

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Minutes of Committee meeting held
on Tuesday, 26th September 2017
at the Heritage Centre at 10.00

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

MB kindly took the chair for this meeting.

1. Apologies for absence received from Amanda Bosworth (AB).
2. Minutes of meeting held on 29th August 2017 were agreed and signed. SK has told Mike Ruston that HCS cannot be a channel for funds for the skate ramp for gift aid purposes if it is to be sited on the promenade.
3. Correspondence, Planning and Town Council Report -
 - Bennett Homes are applying for 3 additional points of access from the A149 opposite Old Town Way. HCS considers this dangerous and they should only have 1 access which ideally should be via Chapel Bank. It will go before the planning committee on 9th October. NCC proposes to alter the present 40 mph speed limit on the A149 to 30 mph from Clarence Road to Chapel Bank. The Town Council has suggested a 30 mph limit all along the A149.
 - Witley's site is to be demolished and 15 x 2 bed and 1 x 1 bed flats are proposed. Town Council is continuing to oppose the plans as the charm of Church Street will be ruined. A response has been sent re the Norfolk Strategic Framework consultation. The number of care places needs to be doubled even if the same proportion of elderly needing care remains.
 - Repair work has started on the Town Hall and Zurich Insurance have agreed to pay 75% of most of the cost.
 - HTC are negotiation with BCKLWN to take over the freehold of the community centre in order to develop a play area and skate park.
 - Childrens' monthly discos are to re-commence at the community centre.
 - Town Council's first monthly surgery to be held in Sainsbury's on 27th September from 11am to 12 noon.
 - Councillors Richard Bird and David Jones have resigned from the town council.
 - First Bus are to terminate contract with Education Department.
 - The sculptor of the statue of Henry Le Strange has asked if we wish to buy the bust for £1500 plus VAT and carriage before he destroys the mould.
 - John Smith has suggested we purchase some of the display boards from him.
4. Treasurer's report – The bank balance for the Civic Society and Heritage Centre is £15,082.24.
5. Membership – 1 new members in September.
6. Talks programme – There are still 2 talks to be booked. The speakers are increasing their prices. A talk on Astronomy will be given at the AGM. It was suggested it would be better if tea was served at the end of the talk instead of the interval. This was agreed.
7. Website matters – 52 hits were received last month.
8. Heritage Centre,
 - The purchase of some display boards from John Smith is being considered.
 - We have a few extra volunteers.
 - Personal bags should be placed in another room instead of on the floor as there was an incident recently of 3 youths engaging in conversation in the centre while 2 others were looking in the windows to see where bags were situated.
 - Derek's funeral is to be held on 9th October at 11.30am at Mintlyn, donations to McMillan. - The Volunteers' party will be postponed to 29th October from 5pm to 7pm.

9. Heritage Open Days – 102 people visited Old Hunstanton Hall and 70 people attended the lighthouse, making the open days a huge success. A vote of thanks was given to AM for organizing both of these events.
10. Review of Heritage Trail leaflet -The TIC has run out of these but the leaflet needs updating.
11. Esplanade gardens progress – There is still no explanation as to why the interpretation boards were removed or the plants removed from the pier garden. The butterfly shelters have now been glazed.
12. Pier progress – A letter of support has been received from the Town Council and also Sir Henry Bellingham. BCKLWN have stated we should negotiate with the Coastal Community Team.
13. Safer Neighbourhood Action Plan – A meeting was held on 13th September.
 - PCSOs have no powers of arrest and the police services are very stretched.
 - There were serious parking issues over the summer in Burnham Overy Staithe where holiday makers are parking randomly then disappeared for the day. This is a Council responsibility.
 - Cyclists do not have right of way on cycle paths and all vehicles must give way to pedestrians whether it be on road, footpath or cycle path.
 - 100 travellers arrived in Hunstanton and only one PCSO was on duty. Obviously, this was insufficient to manage the situation.
 - In North Wootton some doubtful behaviour has been reported in wooded area. At the children's' play area in Deas Road, South Wootton, some teenagers have taken over this area and are using the swings as goal posts.
 - There were no issues during tennis week in Hunstanton.
 - There is to be a new "Champion" in the borough for disability access.
 - The Borough is to launch a new local lottery in 2018 for good causes (yet to be identified). -
14. Neighbourhood Plan – Hopefully, a new version will be put onto the website during the next few days.
15. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 24 October 2017 at 10am. We do not yet know whether the conference room at the Council office will be available.
16. AOB – A meeting has been held with the new head teacher at Smithdon.
 - A refurbishment is in progress.
 - The HCS green plaque has been moved into the flower bed at the front of the school.
 - Simon Wilson would like to see the school more integrated with the town, particularly with regard to sporting facilities.