

Hunstanton Civic Society

Minutes of Ordinary Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday 23 August 2011 at 10.00 am

in Large Meeting Room, Valentine Road

Present: Andrew Murray (Honorary Secretary), Anthony Gooch (Treasurer), Martin Chown, Brian Holmes, Ivy Scales

1. **Apologies:** JM, MB, NH.
2. **Minutes** of Meeting held on 20 July 2011 held over for approval and signing due to absence of Chairman.
3. **Secretary's Report.** As circulated, including report from Town Council and planning applications.
4. **Treasurer's Monthly Report.** CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) were requesting the annual subscription now due of £80. It was decided to withhold payment for discussion at the next meeting. Current a/c balance was presently £549.59 (allowing for £80 to CPRE) and deposit a/c £7,822.94.
5. **Report from Green and Pier Sub-Committee.** Not available.
6. **Report from Heritage Sub-Committee.** BH showed Committee members a small Civic Society desk calendar with sepia photographs of historical Hunstanton scenes. Production costs were 100 for £248, 200 for £280, 500 for £558
7. **Report from Steering Committee.** Not available.
8. **Report from HCS Representative on the "In Bloom" Committee.** AM said that the results would be known in September and that the judges thought the town looked very smart. (It had been cleared up the night before but there were many cigarette butts). Cllr **Kate Dunbar** had made a proposal for a **Community Orchard**, perhaps near the Community Centre, and possibly also at other sites. MC pointed out trees once planted needed correct nurturing for their survival, necessitating an on-going commitment.
9. **Date of next meetings: Tuesday 20 September and Wednesday 19 October.**
10. **Any other Business:**

Town Greens: AM advised that the Open Spaces Society were engaged in a consultation about the specifications for **Town Greens**.

Incinerator: AM had written a personal letter to Norfolk County Council.

Mail Sorting Facilities: On recent proposals to close these facilities in local villages, AM said this could result in Post Office closures. (IS to enquire at Dersingham Post Office as to how they could be affected.) MC suggested that local response should be to preserve all facilities in Post Offices. He proposed that the Town Council and HCS should sponsor a meeting on the subject, ensuring that it was reported in the Lynn News. Hunstanton could lead the way by stating they did not wish to take the sorting business away from local villages. AM would endeavour to get the Town Council on board.

Footpaths and Street Lighting: Proposals to switch off street lights at night in residential areas, may shortly come into force.

Community Bus: Disappointingly, the new Community Bus had only five passengers on the first Thursday of service. AM said it could take a while for people to get used to using the service. The trial will last for 13 weeks.

Smithdon School Celebration Evening: AM reported there had been no replies to the invitation for Civic Society members to attend.

Civic Voice AGM in Sheffield : AM would probably attend this event to be held on

CPRE Open Buildings in Norfolk: HCS had been invited to their Supper in Dersingham. Tickets were £12. Anyone wishing to attend should let AM know.

Confidential TC report: At the last Committee Meeting on 20 July, Carol Bower and Elaine Clutton of the Town Council were present and noticed that we had a TC confidential report. AM thought it had come from Chris Bamfield of the Borough Council and that he had been told it was no longer confidential.

Tourist Information Centre. AM reported that there were proposals to change the TIC part of the Town Hall.

FILM: BH showed a film on various HCS projects:

Chapel Bank Shelter: BH displayed the shelter in its neglected state. AM advised that he and JM had been to see Old Hunstanton Parish Council, who had finally decided they wished to save the shelter (which was being used by drug addicts) and had contacted a relative of the Gray family in Cambridge. A quote for repairs had been received for £4000. AM believed it could be done for less. He knew a carpenter who could look at the roof to see if water had got in. MC asked whether the shelter could be moved; MB had suggested a site near the lighthouse. AM had asked Old Hunstanton Parish Council about the latter suggestion but had not yet received a reply, though we had obtained a six-month stay of execution. Anyone wishing to could contribute towards converting it into a bus shelter, which design could be replicated for use at other bus stops. MC suggested providing publicity for the project by involving Norfolk Green, the Town Council, the Borough Council and other community interests. AM would write to Ben Coulson, Chairman of Norfolk Green.

Projects Priorities: MC proposed presenting members with a list of current projects for evaluating in order of priority. This was agreed.

Coal Shed Gallery: BH showed a view of the Gallery with a colourful poster of Hunstanton taken from the pier. This poster was to be framed and fixed on the Gallery wall facing the sea. The small garden was to be renovated with the upturned boat removed and more suitable plants installed. BH was not happy with the present name of the gallery and AM suggested changing it to "Coal Office Exhibition Centre".

Neolithic Site, 3500-2500 BC: The location was clearly displayed, on the slope near the water tower, alongside Redgate Hill. Next year will be the 40th anniversary of its discovery. BH showed a small, illustrative sign he had created, for display on the roadside. *{Andrew – which road will it be displayed on, please?}*. BH drew attention to a book of the excavations and suggested we should make a small booklet to be available in the Tourist Information Centre.

Henry Styleman Le Strange Statue: BH showed a view of the proposed statue, the upper part of the seated subject. Michael Meakin, the present owner of the estate, was now keen for the statue to be made and had suggested a site on the grass in front of the Princess Theatre, looking out across the Green to the Wash. With 2012 being the 150th anniversary of the coming of the railway to Hunstanton, time was running out to get the statue in place in time.

Hunstanton St Edmund: BH provided an illustration of the town shield surrounded by the proposed “new” name.