

Hunstanton and District Civic Society

Meeting Minutes

DATE Tuesday March 20th 2018

VENUE 2, Clarence Road, Hunstanton

PRESENT Tony Armstrong (AA), Terry Ashworth (TA), Robert Clark (RC), Alethea Gillard (AG), Sheila Kent (ShK), Stephen Kent (StK), John Maiden (JM), Andrew Murray (AM), Judy Simmons (JS), Ann Stevens (AS).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Margi Blunden, (MB), Amanda Bosworth, (AB), and John Bridger (JB).

2. Minutes of Meeting held on February 20th and Matters Arising.

The minutes were signed by AM. No matters arising.

3. Correspondence, Planning and Town Council Report (AM)

AM met with Borough Councilor Richard Bird (RB) to discuss buses, the pier, the railway, the dementia home, the coast path and unitary funding.

Stagecoach is shutting their Kings Lynn depot. Other operators will take over the services but the frequency of the buses is not yet known.

The pier- see AOB (13)

The railway- Sir Henry Bellingham is to approach the Railway Minister to enquire about funding for a Feasibility Study. It is hoped that a bid can be put together for funding through the Coastal Community Fund (CCF). A railway coach placed alongside the coal shed gallery could be an exhibition and information centre, and advertise the fact that opening the railway is a serious project.

The dementia home- if this is built on the land, south of the existing industrial estate, it could provide employment for 140 people.

The coast path- a new consultation has opened.

A Coastal Management Plan (CMP) is to be developed by AECON to look at slowing cliff erosion, and repairs to the promenade and groins.

Unitary funding- RB considers that a layer of governance needs to be removed, to achieve necessary cost savings. An east –west split in Norfolk is a possibility or the County Council (CC) might remain, but with some powers devolved to market towns like Hunstanton.

The Borough Council (BC) has introduced a scheme of screening planning applications.

The pavements near the Primary school are to be repaired, and Andrew Jamieson is investigating the possibility of re-opening the pathway from the old water tower to the Primary school.

Dr Steve Fisher, an Occupational Medicine physician has written to the HTC about the dust and noise affecting the Kings Lynn Road area, as a result of the Hopkins Homes being built.

There has been a request to the BC to fund Lifeguards on the beach during the summer season.

The details of the design of 120 houses on the land opposite Old Town Way are now on the Planning web site.

There has been a request for a clean up order, or possible CPO on Witley Press.

On March 27th 2018, the Council Chamber will be open between 2-5pm.

JM will write to the Council about the positioning of the Skateboard ramp.

There is a proposal for Average speed cameras along the A149.

The General Data Protection legislation requires that permission must be sought to keep records, email or phone anyone belonging to the Civic Society.

4. Treasurer's Report (StK)

StK distributed his Report prior to the meeting. Among the expenses for this month were the boards in the windows of the Heritage Centre (HC), the ticket office, crafted by AA in the HC, and gardening expenses for MB. There were various donations during the month, and the assets of the HC currently stand at £15,167.90.

5. Membership Report and Renewals (ShK)

There has been one new member, no renewals, and sadly two deaths, one of whom was Mary Rhodes, who wrote five books about Hunstanton, and the other, Edda Caiger.

6. Talks Programme

AA is working on next year's Talks.

7. Website Matters

StK has corrected the opening days on the website, from Friday afternoons, to Wednesday afternoons. There were 32 hits this past month, 80% from the UK, 10% from the US, followed by Brazil, and various other countries.

8. Heritage Centre, Rota, New Displays, Featured Villages (TA)

The display featuring Heacham will stay in place until the end of April, then Snettisham will feature until mid-June, followed by Dersingham, until the end of July. The villages of Docking, Sedgeford and Bircham will then be offered the opportunity to organise their own displays.

It is hoped that the big railway picture, at present, stored in the HC, will be moved to the coal shed, as part of Brian Holmes' original plans for this area (see 3). There are four new volunteers for the HC.

9. Hunstanton Leaflet Guide (StK)

This is still a work in progress, with StK experimenting with different fonts, and cover pictures. Quotes are now being sought for the printing of the leaflets.

10. Interpretation Boards, Esplanade Gardens, Britain in Bloom (AS)

AS recently attended a meeting to discuss the Heritage Gardens on behalf of the Civic Society. There are many events planned throughout the coming year, although they will be better advertised than last year's events. These include outdoor screenings of films, and folk music days. AS wondered whether a digital noticeboard, and/or a touch screen information display board would be a good idea. Discussion of this will be on next month's agenda.

At present, there are 16 Adopt a Bed gardeners working on 22 Gardens in Hunstanton; the Gardens cared for by the Civic Society were not mentioned.

The Pavillion, in the Gardens is to become known at the Hub, and used to store gardening equipment, and serve teas. JM thought this change of use, should be up for discussion.

11. Visits- Norwich Society, CITB, Frimstone, Wisbech (JB)

Visits were not discussed in JB's absence.

12. Plans to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 (AA)

As 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, there will be commemorations by many organisations.

WW1 will feature as one of the special displays later in the year in the HC.

On November 10th and 11th, there will be an exhibition of every local soldier who fought in this war- 400 in all, in the Town Hall. After this event, the pictures will then be taken to schools for Talks, and displayed in the HC.

13. AOB

AA has some of Mary Rhodes books- her daughter, Penny, agrees that the books may be sold in the HC, and a plaque in her memory, displayed somewhere in the town.

Some of the books may be offered to the Tourist Information Centre (TIC).

Pier - StK is to address the CCT about progress on the pier project tomorrow.

The list of 23 questions posed by the CCT on December 21st 2017 received a response on February 13th 2018. Since then, much progress has been made along the project timeline, including a draft Invitation to Tender (ITT) for a Feasibility Study for the construction of the pier. It is hoped we can move quickly to this stage, and so to a full-scale media launch in order to catch the 2018 spring and summer tourist season.

14. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 11.50am, with much appreciation and many thanks to ShK and StK for hosting it. The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday April 17th 2018 at 10am, also at 2, Clarence Road.