

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 10.00 am

Venue 2 Clarence Road, Hunstanton, PE36 6EG

Present

Tony Armstrong AA, Terry Ashworth TA, Amanda Bosworth AB, Robert Clark RC, Sheila Kent ShK, Stephen Kent StK, John Maiden JM, Andrew Murray AM, Ann Stevens AS.

Agenda Items

1. **Welcome and Apologies.** JM, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies were received from John Bridger (JB), David Harris (DH), Margi Blunden (MB) & Jeremy Simmons (JS).
2. **Minutes Secretary.** StK volunteered to write up the minutes for this meeting.
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 19th February 2019.** The Minutes were agreed and signed by JM.
4. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2019.
5. **Correspondence, planning & Hunstanton Town Council Report**
The following issues were noted and discussed.
 - a) Witley Press – As a section 106 agreement was not made, the planning committee agreed to alternative arrangements to be made for affordable housing financial contribution (£33840) and habitat mitigation and monitoring.
 - b) Next Community Coffee morning at the Community Centre is on Saturday 30th March, 10am to 12 noon;
 - c) Visit to Ely Cathedral. *Action: 29 HCS members and guests so far wish to attend with another 2 saying they were wanting to come. Final applications by noon this Thursday, 21st March.*
 - d) Seminar on Caring for Paper Collections and Archives to be held at Stowmarket on 29th March fully subscribed but Andrew putting his name on the waiting list.
 - e) Civic Voice Ipswich Seminar on Planning and Design on 30th March. *Action: AM and possibly MB attending.*
 - f) *Historic Towns and Villages – Action - TrailTale app to be investigated.*
 - g) JM reported on the USAF Demonstration to be held at Sculthorpe on Thursday, 4th April is by invitation only.
 - h) JM reported on King's Lynn Victorian buildings.
 - i) Report due from Hemmingway Designs on Hunstanton South Promenade deferred until after May elections.
 - j) AM reported on local plan – See his report written up for entry into the April edition of Town & Around (attached). JS had submitted a comment which was read out to the meeting.
There followed some discussion concerning the reasons why people choose to live in Hunstanton. *JM suggested committee members could prepare a SWAT type analysis of individuals thoughts on this.*

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- k) KLHRC - AM reported on Howard Johnson's presentation to BCKLWN on bringing back the King's Lynn to Hunstanton Railway which appeared to have been well received. AM circulated results of vehicle counts taken at Heacham traffic lights over the period 2000 to 2017 which showed continual increase in traffic using the A149. JM reported that he had press cuttings from the 1970s about the campaign to bring back the Railway.
- l) AM mentioned discussions he had had with Roger Duggan of Crown & Mitre Public House by the river in King's Lynn and a box of Memorabilia which might be bequeathed to him.

Action: AM to follow up.

- 6. **Treasurer's Report.** StK reported on activity in the bank accounts including income from those joining in on the Ely Trip. There is £21,361 in the HCS account.

Actions: JM, as HCS Chair, should be signatory to the main HCS account. JS should be signatory on both HCS and Heritage Centre accounts. Still to be actioned.

- 7. **Membership Report.** There has been one new couple joining as members in the period since the last meeting on 19th February meeting. **Action - ShK reminded AM that this included an electrician who has offered his services in the new Heritage Centre.**

8. Heritage Centre Refurbishment.

AM reported that there had been a meeting between himself, JS, ShK and StK to discuss the terms of the Lease on the Heritage Centre and he had agreed to get his solicitor to draft a lease for consideration by this Committee. **Action – AM**

Work on the Centre continued with holes dug in the Centre in the search for drainage, Installation of electrical sockets being carried out and other building works were progressing satisfactorily including installation of a lowered ceiling in the vault and other necessary works. Locks had been sorted, Fire Alarm relocated etc etc. ShK and StK reported that revamped displays were progressing well.

9. Gardens, Hunstanton in Bloom & Greening Grey Britain.

New plants have been ordered from Thaxters for the Sign Post Garden in particular. More help would be gratefully received as AS and MB were finding it hard work.

