

# HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

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## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Date** Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 10.00 am

**Venue** 2 Clarence Road, Hunstanton PE36 6EG

### Present

Tony Armstrong AA, Terry Ashworth TA, Margi Blunden MB, Amanda Bosworth AB, John Bridger JB, Robert Clark RC, Sheila Kent ShK, Stephen Kent StK, John Maiden JM, Andrew Murray AM, Jeremy Simmons JS and Ann Stevens AS.

### Agenda Items

1. **Welcome and Apologies.** JM welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dave Harris DH.
2. **Minutes Secretary.** JB volunteered to write up the minutes for this meeting.
3. **Minutes of meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.** The Minutes were agreed and signed by JM.
4. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
5. **Draft minutes of the AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018.** The adjusted version of the minutes circulated to Committee was agreed for presentation to the next AGM.
6. **Change of Approach for HCS,** its organisation and proposal to circulate a regular Newsletter to members. The following items were discussed under this agenda item:
  - a) Follow the lead of Civic Voice to update HCS image;
  - b) Update the HCS talks programme by engaging speakers who can speak about current and future issues as well as those who provide interesting perspectives on the past. Try to make these public events offered by HCS appeal to a wider and younger demographic. Potential speakers could include:
    - Wayne Hemingway (Lowestoft Festival + Hunstanton Southern Prom Regeneration)
    - Ian Harvey (Director of Civic Voice) on the role of Civic Societies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. To note: there is a Civic Voice Event in Ipswich in March 2019 which includes a Workshop on up-to-date design (shop-fronts etc). **Action:** *HCS Committee members who wish to attend the Ipswich event should inform AM or MB by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.*
    - Pam Lynn (BCKLWN Conservation Officer) or John Selby (formerly BCKLWN but now freelance conservation consultant). It was agreed by the committee members that John Selby, as an independent voice, would be preferred choice. **Action:** *MB?*
    - Roger Partridge (BCKLWN) on Hunstanton Regeneration.  
It was agreed that a blend of such speakers noted above, with some talks of an historical nature, would be relevant, appeal to a wider demographic in Hunstanton, and enhance the profile of the Civic Society in the Hunstanton community. **Action asap:** *AA, with the support of other committee members as needed.*
  - c) HCS Newsletter. At the meeting, StK and ShK circulated a draft of a new HCS Newsletter to be distributed to all HCS members on a bi-monthly basis. Distribution could be by email, post, or in some cases, by physical delivery. The idea of a regular HCS Newsletter and the draft circulated both met with universal approval and appreciation at the meeting. **Action asap:** *ShK and StK, with the support of other committee members as needed.*

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7. **Correspondence, Planning & Town Council Report.** The following issues were noted and discussed.
  - a) Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. JB noted that there was no mention of protection in the Neighbourhood Plan for the Hunstanton Pier footprint as detailed in the Act of Parliament and described as the Hunstanton Pier Order 1868. He has requested Hunstanton Town Council to add the Pier footprint to the list of "Section 7 - Open Spaces requiring some level of protection". **Action: JB – completed.**
  - b) Witley Press has been asked to provide for a Section 106 agreement (concerning developer's contribution towards the local infrastructure) before their planning application on Church St can be considered.
  - c) 17 Hill Street. The planning application is controversial.
  - d) The change of use requested by the new potential owners of 15 The Green to become a take-away restaurant is being opposed. Vertex Architecture have been engaged to make the objection. See application 18/02243/F. After discussion, the HCS committee agreed not to intervene in the planning process other than to say, if requested, that provided the shop front meets shop front planning guidelines in a conservation area, they have no objection. HSC do not wish to hinder the sale process for Solveig. **Action: none agreed pro tem.**
  - e) Laying of wreath (prepared by Maria Rix) by HTC at the Cenotaph for victims of the flood in 1953. HCS will participate. The event will be on 31<sup>st</sup> January or possibly 1<sup>st</sup> February. The February date may suit better and facilitate the invitation of USA 67<sup>th</sup> Squadron who will be invited. **Action: AM to check dates and notify HCS committee accordingly.**
  - f) Rail Track beds for KL to Hunstanton railway, and the Borough project for a cycleway. HCS and the Railway Project are to make the case for the cycleway to be beside the rail track bed and to pursue this case locally and at all appropriate levels. **Action: AM and the Rail Project Team.**
  - g) Bank Building frontage. Needs to be addressed. **Action asap: StK & ShK to apply for grant funding from agencies that provide funding for shop front (ie: Bank frontage) regeneration.**
  - h) Bank Building flower displays. Agree by all in due course when refurb's nearing completion. **Action: when appropriate: AM & AS & MB.**
  - i) The Cenotaph is now Grade 11 listed. It may be that an application could be made for the Bank in due course. **Action: AM when appropriate.**
  - j) Average speed cameras along the A149, between Knights Hill and the Snettisham roundabout. Equipment has already been purchased and therefore is likely to be installed this year. **No Action**
  - k) Smithdon Event in the Town Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7pm. **Action by 18<sup>th</sup> January: Committee members invited to inform ShK if they wish to attend.**
8. **Treasurers Report.** Report accepted. Proposal to run down the stock of Mary Rhodes books and to consider a tree at the Bank and/or a plaque on a wall in or outside the Bank. **Action: to be deferred until refurbishment is nearing completion.**
9. **Membership Report.** One new member joined HCS since the last meeting. A Suggestion Book for volunteers, members and visitors to the Heritage Centre and at meetings/talks has been started by ShK. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the Committee as an effective way to gather ideas and feedback on how HCS can raise its game within the community. **Action: None pro tem.**
10. **Nat West Bank Heritage Centre & Refurbishment.** It is hoped that contracts will be exchanged in the next few days, with completion a week or two after that. The key element of the discussion was the proposal by JS to set up a Refurb Working Group (RWG). This proposal was agreed unanimously by Committee members. JS agreed to lead the RWG. **Actions: It will be for the RWG to plan and manage the refurbishment programme within budget, with the support and agreement of other Committee members as required. Actions that follow will need to be costed and dealt with according to an agreed project plan and time frame.**

