

# HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date** Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 10am

**Venue** Heritage Centre, 15 The Green, Hunstanton

### **Present**

Tony Armstrong AA, Terry Ashworth TA, Margi Blunden MB, Amanda Bosworth AB, Robert Clark RC, Sheila Kent ShK, Stephen Kent StK and Andrew Murray AM,

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

MB agreed to chair the meeting.

Apologies were received from John Bridger, John Maiden JM, Judy Simmons JS and Ann Stevens.

### **2. Minutes of meetings held on 21 and 29 August and 3. matters arising.**

The minutes of the August 21 and 29 HCS meetings were agreed, and signed by MB. There were no matters arising that were not otherwise on the Agenda.

### **4. Heritage Centre – alternative venues. Progress to date (AM)**

**15 The Green** - AM reported that Solveig had said that one interested party had proposed to leave the Heritage Centre in situ but was unable to obtain the required mortgage. Of the 2 tenders received, one was discarded and negotiations are proceeding with the other.

**BigG's, Southend Road.** It has large windows for displays. Access to the adequate but mediocre flat is via a very narrow passageway. It would be relatively simple to adapt for use as a Heritage Centre. It failed as a water sports shop and has failed as a pizza restaurant despite a large amount of external advertising and therefore may be difficult to sell on. It is in the relatively neglected end of town although that could change if money is forthcoming to implement Wayne Hemingway's ideas.

**Former Nat West Bank** – A further viewing has been arranged for Wednesday 26 September. The agent hopes to open up at 13.30. Mr Steve Willerton of Brown & Co, Bury St Edmund's office is coming to do a structural survey. Mark Brister has agreed to loan his longest ladder so that Steve can view the area of roof just inside the parapet. I have asked Sean Garrett of Lighthouse Contracts to view the electrics, he expects them to be in good order but we probably need a much simpler layout with separation of the two floors. I have asked Rigil Kent for his advice about the possible need for a fire escape, he suspects that as it was a bank it should be ok but if the floors are in separate use, it may need re-assessment. Although unlisted, it is a building of character in a central location. The upper floor has sea views and has potential to be made into a luxury flat / holiday let or start up offices. AA said that the apparent darkness of the interior could be overcome with appropriate lighting.

**The View / Cassies** Mr Cassie sold the property about 4 years ago. It may be about to re-open so probably not available.

RC wondered whether renting rather than purchasing might be a better option but the former baker's shop at Abb's Corner would cost £79,000 to rent for 5 years. This is far in excess of our income.

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**Bus Station** There are plans for a new building to be erected on the site of the bus station and library and for its ground floor to house a new library, Tourist Information Centre and possibly also a venue for the Heritage Centre. AM to contact Chris Bamfield about that. An architect has been appointed.

**Town Hall Basement.** Letting at present in hands of an agent. We cannot compete with that. Access difficult even via lift.

### **5. Heritage Centre – How to raise finance (AM)**

If members of the Civic Society put in time and work on improving the building, they would need to be rewarded as well. AA said that what he could do was limited but he would not expect to be paid. StK has drafted out an appeal for funding. RC has been to visit the Heritage Centre at Wells that charges non-residents £3.50 admission. It is very electronic, all screens and very boring. Chris Bishopp from EDP visited our Heritage Centre and took some general pictures. He said that ours was by far the best centre in the area.

### **6. Heritage Centre Rota (TA)**

Still some gaps in the rôta for October that need to be filled. The displays from Docking are to be put up on 24 September. The display from Holme-next-the-Sea may stay for an extra few days. A thank you event for the volunteers is planned for Sunday 4 November from 18.00 to 20.00 AA will keep the Centre open until 17.00 on 28 October when there is a Royal British Legion event at the Princess Theatre from 14.30.

### **7. Correspondence, Planning & Town Council Report (AM)**

Report circulated prior to meeting by AM provides important local information and details of upcoming events, dates and times.

### **8. Election of Civic Voice Trustees**

AM said he knew Helen Kidman of Ilkley who chairs the Regional Forum. It was agreed that AM should vote on behalf of HCS.

### **9. Treasurer's Report (StK)**

StK distributed this Report in full prior to the committee meeting. It was agreed that the surveyors fee should be met.

### **10. Membership Report (ShK)**

Renewal applications are coming in steadily, some come with additional donations.

### **11. Report on Pier Project (JB)**

JB had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Main event was the presentation of two £50 prizes to winners of the logo competition. The pier is outside the red line of the Wayne Hemingway Southern Seafront Regeneration Project.

### **12. Rail Campaign (AM)**

AM was unable to attend a recent meeting that clashed with Heritage open Day

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### **13. Talks Programme (AA)**

First talk to take place tomorrow. MB is to do refreshments. AS not available.

### **14. Interpretation Boards (AM)**

No progress to report

### **15. HCS Visits (JB)**

The small group of people who visited Elgood's Brewery on 4 September was treated like royalty. No progress with visits to CICB or Frimstone.

### **16. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW1 (AA)**

The names of the 400+ soldiers from Hunstanton who were involved in the First World War will be inscribed on crosses and these may be adopted by individual school children. They may be planted in the flower bed during the afternoon of 9 November.

### **17 Date & Venue of next meeting**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Heritage Centre

### **18. AOB - none**