

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY
Committee meeting on Tuesday, 15th November 2016
at the Council Offices, Valentine Road

Present: Andrew Murray (AM), Terry Ashworth (TA), Ann Stevens (AS), Tony Armstrong (AA), Stephen Kent (SK), John Maiden (JM), Sheila Kent (ShK), Margi Blunden (MB), Mavis Windibank (MW), Alethea Gillard (AG) and John Bridger (JB)

Also present: Chris Cooney and Amanda Bosworth

1. Apologies received from Ivy Scales and Adrian Winnington.
2. The minutes of the meeting on 18th October were approved and signed. It was suggested we plant a tree on Canny Jones's behalf in the orchard in recognition of her hard work in maintaining various community gardens but the orchard is now full. Therefore, it was proposed we would replace a cherry tree outside the Council offices that has died. A plaque should read "Canny Jones - In recognition of your 12 year contribution to the community gardens and support for Hunstanton in Bloom."
3. Correspondence, Planning and Town Council Report – A planning application has been received for development of the small fairground at Seagate. Residents are concerned about overlooking and weakening of the flood defences. This is an area affected by One Public Estate. (This means anything owned by the County Council, Borough Council or Health Authority is being put in the melting pot. Its looking at the way things are run and whether they can be run smoother and cheaper by amalgamating. Buildings can be demolished and the land sold). Development F2.3 and F2.5 south of the industrial estate has been recommended for approval, although Pigeon thought it was already approved. BCKLWN have sent a letter requesting suitable sites for future development in the Borough. Maybe the parish boundaries need to be sorted out. AM attended a workshop in Dereham regarding Evidence of rights of way on historic maps. After 1st January 2026 these will not be valid and there is a need to identify all footpaths, etc. The Town Council now has 3 new Councillors – Amanda Bosworth, Amanda Knight and Yvonne Bridger. AM attended the Civic Voice Convention in Chester in October.
4. Treasurer's report – More subscriptions have been received. Total balances for the Heritage Centre and Civic Society are £14,742.02. End of year accounts showing a deficit of £779.98 and balance sheet were signed by AM and SK, after reviewing the report from the Scrutineer. The Committee are very grateful to Mr. David Boxell and would like to thank him for an excellent job done.
5. Membership Renewals – Most renewals have been received. We have 140 ordinary members, 6 honorary members, 39 life members. Total 185. We could perhaps give talks regarding HCS to other groups in the area to increase membership.
6. Website – We have had 50 hits over the last month.
7. Heritage Centre – The Centre is now closed. A curtain will be put up at the front door for draft exclusion. Entrance will need to be pre-arranged via the back door. We will need the Christmas trees and decorations. We have asked for a space in the Town Hall for the Christmas tree festival. Visitor numbers have been dropping over the years, although the money received has increased.
8. Signage on approaches to town – JM has contacted Sally Bettinson at the Council responsible for these. She has said there are too many words regarding the twinning. It was pointed out HCS would contribute towards the signs. The suggestion was made that Sir Henry should chair a meeting between HCS and the Manager of the Highways Department.
9. Report from conference in Great Yarmouth and to set up a pier working party – JB heard various presentations. Market research and community support will be needed and also that of BCKLWN and NCC. We will need a business plan. At this stage, we should write to the Town Council so they are aware we are starting the pier project again and could we please have their support. This was agreed. Opinion is divided in the town. We could possibly do a magnetometer survey regarding the original structures. Architectural Heritage has between £20,000 and £1m to get projects started. There is also a Coastal Communities fund. At this point, Amanda Bosworth was co-opted on to the committee.

10. Termination of lease of store room at Valentine Court – There are 4 dolls houses in store. Sure Start and the nursery at Glebe School will be contacted to see if they would be interested in taking them. There is also a computer and screen belonging to JM who will sort this out.
11. Arrangements for AGM on 14th December – It was suggested that 12 people on the committee is a good working number but the Constitution does not specify a maximum number. We could have sub committees working alongside the main committee. TA, MB and AS will be doing some cooking and buying wine. Apologies for non attendance from AG.
12. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 20th December 2016 at 10.30am at the Council Offices, Valentine Road.
13. AOB – BH would like the butterfly shelters demolished and the statue of Henry Le Strange placed there. A grant from the lottery fund was dependent on the restoration of these shelters, despite the diseased concrete. MB read out a draft letter to the 20th. Century Society objecting to the preservation of the shelters. This was approved and a copy should also be sent to Wynne Williams who are in charge of landscape and R.H Architects, Historic England and the Council. HCS was not consulted regarding this problem.