

HUNSTANTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

HDCS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 10 am

Venue Heritage Centre, Hunstanton, PE36 6EG

Present

Anthony Armstrong (AA), Terry Ashworth (TA), Margi Blunden (MB), Amanda Bosworth (AB), John Bridger (JB), Robert Clark (RC), Sheila Kent (ShK), Stephen Kent (StK), John Maiden (JM), Andrew Murray (AM), Jeremy Simmons (JS), Ann Stephens (AS).

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and Apologies.

JM, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dave Harris (DH).

2) Minutes Secretary. JB volunteered to write up the minutes for this meeting.

3) Minutes of meeting held on 13th August 2019

The minutes were agreed by all present for signature by JM.

4) Matters to be raised not otherwise on the Agenda for 17th September 2019

None

5) Correspondence, Planning & Hunstanton Town Council Report (AM)

- a) Pigeon Developments – Further to the outline planning application lodged 4 years ago for 80 bungalows and a Care Home, Pigeon's thoughts have altered and planning concepts have been elaborated. There now may be no accommodation provided for Care Home staff. However, the development will be well landscaped and will provide a 'Core Village' including a community hall, catering/café, and some locally managed commercial units. There will also be a car park plus mini-bus for transport of residents to Hunstanton town. The development may be gated and residents may be connected to 'CareLine 365' which is a national facility. As a result of these changes, a revised planning application is awaited.
- b) No other new planning applications to report.
- c) Festival of Christmas - AB chaired an HTC sub-committee meeting on 5th September.
- d) BCKLWN Forum Meeting with HTC – the obstruction of the promenade by 'A boards' advertising business offerings has been noted; a variety of other issues will be discussed at a Forum meeting on 10th December 2019.
- e) Other current planning issues include: the Premier Inn proposal, 100 extra housing units (including Sheepfields), Hemingway's view that there is too much coach parking space on the Seagate Coach park which could be used for other purposes (coaches should 'drop and go', parking elsewhere in or outside Hunstanton until their 'pick-up' time when they could return to Seagate coach park. This would reduce the need for large coaches to park all day close to the promenade. Extra funding for the development of Valentine Road and emphasis on novel construction methods etc.
- f) Plastic Ocean film – showing at the Town Hall on 18th September 2019: provided free of charge to the community.
- g) BCKLWN Transport Study Meeting on 24th September 2019 – HCS Committee members may attend as members of the public.

6) Treasurer's Report (StK)

Donations at the new Heritage Centre are very weather dependent but are showing an improved average donation of 63p per adult, compared to 45p per adult at 15, The Green. There was some discussion about how to optimise donations; ideas included more obvious signage perhaps with the messages "Staffed by Volunteers", "Only survives with your Generous Support". **Action: StK.**

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7) Membership Report (ShK)

HCS has gained four new members, including one Life Member and one couple, since the last HCS Committee Meeting. HCS Newsletters are being made available on the Reception Desk at the Heritage Centre. The number of HCS members for 2019/2020 not yet available but will probably stabilise at around 185.

8) Heritage Centre Lease

Discussion on terms and conditions of the Lease of Heritage Centre. Reported separately.

