

Hunstanton Civic Society

Ordinary Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 9.15 am

In Large Committee Meeting, Valentine Road, Hunstanton

Present: Committee - Andrew Murray (Chairman and Interim Secretary), Anthony Gooch (Treasurer), Margi Blunden, Sue Boxell, Martin Chown, Valerie Everitt, Norma Ham, Ivy Scales and Ann Stevens

Guests - Brian Holmes and John Maiden,

- **Apologies:** Penelope Pinder.

- **Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 30 April 2013 and Matters Arising.** Were read out and AM would circulate them to members. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2013 had been circulated but were read out.

- **Secretary's Report and Matters Arising.**

- **Planning Applications and Developments.** The Spinney - A donation of £3,000 had been promised by the Rotary club towards a memorial for Richard Searle. MC suggested a statue of Henry Le Strange instead but this had previously failed to gain approval. An inscription is needed for a wall, AM wondered whether Henry had made a pertinent comment in his planning of the town of Hunstanton. The author of "A Fine Strong Boy", Kath Fryer was presently searching for any such remark in old papers of the Le Strange estate. BH reported that the new tenants of the Coal Shed Gallery had put up a sign on the wall of the building advertising their Surfing business.

- **Treasurer's Report.** Current a/c £1,978.08, including £291.89 ring-fenced for the Chapel Bank Shelter project; deposit a/c £7,376.85; total assets £9,353.93. MB queried the Lockton Companies LLP "broad" **insurance** entry under "Bank Activities". AG explained that the insurance was arranged through membership of Civic Voice, this was legal cover and public liability cover, which we had elected two years ago to take out under Society Broad Insurance. AG said we were due to pay our **subscription to Civic Voice** at £1.50 per member. AG would shortly be making a further claim on **Gift Aid**. Concerning the **Chapel**

Bank Shelter project, Old Hunstanton Parish Council had written to the Town Council offering to contribute the amount they had earmarked for demolition, towards the moving costs - £700 or perhaps £900. We should apply for further funds. BH asked whether the Town Council had mentioned the **two shelters very near the cliff edge**. Could they not all be moved together? AG enquired whether the Chapel Bank Shelter was insured by Hunstanton Parish. AM thought not. Old Hunstanton would be liable. Once moved it would be insured by the Town Council, who were responsible for all the shelters (bus, etc). AM suggested inviting Chris Bamfield to discuss the subject on Wednesday 12 June. BH said the matter should be sorted out by the Borough Council. MC asked whether if time was an issue we could move the shelter quickly. AM advised this would not be possible without funds. He mentioned that the person presently sleeping rough in the shelter was leaving a lot of litter around. MC wondered if the Focus Group could send out letters appealing for funds to move the shelter. AM pointed out that it had to be moved in one piece and could not be cut up as it would never fit together again properly. A crane and a flat-bed truck would be required, plus support for the shelter's sides. Chris Bamfield would advise on the location of the concrete base. AG had read in the property section of the insurance schedule that we were insured for £10,000, including buildings, with £1,000 excess. He wondered whether that would include the shelter.

- **Report from Heritage Sub-Committee** – MB said that the Committee had not met for some time. The next Leaflet to be produced would be either on the subject of Henry Le Strange or the Old Windmill at Ringstead. The Sub-Committee was arranging a **visit to the William Morris Museum in Walthamstow**, East London on 25 September. Travel would be by Harrods Coaches, leaving Hunstanton 08.00 am, arriving back at approximately 6.30-7.00 pm. Cost of tickets £18 for members, £21 for guests. The visit would serve as a prelude to the January 2014 Talk on Ibberson and the Arts and Crafts Movement. It could be opened up to the King's Lynn Civic Society. AM would mention it at the Talk tomorrow evening.

- **Lease of Premises on the Green.** AM reported that Solveig Ward had given him an envelope containing a proposed lease drawn up by solicitors Downs of Dorking. He read out the document, which stated that the tenant would pay the landlord's legal fees. The Hunstanton Heritage Centre Trust (HHCT) would need up to £1,000 setting up expenses. AG said that the separate Charity, when set up, could apply to HCS for funds, in effect a sum of money to "float the boat". How the HHCT got to that point would be their responsibility. There were so many issues that they would have to take over and deal with themselves. HCS could serve as a sounding board, etc, and give a cheque when they were ready for it. MC thought of asking 25 or so people who were willing to go ahead if they could donate to the start up fund. AG said that if enough was donated in the Centre it could be

