

Hunstanton Civic Society

Ordinary Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 12 March 2013 in Large Committee Room, Valentine Road, Hunstanton

Present: Committee members:- Andrew Murray (Chairman), Anthony Gooch (Treasurer), Sue Boxell, Norma Ham, Ivy Scales, Ann Stevens Guest:- John Maiden,

Apologies. Margi Blunden, Martin Chown, Valerie Everitt & Penelope Pinder,

Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2013 were amended and a revised version would be issued by AM.

Secretary's Report and Matters Arising.

Planning Applications and Developments

Pier Amusements Centre. Their application to re-site an ice-cream cone and three advertisement boards to the south side of the building had been approved under delegated authority by the Borough Council. The Town Council had objected.

Spinney. AM said that the NCC Highways proposals were unsatisfactory in that they permitted vehicles to go over the top part of the Spinney (performance area) to exit onto Westgate. He would write on behalf of the Civic Society requesting a rethink.

Recreation Ground Crossing. NCC Highways has allocated money for a crossing on the A149 to the recreation ground, type unknown. AM considers that a pelican similar to the one near Smithdon is needed.

Incinerator. Public Inquiry underway. See Hayes & Storr website for updates.

Meetings and Events

HCS Talk Wednesday 20 March. The subject will now be on the transformation of Cromer and Sheringham from small fishing villages to thriving seaside resorts.

Correspondence

McCarthy & Stone residence for elderly people on old garage site. Valerie Everitt, Penny Pinder and John Maiden attended the meetings on 19 February. The building would be higher than the Princess Theatre. JM said it would change the look of the street. He would prefer the building to be of car stone. The home would be run by McCarthy & Stone, for independent residents without a full-time warden. (The earlier plan had been for non-mobile people).

Petition from High Street Traders. AM showed a petition he had received, requesting that money allocated for the Spinney enhancement should be spent on improving the High Street. AM pointed out that the difference in level of the two sides and the pronounced camber of the road would make any alteration very difficult and expensive. He would be speaking to Sandra from Chives who organised the petition.

Chapel Bank Shelter. Chris Bamfield had advised that the area near the Lighthouse proposed for the new location of the shelter may be part of NCC Highways and we would need to approach Karl Rands in the first instance.

Neolithic Site. Chris Bamfield had sent an e-mail with illustrations of large chunks

of carstone in the BC Works Dept that we could have free to denote the site. Firmstone had larger chunks. AM would talk to Brian Holmes for help in designing a suitable plaque for attaching to the chosen stone.

New book on North-West Norfolk Railways. Richard Adderson was working on the book and would like to use some of the photos from the HCS Railway Exhibition of last autumn. AM would talk to Brian Holmes.

Replacement Interpretation Boards. Arien Designs Ltd in Cheddar, Somerset were specialists in signage. JM advised that he had been in touch with another firm in King's Lynn used by the Borough Council. We would need to obtain quotes from both. AM would do an audit of the Boards.

Treasurer's Monthly Report. Current a/c £2,410.16, deposit a/c £7,364.66, making total assets £9,774.82. AG reported that his private account and the HCS account at Barclays were "linked". AM asked that AG request that this link be broken. If not, then perhaps HCS should move its account to, say, Nationwide. AM would also like to know who were the official cheque signatories. He enquired as to whether Fergal McLellan would be the auditing the HCS accounts.

Report from Heritage Sub-Committee. IS advised that the leaflet on the buildings designed or influenced by Herbert G Ibberson (Arts and Craft movement) had been printed and paid for. Samples would be taken to the houses featured. Copies were available from the TIC

Consideration of offer to lease the Coal Shed Gallery. Chris Bamfield had advised that the BC had received a request to lease the CSG to a Kite-Surfing School. AM would let him know that HCS had now received an alternative offer which we hoped to accept. This offer concerned No 15, The Green and comprised the empty former shop "Value for Money". The owners, Derk and Solveig Ward, lived above the shop. It was situated adjacent to the Princess Theatre in a prominent position overlooking The Green. There were 150 sq metres of floor space and access to a toilet might be achieved by knocking through a wall. The owners were not asking for rent or insurance costs at this stage. They would need us to sign a form to allow business rate relief. (JM would be picking up such a form from the BC that afternoon). AM supposed that the lighting would need improvement for optimum display purposes. (The Coal Shed Gallery had been excellent in this regard). AG referred to various insurance aspects which we would need. Opening times would be decided later. JM would like to see a joint effort with the BC and TIC.

Report from the Green & Pier Sub-Committee.

QEII Fields Challenge. Chris Bamfield had finally conceded to most of what JM wanted, though not the Promenade. This was not important. The L'Estrange Estate would still not agree to allow inclusion of the Recreation Ground.

Pier Entertainments Centre lease authenticity. JM had received a letter from Henry Bellingham who would be meeting with Mr Moreton, owner of the building, concerning the Deed of Variation, which had removed the liability of building a pier. Lisa Powell had written on this subject to Nick Daubney in November 2012. No reply had been received. JM would like to know how much Mr Moreton would be prepared to sell the building for. AG would like him to consider a claim for Specific Performance. Such an idea might make him nervous.

John Maiden to be co-opted onto Executive Committee? He had not stood for re-election at the AGM and had resigned as a trustee. (All Executive Committee members are trustees). He needed the authority to represent HCS and also some official protection. The matter would be discussed further with JM.

Report from In-Bloom. Tamarisk trees would be planted on The Green in holes already dug on Tuesday 19 March. The HCS cost £95

“Freedom of Hunstanton” for USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron. SB asked what date had been fixed for the ceremony, in order for timely planting of the raised bed garden outside the TIC. JM advised that the date would be Sunday 2 June.

Dates of next Committee meetings Tuesdays 9 April and 14 May.