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The list of tasks which follow is a start point and far from complete including some items not necessarily the responsibility of the Society.

- a) Disconnect sprinkler and alarm system;
- b) Review presence of asbestos and remove;
- c) Endeavour to discover some planning permission documents for part of the Bank property that have not yet been provided by the vendors;
- d) Notify BCKLWN of purchase outcome and application for 100% waiving of Business Rates;
- e) Apply for planning permissions as required and change of usage;
- f) Install alarms, new locks and CCTV (DH will assist on procurement of CCTV);
- g) Electrics: disconnect as required before work begins;
- h) Issue Invitations to tender to gas, water and electrical engineers;
- i) Install suitable IT connectivity;
- j) Review work required on roof;
- k) Transfer zero rate status from 15, The Green to the Bank building;
- l) Store contents of 15 The Green at the rear of the bank building and refurb the front room of the Bank as a first step.

The RWG will consist initially of JS (Leader), ShK, StK, AM, TA, AA, AS. Other members are available for co-option as required. **Action: First meeting of RWG at 10 am Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 at 15, The Green.**

Target opening date for the Bank (possibly not the whole building to begin with) is late March 2019 or hopefully in time for Easter weekend on 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April.

11. **Heritage Centre – Raising Finance.** StK has enlisted the support of CAN (Jim Cambridge) in Norwich to identify potential lenders to help fund the Bank project. He will report further to HCS committee at next meeting. **Action: StK**  
The idea to offer HCS members the opportunity to leave bequests in their wills was also discussed **Action: To be kept under review**
  12. **Heritage Centre Opening Day.** New displays, children's items, quizzes, new brochure, publicity. **Action: RWG with support of Committee members.**
  13. **Interpretation Boards.** Meeting with Roger Partridge this Thursday at 3pm to discuss the new Interpretation Boards. **Action: Committee members to advise StK/ShK/JM if they able to join the meeting.**
  14. **Smithdon School.** MB has opened a fruitful channel of communication with Mrs Moat at the school. The purpose of the engagement with the school, is to enthuse the younger members of the community with an interest in the heritage of the town and to understand what sort of things they would be interest to see done by HCS. Fresh thoughts; new subject matter; a beach school at Easter; DoE awards; PowerPoint presentation by JM; how can we get the school involved in the work of HCS. **Action: MB to arrange meeting with Smithdon.**
  15. **Talks Programme.** See also agenda item 6. Suggestion to show the film 'Plastic Ocean' at a members talk. An approach is also being made to John Cushing to talk about Thursford. **Action: AA/ShK to investigate.**
  16. **Outings.** On the menu at the moment are Ely Cathedral, RAF Conningsby, CITB (if available), plus others to be investigated. **Action: JB to report on proposed programme at next HCS meeting.**
  17. **AOB.** None.
  18. **Date & venue of next HCS Committee meeting.** 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10am at 2 Clarence Road
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