

## HUNSTANTON CIVIC SOCIETY – MINUTES for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>. January 2010

### Executive Committee Meeting held at Valentine Road at 11.30 am

Present: Martin Chown (Chairman), Margi Blunden, Carol Bower, Susan Boxell, Anthony Gooch, Brian Holmes, David Jones, Ken Lawson (Treasurer), John Maiden, Andrew Murray ( Hon. Sec), Margaret Robinson, Miss Ivy Scales and Cllr. John Smith.

In Attendance - Kate Drewell, Canny Jones (part) Cllr. Christine Earnshaw and Michael Ruston,

1. **Apologies** - Roy Clark and Jilly Hall,
2. **Welcome** - Mrs. Carol Bower and Miss Ivy Scales were welcomed to their first committee meeting.
3. **Minutes** of Meeting held on 17 December 2009 were signed by Chairman as a true record.
4. **Matters arising** - none
5. **Signing of Constitution** The new Constitution was signed by the Chairman and Secretary. A copy with the minutes of the SGM will be sent to the Charity Commission.
6. **Treasurer's Report** - Report previously circulated.
7. **Secretary's Report** –
  - Unitary Authority proposals** – Copy of letter from Cllr. Nick Daubney and Mr. Ray Harding opposing the unitary proposal was circulated
  - Submission to Shoreline Management Group.** The Civic Society has sent in a submission accompanied by an aerial photograph of the cliffs showing preferential erosion north of the promenade.
  - Response to Planning Application and Reply from Sonny Karanjia.** Mr Karanjia has expressed his surprise and disappointment that the Society decided to oppose the proposed development of the Kit Kat site.
  - Birmingham Civic journal – Perspectives.** Received
  - CPRE – Fieldwork 2010 – Countryside manifesto.** Received
  - Soundness of Submission Document of Core Strategy** – may need sub-group to formulate response.
8. **Report form Town Council Meetings / Liaison with Borough** – Presented by Carol Bower - see attached synopsis
9. **Update on School liaison / Engagement of Young People** - nothing to report
10. **Report from Heritage sub-committee**
  - a. It was agreed that if John Smith is able to do a presentation during the meeting at the RIBA in London on February 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>. concerning the Heritage Plaques, the Society should pay £ 50 towards his travel and other expenses.
  - b. A letter is to be sent to the Chief Education Officer in Norwich and the Headmaster seeking permission to visit and photograph the Infant School.
  - c. Mike Ruston's idea of using an empty shop as temporary heritage centre or possibly to have a window display was discussed. Mr. Ruston to clarify position on payment of business rates. A charity automatically gets 80% rate rebate but BC may give the other 20%. KL knows of a shop with a display.
  - d. Civic Society wishes to co-ordinate with other groups to support the Princess Theatre
  - e. HCS is participating in Wash Week 7-15<sup>th</sup>. August and plans to use the Coal Shed Gallery for an exhibition of photographs and geological specimens. A guided walk along the beach and under the cliffs has been suggested.

- f. As a number of the streets are named after people who have had important connections with the town, a booklet is to be produced to provide their biographical details.
- g. JS is to see a printer next week with a view to arranging a re-print of the book on Geology of the Cliffs and surrounding area by Mr. James Frederick Jackson and originally published in 1911.
- h. JS is researching and intending to publish a pamphlet about stained glass that is incorporated in several Hunstanton houses.
- j. JS is organising a Quiz for St. Edmund's Church
- k. HCS is to provide the wording for 2 new interpretation boards. One is about the geology of the cliffs and the second about the legend of St. Edmund and the wolf.
- l. Mr. Bamfield suggested that the Civic Society might organise a street by street clean up in conjunction with Britain in Bloom
- m. Mr. Bamfield said that the Borough Council would work with HCS to replace shelters and seats on the cliff top.
- n. Mr. Bamfield informed us that information boards were to be provided beside the payment machines for the car parks and that there was to be a new flag pole. He also discussed the proposal for the Town Council to share the management of The Green and a new parking order relating to the parking of motor cycles

**11. Report from The Pier and Green** No news so far from NCC regarding registration.

The only document that regulates the use of the Green is the Covenant of 1955.

