

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Cedar Court Hotel Harrogate on Saturday 31st January 2015.

1. Present

Almost 60 members and guests were present, representing 25 YHACS member societies, Civic Voice, and HLF. A full list appears at Appendix A.

2. Apologies for Absence

See Appendix A

3. Minutes of the AGM 25.01.14

These were proposed by Peter Spawforth of Wakefield Civic Society, seconded by Lynda Kitching of Leeds Civic Trust, and approved by the meeting.

6. Matters Arising.

There were none.

7. Annual Report.

Kevin Trickett presented the annual report, which had been circulated in advance, together with a forward look for YHACS for 2015.

8. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 2014 were explained and questions of the Treasurer invited. There being none, the Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were proposed by Colin Berry from Spen Valley Civic Society, seconded by Adrian Perry from Scarborough Civic Society and approved by the meeting.

9. Election of Officers

The following officers were nominated and elected unopposed by the meeting:-

Chairman	Kevin Trickett
Vice Chair	David Moss
Treasurer	Richard Ward
Secretary	Helen Kidman

10. Election of Executive Committee

The following committee members were nominated and elected unopposed by the meeting:-

Kevin Grady
Margaret Clarke
Malcolm Sharman
David Winpenny
Tony Leonard
Jim Robinson

Any potential executive committee members are invited to express their interest in serving to any existing member of the committee, at any time during the year.

11. Election of President

Peter Cooper was nominated and elected unanimously by the meeting.

12. Any Other Business

Thanks were offered to the committee for their efforts throughout the year.

Members' Meeting

GUEST SPEAKER JOAN HUMBLE, CIVIC VOICE TRUSTEE

Joan introduced the Civic Voice Manifesto, *Localism for Real*, which has been produced in advance of the general election. Civic Voice has taken the lead in articulating what civic societies across the country want: a common voice on issues such as the protection of heritage, local lists, heritage plans, conservation officers and local issues.

She said that some local authorities still don't have a local plan and do not consult effectively and that civic societies had a role here to ensure better arrangements, notwithstanding the impact of government cuts

The manifesto will be launched at Westminster in February but societies are urged to use the document to lobby existing MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates and ensure that they are aware of the importance of civic issues at the election. Societies were encouraged to attend hustings meetings or even hold their own.

For more details there is a longer version of the manifesto on CV's website – this has more on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which CV wants reformed. CV wants all local authorities to produce a Place Strategy. Copies of *People, Place and Progress* are also available from CV.

GUEST SPEAKER - KATHARINE BOARDMAN, HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Katharine explained that the HLF funds heritage projects. Heritage is considered as more than buildings and can include people, places and communities, including archaeology and training. Grants of over £6bn have been awarded to date.

Two projects recently funded were the City Varieties at Leeds and the Royal Hall at Harrogate.

Projects need to be able to demonstrate that they make a difference and Katharine stressed the importance of outcomes when HLF evaluates applications. Projects can record data, or interpret and explain heritage. Learning and involving volunteers are important.

Applicants do not have to be charities. They could be a parish council, a youth group or a private individual. Funds can be used to procure equipment or for volunteer travel expenses but cannot be used for running costs or staff salaries. There are 21

different programmes running at present – see the HLF website. Projects do not have to organise matched funding. Decisions on applications are usually made within eight weeks of submission.

World War 1 local history projects are popular opportunities at present and anything involving young people in heritage is encouraged. It has to be a project in which young people are interested. The project's commitment can include volunteer time.

Any applicant proposing a large project is recommended to contact HLF first. No grants are retrospective.

Katharine referred to a number of local initiatives which attracted funding, including a celebration of Georgian heritage at Beverley, the hidden heritage of Selby interpreted through a walking trail using QR codes and the oral history of allotments at Batley and Birstall, produced as a DVD. At Scarborough, reproductions of the town's art collection were displayed on the local streets with a trail and the prehistoric landscape was explored and recorded at Rudston including the well-known churchyard monolith.

End of project reporting is proportional to the size of the project but is key to the final draw-down of funds. HLF run surgeries around Yorkshire and in Leeds.

YHACS AWARDS

The annual awards were made to societies for outstanding activities between 01.10.13 and 30.09.14.