10. Purchase of new book on Mercedes Gleitze

Agreed that StK would order a copy of this book as JM had not been able to get hold of a copy **Action: StK to order book.**

11. Interpretation Boards & Discussions with Roger Partridge

JM reported that he proposed to get Roger Partridge to bring latest versions of these boards to a meeting for final approval so that this could be put to bed. Roger required Civic Society logo for inclusion on these boards. **Action: JM to arrange meeting. StK to send Roger logos etc.**

12. Civic Society's Notice Board outside Town Hall.

This needed to be refreshed and background replaced with posters updated and enlarged. ShK suggested a hessian background that could easily be stapled on. **Action - ShK and StK to carry out this work**

13. Liaison with Mrs Moat at Smithdon.

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MB had sent a message reporting that Smithdon were fully committed in their arrangements with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. MB will pick this up again next year. AM suggested that we should try to improve and nurture communications generally with Smithdon although it was agreed that with the school losing its 6th Form, this would not be as easy. **No action for the time being.**

14. Talks Programme

AA reported that the programme of talks was progressing well. **Action – AA to continue finalising this.**

15. HCS Outings & Visits

- Ely Cathedral trip into final stages of arranging (ShK and StK) – 27th March
- Langham Dome & Wells Maltings (JB) – 16th May tbc
- RAF Coningsby (DH/JB) – originally arranged for April now being postponed until a date to be decided in May
- CITB (JB) – 13th or 20th June – response awaited

16. AOB – JM questioned whether there had been any progress with the Pier Project. StK/AM reported that there was some progress but at present nothing to report. JM produced copies of a legal opinion obtained by BCKLWN from Graham Sinclair dated September 20th 2002, which disproved BCKLWN's assertion that it was not legally possible to enforce the terms of the 999-year lease for Hunstanton Pier. (Relevant extract could be attached for future reference). He passed this material to StK.

Perhaps a report on Pier Progress could be an agenda item for the next meeting. **ShK to put on next Agenda.**

17. Date & venue of next HCS Committee meeting.

Tuesday 16th April at 10am. Venue - to be advised nearer the time.

Pride in our Neighbourhood - 50

April 2019

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) is the local planning authority for this area. Their development plan at present consists of two documents; the Core Strategy (CS) adopted in July 2011 and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (SADMP) adopted in September 2016. In late 2016, landowners were asked to submit sites that could be considered for either housing or employment related development. Some 600 sites were put forward and each one has now been assessed. All of the policies within the CS and SADMP have been reviewed, some have been removed, new ones have been added and most have been updated.

On 4 March, the Borough Council launched a six-week consultation on their new draft local plan that is designed to provide a strategy and look where new housing and employment sites could and should be situated across the borough between now and 2036. In essence this is a complex cut and paste job with some tweaking to bring it up to date and in line with the significant changes made to the planning system by the government, particularly the July 2018 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Council planners are now seeking the views of members of the public, businesses and other interested parties on this new draft document. The plan can be viewed in the library and on the Borough website
<http://west-norfolk.objective.co.uk/portal/lpr2019/lpr2019?pointId=5170767>

In 2015, the Borough thought that development in Downham Market was proceeding too fast and wanted to restrain it but they now realise the importance of the A10 and the main line railway link to Cambridge and are promoting development in the corridor running from West Winch, Watlington and through Downham. Policies for custom and self-build housing have been introduced and the need for affordable housing is given more prominence.

The draft plan predicts that by 2036, some 29% of the population will be over retirement age, with 17% of residents aged over 75; while the proportion of those under 25 will be below the national average. Already 43% of the resident population of about 4210 are over retirement age.

The draft plan recognises that the coastal areas of the borough are a major asset in terms of providing tourism, employment, homes, recreation, and habitats for species. Nevertheless these assets also introduce significant challenges in the management of visitor related development, environmental and ecological assets, and physical processes including erosion.

The Sustainability Assessment has identified a number of issues to be considered in determining future development within the borough including: - unsustainable transport patterns as a result of dispersed populations; a lack of facilities for young people leading to them leaving the area; the low proportion of affordable housing; the impact that second homes have on communities, particularly along the coast; the seasonal nature of the influx of visitors leading to variations in population; the fluctuating demands on local services and employment opportunities.

This is the time for the town and village councils, the Chamber of Trade, the Civic Society and for you to have your say and to help steer the development that will occur in the best possible way for the benefit of the environment and existing residents.

5pm on Monday 15 April 2019 is the deadline for the receipt of submissions to the Borough whether by post or online.