

Hunstanton Civic Society

Ordinary Executive Meeting Tuesday 14 August 2012 at 9.15 am In Large Meeting Room, Valentine Road

Present: Andrew Murray (Chairman and Interim Secretary), Anthony Gooch (Treasurer), Margi Blunden, Sue Boxell, Norma Ham, John Maiden, Ivy Scales

- 1. Apologies:** None.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 17 July** were approved and signed after amendment to item 5 to the effect that Cruso & Wilkin manage (not own) the upper part of the Green for the Le Strange estate.
- 3. Secretary's Report and matters arising. Sheepfield.** Previously a burial ground, it was released from that status in 1921. Matthew Henry from the BC was checking on a claim by a Hunstanton resident that it had been bequeathed to the town by the Le Strange estate, which would prevent Tesco from buying part of it from the Borough Council for a car park (subject to planning permission). **Tesco** intend to lower the level of the sheepfield so that the car park will be almost level and they will erect a retaining wall around its perimeter. **McCarthy & Stone** made a presentation to the Regeneration Group about them building a 'Later Living' residential care behind Harlequin House and also possibly an 'Assisted Living Extra Care' home on the old garage site. Although the approach of the firm to care of the elderly is good, neither of the sites seem suitable for their purposes. **Marston Brewery Restaurant/Pub.** Plans submitted to the Borough Council would be discussed at a meeting of the HTC at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 22 August. They would require a minimum of 623/maximum 678 square feet of floor space and besides the pub/restaurant they envisioned space for 51 parked cars and ancillary residential accommodation. MB said that the company had not taken our concerns into account with regard to preserving the rail-track bed. AM suggested that removal of the "slow down" lane for entry into the Southend Road carpark and widening the southern end of the pavement would provide space for a cycle track which could become a future rail track. JM pointed out that this would not be wide enough. MB proposed that a complaint should be made to the BC to the effect that they had misled Marstons who were under the impression that the railhead had actually been opposite where Teesco was now, whereas it had actually been behind the since-demolished Sandringham Hotel (presently Harlequin House). JM suggested that Marstons could buy that site for the proposed pub/restaurant.
- 4. Treasurer's Report.** Current a/c £1,477.52, deposit a/c £7,331.98, total assets £8,318.18.
- 5. Report from Green and Pier Sub-Committee.** JM reported that the BC had still not agreed that the Recreation Ground and the Spinney could be included along with the Upper Green as QEII Fields. Charles le Strange, heir to the estate, had stated to JM that he had no plans to build on the Recreation Ground. JM said that Cllr Nockolds was to write to Cruso & Wilkin (Managers of the Upper Green for the le Strange estate) to say that the Borough Council had no objection to the Recreation Ground and the Upper Green having the status of QEII Fields.

6. Report from Heritage Sub-Committee. The Leaflet for the **Ibberson houses** was in progress, as was information for the **Town Tour** on Heritage Sunday 9 September. **Reis Leming Way.** RL would arrive in Hunstanton on 10 November, along with representatives of the USAF 67th Air-Sea Rescue Squadron from Mildenhall, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Squadron's founding. Chris Bamfield had given permission for the "Reis Leming Way" sign to have an Interpretation Board affixed, explaining RL's life-saving actions in the floods of the night of 31 January 1953. Also, the Squadron's historian would need to be requested to supply their official insignia for the board. The Borough Council would pay for the sign; HCS would cover the cost of the interpretation board. JM had spoken to Hunstanton Lions Club, who would like to make contact with the Lions Club in Bend, Oregon, RL's home town. JM would like the Rotary Club to be involved. The American Embassy have stated their interest also. Appeals for funds may have to be made in order to up-grade RL's flight to business class.

7. Arrangements for Railway Exhibition, 10th and 80th Anniversaries. Brian Holmes could not continue to lead the Exhibition, though presently all was in hand and he would be contacting all exhibitors. A new set of exhibition boards had been ordered by the Town Hall Manager. A method of affixing display material to them without damaging the boards had to be found. JM suggested Velcro strips. **HCS 10th Anniversary.** AM enquired as to whether anyone knew the exact date of the founding.

8. Report from In Bloom – Regeneration and the Spinney. The In Bloom Committee met on 3 August and considered that everything had gone very well. They would be asking Richard Fisher, BC Tree Officer, to arrange the planting of some suitable trees for the Green. **Spinney.** The trees were a mixture of sycamore and smooth-leaved elms. A report had been made by Ravenscroft, commissioned by the BC that recommended cutting down the sycamores as they had not been well managed. AM was not impressed with the report and thought that we should seek the opinion of Richard Fisher.

9. Dates of next Committee Meetings – Tuesday 11 September and 9 or 10 October (depending on whether C Bamfield could attend).

10. AOB. SB would not be available to record attendances on 13 September for the Battle of Britain talk, nor the Railway Exhibition from 2-4 October.