Mr. Potter, former legal services manager, held that the selling off of part of The Green in 2003 was unlawful.

Although a Deed of Variation has been signed it infringes the covenant. There has not been a Deed of Variation agreed with the le Strange estate.

The motor cyclists may be able to claim that they have been parking on an area of The Green 'as of right' for at least the last 20 years and should be able to continue so to do without charge.

**12. Response to the Civic Initiative – Time to Decide**

There has been widespread agreement that some sort of body is needed to represent the Civic movement at a national level and as a source of accurate information and help for local societies. The present funding of the Civic Initiative ceases in May. A debate was held about the level of funding that HCS should provide to support a new organization bearing in mind that we do not yet know how it might function or be governed. Some of our members might resign if our membership fees are increased.

A proposal to contribute £1 per member was approved by 10 votes with 3 abstentions. A counter proposal to contribute £ 1.50 per member was passed unanimously.

**13. Allocation of Responsibilities to members of the Committee**

The following committee members agreed to serve on sub-committees

**Heritage** - MB, SB, BH, JS, JM.

**Pier & Green** - JM, BH, DJ, AG, MC, IS.

**Steering** - ad hoc –officers & DJ, BH, JS.

**Talks & Hall** - BH, DJ, KL, MR.

**Planning Applications** - AM, MC, SB and possibly JH.

**14. Dates & Times of future committee meetings Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. March**

**15. AOB** Mr. Ruston wished to clarify aspects of the societies aims. He said that he thought that on occasions HCS strays into areas that it should not. He felt that regeneration should be the remit of the Town Council. DJ referred him to our constitution which states that we should act as a coordinating body and cooperate with all statutory bodies. AG said that he was concerned about the inference that HCS is straying. He considered that the SOS signs in the shop windows were a sign of no confidence in HTC and the Borough Council. He was appalled that the Hunstanton Accommodation Association is to have an emergency meeting with a view to disbanding.

Kate Drewell said that she was intrigued by how much the Civic Society is involved in.

Cllr. Earnshaw will send information about changes to the route of the Coastal Path.

**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**  
**Andrew Murray 01485 532376**

### **Hunstanton Town Council – Report to HCS by Mrs Carol Bower**

#### December 11<sup>th</sup>

B Cllr Watson reported that new proposals for the route of The Coastal Path had been revealed.

Consideration was being given to the installation of fountains on the seafront.

C Cllr Bett said plans were available for an alternative crossing on the A149 near to Nursery Drive

Indiscriminate parking throughout Hunstanton discussed, including shop keepers parking all day in High Street  
Skate Board ramps to be moved from Recreation Ground to a part of the Southend Car Park

#### January 6<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Chris Holt, Hunstanton Tennis Tournament organiser explained that this was the biggest tournament in the country with over 1000 competitors and 4000 supporters. A detailed code of conduct both on and off the courts was sent to all entrants. He needed the names of wrong doers so action could be taken.

He thought that behaviour had been the best for years this year but Norfolk Green was considering abandoning services during tennis week.

Alan King said that Boots in Hunstanton out sold all other branches Morning after pills.

The construction of the cycle track up the Redgate Hill may mean that access to the Huggins field will be facilitated for social housing development.

Letter to BC re importance of Pantomime to the Town. It would cost £1/4m to convert Corn Exchange for pantomimes.

£10,000 available soon for improvements to crossing A149 near Nursery Drive but it would cost £50,000 for full crossing.

100 complaints received re state of footpaths. Grit bins cost £200 -£ 400 but are filled by NCC for  
Childrens' event discos are really successful

#### January 15<sup>th</sup>

B Cllr Watson – Hunstanton invited to enter Britain in Bloom. She will be meeting the new judges in York.

Plan to build a viewing platform on North Promenade in March.

Town Council surgeries to be reduced to 1 hour/ month. Possible to share the time with other organisations eg. Police, Citizens Advice, Patients support Group

Letter sent to MP suggesting change in Law to encourage residents to sweep snow away from the pavements.