self funding. VE thought that we should give the £1,000 because it was for all of us in HCS and that we had only “branched off” into a separate charity in order to create a Heritage Centre. AG agreed, stating that we were all in favour but the new Centre could not be managed within the HCS Executive Committee. AM said that a separate bank account would be required. The Charities Commission did not wish to register organisations if the income was less than £5,000. MB asked if HCS gave £1,000 would that end the responsibilities of paying for electricity, etc? AM replied that HHCT might need to apply to HCS for future funds. AG said that once the HHCT had been split away with all its issues, all that HCS would need to deal with would be applications for further funds, e.g. “small shop” insurance such as his own, which was about £400. Leasing agreements were not specially designed for charities. HCS had only one consideration, even if we had kept HHCT “in house” it would still need funds. SB asked if we were prepared to fund it. AS asked if we could raise money in the Centre. AM replied we could, if for HCS objectives. MC said that if we were approached by another bid for funding we would want to know what their business plan was. SB, quoting from Ken Lawson, former Treasurer, it said that as a charity it did not allow us to trade. AG stated that such a stipulation would be dropped from the Constitution. MB enquired whether donations would be coming in all year round. AM replied that they would be seasonal. SB quoted from a document of Ken Lawson dated 26.8.2010: “Remember, unplanned expenditure leads to financial failure. Overstated income is the failing of many other undertakings.” MB asked about annual costs to which AM replied that this was not yet known, but would include such items as insurance (separate from HCS), electricity bills, etc. MB said we were being asked for something uncertain. She would like some acknowledgement from the people who want to run the Centre. Likewise for the Chapel Bank Shelter. We were being asked to make a decision based on uncertain knowledge, to make a leap in the dark. Money sitting in the CCLA account was dwindling. MC said that we were all trustees and the accounts were our responsibility. There was a discussion about how HCS had been able to build up its funds in the past 10 years. MC said that if HHCT produced a business plan we could talk about match funding. We needed to be very clear about what we were dealing with. MB asked who would bear responsibility if HCS couldn't pay. AG said it would be the trustees. HCS responsibility ended with a cheque to HHCT. He estimated that HHCT would need up to £1,000 to start up. If a year later they asked for £600 more it would be reasonable. MC asked if that meant we were looking at 25% of HCS funds. AM said this was so. AG asked AM if he had investigated HHCT co-operating with businesses in the town who might make a display for sponsorship purposes. AM replied that it was not clear as to whether we could. MC said that we still did not know if we could generate income. JM declared he was appalled. If we had a good Centre we would be more likely to get funds. The offer of 15 The Green was a real opportunity. AG said we were committed. HCS was only concerned with funds. HHCT would run itself. JM proposed that if it didn't work after one year we should “put a cap on it”. AM stated his feeling was that if the Centre did not go ahead HCS might as well give up.

MB said it was our responsibility to the members. AM suggested that as we could not progress perhaps we should move on to other issues. AG said that a decision that committed the Committee to £1,000 in principle was for getting the Centre “off the ground”. We could not go forward with our eyes closed. The formal proposal would be that the Committee agreed in principle to the provision of a £1,000 unconditional donation. MC said that in relation to that, it would be better if HHCT presented their business plan. AM stated that the Centre needed to have its own administration. It was complicated and there were legal obligations. In the meantime we could provide funds to get it going. The proposal was agreed in principle.

- **Report from the Green and Pier Sub-Committee – QEII Fields Challenge.** JM having left, it was agreed to re-join the Green and Pier Sub-Committee to the Heritage Sub-Committee.

- **Report from In Bloom.** SB said there had been no meeting since the last report. Regarding the **Amiens** project, the In-Bloom Chairman had said she hoped that everyone would be supportive when the project came to Hunstanton. AM asked SB to keep an eye on the Coal Shed Gallery garden and the Compass Garden near the lighthouse.

- **Civic Day 22 June. Fossil hunt? Heritage Open Day, September.** AM said that if we made progress with opening the Centre at 15 The Green we could perhaps stage a **Civic Day** event there. For the **Fossil Hunt**, IS would ask a geologist friend if she would be willing to participate. As for the **Heritage Open Day** in September, it was unlikely we would do anything this year.

- **New Talks Organiser.** AS was interested in taking on this role. She would confer with BH.

- **Dates of next committee meetings – 11 or 12 June, 9 or 10 July.**