

## HUNSTANTON CIVIC SOCIETY – MINUTES 14 July 2008

Executive Committee Meeting held at Valentine Road, 11.15am

Present: Roy Clark (Chair) David Jones (Vice-Chair) Ken Lawson (Treasurer), Martin Chown (Secretary), Brian Holmes, Margi Blunden, Max Thorne

### 1. APOLOGIES

Canny Jones, Eddie and Maria Rix, Gillian Lawson, Andrew Murray, Patricia Maiden

### 2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING MATTERS ARISING

These were generally agreed and signed by Roy Clark as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

### 3. SECRETARY'S REPORT/ TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary has already circulated to Committee members a report of the recent informal meeting with Council Chief Exec, **Ray Harding**. The outcomes were the re-instatement of a place for HCS on the Regeneration Group, support for HCS aspiration for the new Town Square in the Spinney, the Lavender Fields idea surrounding the Community Centre. Also support for a storage area for artefacts at Valentine Road, and further informal meetings in the future.

Secretary reported receipt of a letter from **Cllr Richard Searle** who was disappointed with the recent report from the Civic Society in the Newsletter regarding Councillors attendance at the Society to explain the new parking charges and the reason for their introduction. The Committee decided that we should write and thank him for his letter and that his views have been noted.

Also a letter from Henry Bellingham MP offering a date in August for a meeting between himself and Council Leader Nick Daubney. We to ask for any date in August.

Finally a letter from Mrs Jill Durne offering the Society a teak bench dedicated to her grandmother Mercy Gray, originally donated by the clients of the Le Strange Arms. She would be happy for the Society to site it in the Esplanade Gardens, or somewhere appropriate. The problem would be transport from Cambridge. It was agreed to write to the Council and see if they could help, and to write back to thank Mrs Durne for her consideration. Mercy Gray also has her name on the shelter at Chapel Bank

**Treasurer report sent round.** Despite the success of the venue for the Summer Lunch, the event made a small loss of £29.50, being the gratuity paid out.

The amount available for spending on the Interpretation boards was clarified as £3,600.

### 4. GROUP UPDATES

**Heritage sub Committee:** The Group report had been sent round. They had decided on one extra board at St Edmund's Point. This board has yet to be designed, but the Group said they were on course for completion.

Secretary reported that the Council were likely to come back with a reduced rental for the storage of the artifacts at Valentine Road, proposed initially as £150 pa. This rental was, of course, beyond the budget of the Society.

**Planning sub Committee:** Prior to this meeting, the majority of the Committee met with conservation officer John Selby. He reported that the prosecution case had been written up in the case of the unauthorised demolition of the garage site near the Princes Theatre.

There has been more discussion regarding the Town Square idea, which fits in with the BDP proposals for regeneration. We understand that the County is also likely to be positive. HCS have been encouraged to write around to generate support for the idea, which could see a consultant

engaged to draw the proposal towards the end of the year. The caveat is that the project, along with Lavender Fields, could be affected by local government re-organisation.

There was also discussion regarding the informal contact with the architects over their controversial proposals for a landmark building on the Kit Kat site. John Maiden is representing the Society at the Conservation Area Advisory Panel this week, where there will be further discussions of the proposal. Although the site is not in the conservation area, it is an important indicator for future development of the South Prom and beach area. The vision is to improve the quality of the South Beach, John Selby assured the group.

Roy Clark reported that we still needed the section 123 notice regarding the proposed changes to the Seagate car park. John Maiden mentioned the issue of work being carried out without permission, with retrospective permission sought.

## **5. CONSTITUTION**

David Jones reported that little more work remains to be done. Problem was how to present it to the membership. After some discussion it was decided to invite a lay member at the first meeting to go through it. Initially a letter outlining the changes would go to the membership with the Programme, and the full version Constitution would be available for inspection.

Among the changes are the abolition of post of Vice Chair and reduction of minimum number of Trustees to administer the Society. Guidelines from the Charity Commission require not less than three Trustees. The Chair of the Society would have no power other than to run the meeting. All details of membership fees would be removed from the Constitution to bye laws.

## **6. UPDATE ON BCKLWN CABINET DECISIONS ON PIER/GREEN**

Some discussion regarding the technicalities behind the removal by the Council of an 'anomaly' being the legal changes proposed by Cabinet. John Maiden said that he felt the description of anomaly was an understatement, he felt the council was attempting to get away from the idea that their legal services manager had previously said that the disposal of land was unlawful. None of the legal opinions produced evidence to contradict the statement. All felt that the Society needed to move forward in what is seen as an impasse situation, but with the proviso that the strength of feeling within the membership, and previously demonstrated by residents of Hunstanton, cannot be ignored. It was decided that John would gather a sub committee from within the membership, and a similar sub committee formed for the following item 7 Green Spaces.

## **7. GREEN SPACES – see above**

## **8. FUTURE EVENTS etc**

David Jones suggested a different colour or photo for the Programme sheet to differentiate it from last year. Brian Holmes and Ken Lawson to decide and deal. An initial budget of £50.00 was suggested, with Treasurer not objecting, for Brian Holmes to construct a portable display board for the type of historical photos used in the Coal Shed exhibition.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Max Thorne presented a paper with proposals for a Hunstanton Social Day coming up in September based on golf, to bring together Societies and Associations as a social event, and to donate a percentage of proceeds to a Hunstanton cause.

John Maiden commented on the sad death of Betty Turnbull, and Ken Lawson said he would write to Mary Rhodes on behalf of the Society.

Meeting closed at 12.45pm

**DATE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – Monday 18 August 2008, 10.00am at  
VALENTINE ROAD**

**IF ANY CIVIC SOCIETY MEMBER WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE NEXT EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE MEETING AS AN OBSERVER, PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY. YOU WILL  
BE VERY WELCOME**

**Martin Chown 01485 532223 OR [martin.chown@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.chown@btinternet.com)**

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