

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Committee meeting on Tuesday, 24th January 2017

at the Council Offices, Valentine Road

Present: Terry Ashworth(TA), Andrew Murray(AM), Ann Stevens(AS), Tony Armstrong(AA), Stephen Kent(SK), Sheila Kent(ShK), Margi Blunden(MB), Brian Holmes (BH), Ivy Scales(IS), Amanda Bosworth(AB), John Maiden(JM), John Bridger(JB), Judy Simmons(JS), Alethea Gillard(AG)

TA welcomed Rosie Djurovic, new activities co-ordinator for the Esplanade Gardens, to the meeting.

1. Apologies received from RC.
2. The minutes of the meeting on 20th December 2016 were approved and signed. The ground is too frozen for the tree for Canny Jones to be planted in the orchard on 28th January. This will now take place on Saturday, 4th February at 11am. The electricity problem in the Heritage Centre seems to have righted itself.
3. Correspondence, Planning and Town Council Report – There are no new controversial planning applications. The purchaser of the land opposite Old Town Way is not yet known. Proposed policies of the Neighbourhood Plan are on our website and that of the Town Council. A meeting was held with BCKLWN and the architect regarding the flood memorial and the butterfly shelters but found the HLF has the Council over a barrel. On Thursday, 2nd February there is an opportunity for the residents to meet the contractor for the heritage gardens at the Golden Lion between 5pm and 8pm.
4. Treasurer's report – The bank balance for the Civic Society and Heritage Centre is £14,510.36.
5. Website – We have had 55 hits over the last month.
6. Heritage Centre – This will open again on 10th February 2017. We are almost at the point where the touch screen monitor is going to be installed. The screen cost £344 and a proper stand has been bought at a cost of £44 plus £3.95 for a HDMI cable. Seats have been re-upholstered at a cost of approx. £9 each. 6th February will be the clean up day for the opening on 10th February.
7. Butterfly Shelters – According to the terms of the HLF the shelters must remain or the funds will be withdrawn. The life of the shelters can be extended by 25 years after they are repaired but they are in a very bad state of repair. The Victorian Society have not come out against the shelters. It is felt Henry's vision for the town is being ignored. HCS should register our concern to the HLF. The consultation did not take into account what we were saying and we have been discounted. They used to have glass panels in them and we do not know if these will be replaced. Were the visitors ever asked their opinion about the shelters? We should ask how much money is going towards the repairs and how they will fit in with Henry's vision. The 20th Century Society takes no notice of Civic Societies.
8. Rosie Djurovic, Activities Co-ordinator for the Esplanade Gardens – Rosie stated she is not connected with the capital works and hopes the activities can be separate and would like HCS to become involved. There will be 31 activities. A list was handed round as to which of these HCS could be involved. There will be a 2 day history workshop undertaken by the College. Presentations will be held at Smithdon and Hunstanton Primary Schools. Rosie would like to put together a course to train town guides. Hopefully, arrangements can be made for a town guide from Lynn to come to talk to us. Students from Hunstanton Primary School will attend Driftwood to interview the residents about their memories which will be recorded. There will also be a drop in session. Ideas are needed for themed evening walks. It is planned to explore the LeStrange archives to try to find a way to bring these from Norwich. She hopes the HCS will lead themes to be used throughout the activities, e.g, wartime, trains, pier, Henry's vision and MB added architecture to this. Event management training opportunity led by the Council. This is more geared towards the In Bloom Committee and will be a 2 day course.

9. AOB – It was asked why the flood memorial has to be moved and it is at the insistence of the HLF. It will be moved to a garden dedicated to the sea but this will happen whether we like it or not. JB reported he had attended a meeting of the Pier Task Force and handed round copies of chapters 14 and 15 of a recently published book by the Hastings Pier Trust, who formed their own charity, which seem to be the most relevant to the Hunstanton pier project. JM pointed out the car park passes run out at the end of the month. If HCS will be doing more during the week and get more involved, he wondered if the passes could be more flexible. McCarthy and Stone have been taking liberties in the car park and have even broken through the metal barriers in places. 17th June is Civic Day and this is possibly when some Syrians will be visiting the town. AM is planning to attend the seaside heritage meeting in Scarborough on 24th April. A minibus might be available but we would have to pay for a driver. This would be an overnight trip. Docking Heritage Group are holding heritage days on 29th and 30th April at Ripper Hall and the church and wondered if HCS would like a table and a display board. Blossom Day is on 29th April. On 24th March Hunstanton library is holding a Societies Day and we can take some postcards, leaflets, display boards, etc. from 10.30am to 12 noon. There will be a Meet the Public day on 12th May.
10. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 28th February 2017 at 10am at the Council Offices, Valentine Road.