Maiden, Andrew Murray, Jeremy Simmons and Ann Stevens to be committee members and they were all duly elected.

Mr Murray went on to thank retiring members Alethea Gillard and Ivy Scales as well as all those who helped behind the scenes, Peter Gillard, David Jones, Brian Holmes, John Windibank, Town Clerk, Jan Roomes, caretaker, Kevin Green. Pat Richardson and Chris Durham who made the town so smart and John Little who gave the society a place on Facebook.

8. Future Activities and Projects.

The main project for 2019 is the conversion and renovation of the former bank to make it suitable for the Heritage Centre. Significant work is needed on the electric supply, the floor coverings and the windows as well as paint and decoration.

The Civic Society supports groups set up 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.

Members would be welcome to attend the next committee meeting at 10.00 on Tuesday 18 December.

9. After the AGM, members enjoyed a delicious finger buffet prepared by Margi Blunden Sheila Kent and Ann Stevens.
10. The evening concluded with a talk about the "History of the Fens" lavishly illustrated with maps of the drainage channels and soils presented by Brian Howling.