

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

HDCS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 10 am

Venue Heritage Centre, Hunstanton, PE36 6BB

Present

Anthony Armstrong (AA), Terry Ashworth (TA), Amanda Bosworth (AB), Robert Clark (RC), Sheila Kent (ShK), Stephen Kent (StK), Andrew Murray (AM), Jerry Simmons (JS), Mick Smith (MS) and Ann Stephens (AS).

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and Apologies.

AB, new Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from John Bridger (JB) and Margi Blunden (MB).

2) Minutes Secretary. StK volunteered to write up the minutes for this meeting.

3) Minutes of meeting held on 19th November and 4th December 2019.

Both sets of minutes were agreed by all present for signature by AB. The draft minutes of the AGM were also tabled for discussion and agreed that apart from adding the heading of Annual General Meeting they should be acceptable for presentation to the next AGM.

4) Matters to be raised not otherwise on today's Agenda

AM expressed congratulations to all those involved in organising the AGM last week making it a great success. Mention was made that a surprisingly large number of those who had said they would attend, and be catered for, did not attend whilst a few who had not responded to the invitation did attend!

There followed some discussion concerning the Agenda of these meetings from which it was agreed that it was a good idea to keep items on it in order to avoid forgetting on-going matters. However AB did suggest that it was a good idea if written reports could ideally be prepared and distributed in advance of the meetings for such items as the Pier and the Railway.

5) Correspondence, Planning & Hunstanton Town Council Report (AM)

- a) AM mentioned that he had submitted an article for January's Town & Around magazine containing comment about a submission this Society has made to the Borough Council in the absence of any submission from the Town Council itself. This full submission had been acknowledged by the Borough and distributed to the relevant officers. We await to hear any reaction or invitation to join in the discussions.
- b) There followed some discussion regarding this Society's inclusion on the Coastal Community Team (CCT) Committee. AB suggested that as other organisations (e.g. Chamber of Trade) have two representatives on the CCT, perhaps we should write to the CCT requesting appointment of a second member (substitute(s) should also be notified to the CCT secretariat). Previously CCT minutes had been subject to some secrecy and were not to be divulged outside of the CCT committee; this is no longer the case and so she suggested that our current representative (AM) might circulate the agendas and minutes to the committee (as now happens at Town Council) for discussion and input at committee meetings. **Action: AB/AM**
- c) AM also mentioned the Wash East Coast Management Group that he is a member of.
- d) AB suggested that perhaps we should also make a connection with the West Norfolk Tourism Forum. She has previously attended these meetings and found them to be informative. Apart from anything else, this may help us promote the Heritage Centre. Two committee members expressed an interest in attending the meetings and, once again,

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agendas and minutes could be circulated to other committee members for discussion and input. Contact is Phil Eke to whom application might be made. **Action: AB**

6) Treasurer's Report (StK)

StK had circulated his Financial Report prior to the meeting. This he reviewed in some depth. The total combined funds of the Civic Society main accounts and the Heritage Centre accounts amounted to £15,500.

There followed some discussion about potential outgoings including the possible purchase of certain equipment. Examples are some benches (although AM said that he had one bench donated by Jill Dearne that could be used somewhere). Another suggestion was a gate at the Park Road entrance to the Community Field. AB suggested that such items could be pointed out to the Town Council under a letter plus appropriate photos. AM advised that we still had an obligation to install an Interpretation Board on the Mercy Gray shelter. He intends to include a map of the cycleways, bus routes and boundary of the AONB. This had been delayed because the alignment of the Coastal Footpath near Titchwell had still to be agreed by NCC and the EA.

Action: AM

AA also raised the matter of the path leading up from Hopkins Homes estate and potential misuse resulting from the removal of bollards across this path.

After some discussion, it was agreed that perhaps the Committee should take a walk around the town and start creating a list of items that need to be addressed as requiring action whether as repairs or new ideas. It was agreed that this should take place in the Spring of next year. **Action:**

next Agenda ShK

7) Membership Report (ShK)

Nothing to report.

8) Heritage Centre Lease

AM reported that this was still in process. However, he reported that the next major step was separation of the utilities which was in the planning stages. **Action: AM**

9) Heritage Centre – General Items

Formal Opening: After some discussion, it was agreed that the opening should take place entirely at the Heritage Centre with two tiers of invitations. One tier would be to the actual opening ceremony with viewing of the Centre plus drinks and canapes. This would be followed by a second tier of invitees to a later session of drinks and canapes and viewing of the Centre. This was agreed unanimously. The lists of potential invitees was reviewed and people marked as first tier or second tier. In this way, all invitees would be able to enjoy the day's event without having to resort to another location away from the Centre but keeping numbers in the Centre below a nominal safe maximum of 80.

Having decided roughly who was to be in which tier, ShK and StK will amend the lists to reflect the decisions of the committee and circulate these along with draft invitations. **Action: ShK & StK**

10) Gardens/Hunstanton in Bloom & Greening Great Britain

MS has succeeded in producing some of the Planters for outside the Centre for which the Committee were very grateful. **Action: MB/AS/MS**

The state of the sign on the front door was not good so StK will produce a new one reflecting next year's opening dates. **Action: StK**

11) Hunstanton Pier – JB had submitted a report in advance of the meeting that AB read out. JB continues working on the draft feasibility study and business plan. We look towards an early meeting with our new MP, James Wild.

12) King's Lynn/Hunstanton Rail Project – AM reported that although NCC had agreed to fund a feasibility study, they had proposed that this would assume that the former track bed would be

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used. However, this is not appropriate. He concurred with JB's thoughts that the Railway and the Pier Project should be jointly discussed with our new MP in order to get him on side, much as Sir Henry Bellingham had previously.

- 13) Talks Programme** – AA reported that progress was being made with the talks for next year. ShK raised the subject of the outdatedness of our Laptop and Projection equipment which had let us down at the November talk when the speaker had needed far more modern equipment requirements to enable his talk to 'work'. It was agreed that we should look at acquiring more modern hardware. **Action: StK to investigate.**
- 14) Outings** – JB had submitted a proposed programme for 2020 which was distributed at the meeting. This was fully supported by the Committee. **Action: JB**
- 15) Town Centre (and High Street) and how to improve character and appearance** – There was some discussion about attracting funding for any works required for the High Street with mention that Howard Johnston might have some knowledge of compiling bids for funding. Mention was also made about a) repairing or replacing one or two benches around the town and b) one of the Coffee shops with tables set out in front and that the ground had become extremely untidy/dirty with cigarette ends etc. Such findings should be reported to the Town Council who should take action to try to resolve such issues. **Action: Committee Spring walk around the town.**
- 16) AOB.** RC mentioned that the Spinney Christmas lights were not functioning last evening. Again recommended that he report the issue to Hunstanton Town Council. **Action: RC**
- 17) Dates & venues for next HDCS Meetings:**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday 14 th January 2020 HDCS Committee Meeting	10.00am	Heritage Centre
Tuesday 11 th February 2020 HDCS Committee Meeting	10.00am	Heritage Centre
Tuesday 17 th March 2020 HDCS Committee Meeting	10.00am	Heritage Centre

The meeting concluded at 11.55am.

StK 20th December 2019