9) Heritage Centre

- **Formal Opening.** Lt Colonel Kelly of the 67th Special Operations Squadron, USAF Mildenhall was suggested as a potential guest opener, possibly in conjunction with Paul Richards (former Mayor of King's Lynn and Oldham) and/or another. It was agreed not to undertake the formal opening of the Heritage Centre in the last few months of this year, but to focus perhaps on Valentine's Day 2020 and perhaps invite two well-known and suitable persons to jointly open the Centre.
- **Teachers Packs for use by Schools.** Glebe House School have agreed to help to prepare the HCS Teachers Pack. Heacham School should also be approached to contribute help. **Action: JM.**
- **New Item for sale in the Heritage Centre.** John Smith's book on local fossils published in 2010 has been offered for sale at the Heritage Centre, on the following terms: Following a sale of a copy of the book to the public at £2, £1 would be payable to John Smith and £1 would be retained by the Heritage Centre. There would be no up-front cost for books held in stock awaiting sale by the Heritage Centre. This proposal was approved by the Committee. **Action: AM/StK.**
- **Incentives for Heritage Centre Volunteers.** AM informed Committee that Mr Bun the Baker had kindly agreed to offer a discount on his products to Heritage Centre volunteers upon presentation of a voucher showing them to be active volunteers. This offer was appreciated by all Committee members. Voucher to be designed and given to volunteers. **Action: AM/StK.**
- **Mary Rhodes Hunstanton Heritage Plaque.** The idea is to mount a plaque commemorating Mary Rhodes at a suitable place to be identified near the Spinney. **Action: JM to talk to John Smith regarding the plaque.**
- **Festive Fun Day on 1st December 2019.** It was agreed unanimously to decorate the Heritage Centre with Christmas lights and window decorations for this important Hunstanton Event. Volunteers will be needed to manage opening of the Centre from 12 noon on that date. **Action: TA/Committee members.**
- **Soap Box Derby 22nd September 2019** – Heritage Centre to open at 11am on that day. **Action: TA.**
- **Heritage Centre Windows.** Discussion was held on decluttering the Heritage Centre windows and allowing more focus on important information, such as opening hours, with a possible maximum of one picture per window. This proposal was generally agreed. The need to improve the merchandising of items for sale at the Reception Desk, such as DVDs, books and pamphlets was also raised. This could be achieved by removing papers and other things that obscure visibility of items for sale from the top of the Reception Desk. Also perhaps some suitable display stands could be considered. **Action: ShK, StK.**

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10. Gardens/Hunstanton in Bloom & Greening Great Britain (AS)

Planters will be planted up in Spring 2020 (see AS email). They will be painted in Heritage Green with gold HC lettering. Pea shingle will be maintained where it currently exists. Two tubs with trees are rotten and need replacement. Others are in reasonable order. A budget of £200 per year for replacing or repairing tubs and planters is envisaged. HCS need to get “in Bloom” involved and to get their support. **Action: MB/AS + Mick Smith**

11. Hunstanton Pier – work continues below the radar. As previously advised, Norfolk County Council have offered their support to the project following representations made to Council by Andrew Jamieson.

12. King’s Lynn/Hunstanton Rail Project – Now that the presentation to NCC by Howard Johnson has been delivered and favourably received by NCC, the next step for KLHRC is to set about the development of a Feasibility Study with NCC.

13. Interpretation Boards – JM mentioned a potential visit of the Heacham Brownies to Hunstanton cliffs in October 2019 for fossil hunting.

14. HCS Talks – Nothing to report.

15. HCS Outings –the last outing for 2019 will be Oxburgh Hall on 24th September.

16. Historic Towns & Villages Trail – Nothing to report.

17. Twinning Sign on A149 North of Lighthouse Lane – In process. **Action: JM**

19. Town Centre (and High Street) and how to improve character and appearance – JM stated that some businesses on the High Street are encroaching beyond their brick weave boundary with chairs, tables and/or A boards. No decision was taken as to whether HCS should write to HTC or BCKLWN about this.

20. Future use of Valentine Centre and former Primary School in Valentine Road – the current plan is for the library to be moved to Valentine Road, but only on a temporary basis whilst the new purpose built ground floor library/café with apartments above is constructed in the current Westgate location of the library. Once the library has been moved back to the new building in Westgate, the old primary school may be converted into apartments and/or some as yet undefined educational or other purpose. The sheds at the back of the school may be demolished. No planning permission has been received for such a project as yet.

AOB. None

Dates & venue for next HCS Committee Meeting: see below.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday 15 th October 2019	10am	Heritage Centre

JFB 27th August 2019