There had been a higher number of entries this time around when compared to the previous year, which was very pleasing. Entrants were: Barnsley, Beverley, Huddersfield, Hull, Ilkley, Pickering, Scarborough, Selby, Skipton and Wakefield. The awards presented were as follows:

- 1st Prize £250 and the Peter Spawforth Trophy: Selby Civic Society – for *Swanning around Selby*, town trail and local history research
- 2nd Prize £100 Scarborough Civic Society for a programme of projects to mark the Society's 50th anniversary
- 3rd Prize £50 Hull Civic Society – for their Heritage Open Days project and their 50th anniversary programme

Congratulations to all societies for their efforts. YHACS would like to see more entries from societies for 2015!

YHACS PORTFOLIOS

Kevin Trickett explained that the YHACS committee had decided to refresh the portfolio responsibilities and the draft outlines had now been agreed for each of the YHACS committee members. Executive members will research their topics and

feedback to YHACS members using meetings, newsletters and themed events. YHACS Members are encouraged to contact the portfolio holder on issues of interest or concern. The portfolio documents will be circulated for comment shortly.

Kevin Trickett	Strategy and Growth
Jim Robinson	Infrastructure
Richard Ward	Legal and Finance
Richard Ward and Peter Cooper	Towns and Cities, public realm
Helen Kidman	Planning
Margaret Clarke	Civic Pride
David Moss	Newsletter and communications strategy
Malcolm Sharman	Heritage and Culture

CIVIC VOICE REGIONAL FORUM

Helen Kidman represents YHACS at this committee. It is chaired by Tony Fooks from ANTAS (Association of North Thames Amenity Societies) with representatives from London, East and West Midlands, the North West and CV trustees, plus, at the last meeting, Freddie Gick and Ian Harvey from Civic Voice. Building the Civic Society movement is its main purpose. Representation is still an issue, particularly for NE and SW.

Current discussion includes:

Charitable Incorporation for Societies: Experience had shown that this could be expensive to do but the APPG is being asked to consider an easier system.

The Social Value Act 2012 'An Act to require public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts; and for connected purposes'. Designed to impact public sector procurement activity, there is some evidence of its use in planning by developers to *promote* development opposed locally. Societies will need to be able to quantify the social value, in monetary terms of proceeding with, or in certain cases not proceeding with, a proposed development. The Brentford Football Club case was cited.

The CV Planning Panel is currently not operative. Needs reviving and will need input from regions (not individual cases - policy and strategic level items only) Nominations are needed from societies and regional associations of strategic planners from regional associations. If retired, they must still be committed and up to date. To be effective the panel needs to align CV strategies with national issues. There is an issue with what Brandan Lewis has said about there being no need for Local Plans and to use the NPPF instead.

CV Events Calendar on website - Helen Kidman is coordinating for YHACS.

Civic Day will be on 20th June 2015.

The General Election The Civic Voice All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) will need to be re-established after the election, so societies will all need to contact their

(possibly new) MPs to encourage them to join it. The Civic Manifesto - *Localism for Real* should help to put over CV and society views.

Assets of Community Value

Pilot volunteers wanted – contact Ian Harvey at CV direct if interested.

Finally, societies were asked by Helen to consider:

- What issues do we need to take to the Regional Forum; and
- How can YHACS and societies support CV on the big issues?

GUEST SPEAKER JOHN KERSHAW, CIVIC VOICE WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT

John Kershaw is a Civic Voice trustee, chair of NWACTS and chair of Manchester Civic Society. He is leading the Civic Voice project on war memorials.

John explained that Civic Voice has funding to celebrate war memorials, mostly set up to record the dead of World War I and subsequent conflicts. There is no national register of such memorials and this project will create one, covering not only the approximately 22,000 memorials in public places but those in clubs, work places and other buildings. It is hoped to carry out a condition survey of each memorial. Some of them are in poor condition and damage has not always been at the hands of vandals. Some local authorities have been responsible for damage and even demolition.

It is hoped by CV that each region and each society will support this campaign by appointing a coordinator and creating enthusiasm locally. John Kershaw would like to see a book produced by the end of the project, which will raise the profile of the civic movement and may encourage recruitment to societies, particularly from younger people.

CV-run training sessions on the project are coming up – Feb 10th in Leeds and May 12th in Sheffield. Details are on the CV website.

NEWS ITEMS FROM SOCIETIES AND OTHER ITEMS

Henry Pankhurst from Harrogate Civic Society highlighted the problems with North Yorkshire County Council replacing cast iron lamp posts in Harrogate with inappropriate modern style street lighting in conservation areas. This had been done without consultation or warning. Strong objections had had no impact. English Heritage had been contacted to get a selection of the old lamp posts listed. They can meet modern technical standards.

Mike Potter from Pickering Civic Society raised issues with the need for local authorities to have a five-year land supply identified for housing developments. Following a planning appeal, developers had been given the go ahead to build 250 homes in the village of Kirkbymoorside, notwithstanding the Rydale Local Plan stating that the maximum number of homes allocated there should be 100, due to the authority lacking an identified five year land supply. The advantages in this case

seem to be entirely with the developers. He suggested that YHACS and CV examine this type of issue and he was requested to produce a YHACS newsletter item on the subject.

Erica Amende of Spen Valley Civic Society, drew attention to the imminent demolition of the Foundation Building at the High School in Cleckheaton, built by public subscription in 1910. The school is subject to a PFI re-build and the attractive original building is due to be demolished as part of that plan. The space it occupies will become open green space. English Heritage has refused to list the building. Spen Valley Civic Society wants it to be reused, possibly for residential. It is stone built and structurally sound.

It was pointed out that the building cannot be demolished without planning permission and if there was going to be a public hearing, the society should be represented and speak against the proposal if possible, and use local media to gain support.

Helen Kidman
2nd February 2015

Appendix A to AGM Minutes

**YHACS AGM 31ST JANUARY 2015 CEDAR COURT HOTEL, HARROGATE
LIST OF ATTENDEES**

[NB: This list takes into account all apologies notified but, with so many in attendance, we did not run full check.]

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
2	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Phyllis
3	Beverley & District Civic Society	Ashwell	Sylvia
4	Beverley & District Civic Society	English	Barbara
5	Beverley & District Civic Society	Hopkins	Pamela
6	Beverley & District Civic Society	Moody	Berna
7	Bradford Civic Society	Bentley	Graham
8	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
9	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
10	Brighouse Civic Trust	Midgley	Jenni
11	Castleford Civic Trust	Wallis	Tony
12	Castleford Civic Trust	Wright	Sandra
13	Civic Voice/Blackpool Civic Trust	Humble	Joan
14	-	Humble	Paul
15	Civic Voice	Kershaw	John
16	Civic Voice	Roxborough	Gill
17	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
18	Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Clarke	Margaret
19	Goole Civic Society	Laidler	Chris
20	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
21	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme
22	Halifax Civic Trust	Hanson	David
23	Harrogate Civic Society	Amaku	Susan
24	Harrogate Civic Society	Butler	Christine
25	Harrogate Civic Society	Cross	Wendy
26	Harrogate Civic Society	Hacker	Peter
27	Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
28	Harrogate Civic Society	Siddans	David
29	Heritage Lottery Fund	Boardman	Katharine
30	Howden Civic Society	Shipstone	Peter
31	Huddersfield Civic Society	Earnshaw	Lesley
32	Huddersfield Civic Society	Marsden	Chris
33	Huddersfield Civic Society	Ward	Pamela

34	Huddersfield Civic Society (etc)/YHACS Committee	Ward	Richard
35	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
36	Hull Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Sharman	Malcolm
37	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
38	Leeds Civic Trust	Grady	Kevin
39	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
40	Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	Helen
41	Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	Ian
42	Knaresborough Civic Society	Richards	John
43	Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	Ian
44	Pickering Civic Society	Potter	Mike
45	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
46	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
47	Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
48	Ripon Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Winpenny	David
49	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	Sheila
50	Scarborough Civic Society	Cooper	Alison
51	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS President	Cooper	Peter
52	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
53	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
54	Selby Civic Society	Dyson	Michael
55	Selby Civic Society	James	Barry
56	Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Moss	David
57	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
58	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
59	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Wood	Anne
60	Spenn Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
61	Spenn Valley Civic Society	Berry	Colin
62	Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
63	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
64	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
65	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
66	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian

	Apologies		
1	Addingham Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Robinson	Jim
2	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
3	Bridlington Civic Society	Oliver	Cyril
4	Civic Voice	Harvey	Ian
5	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
6	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
7	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
8	Hornsea Civic Society	Miller	John
9	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
10	Pudsey & District Civic Society	Depelle	Jackie
11	Pudsey & District Civic Society	Richards	David
12	Saddleworth Civic Society	Gartside	Lorna
13	Saddleworth Civic Society	Makin	David
14	Scalby Village Trust	Dixey	Hazel
15	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glenn
16	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
17	Sheffield Civic Trust	Bedwell	Paul
18	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
19	Whitby Civic Society	Harty	Nicholas
20	Whitby Civic Society	Harty	Susan
21	-	Kirby	William