

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

MEETING HELD AT FOUNTAINS ABBEY

ON

12TH OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See appendix A.

WELCOME FROM RIPON CIVIC SOCIETY

David Winpenny welcomed members to Fountains Abbey and offered the apologies of the Mayor of Ripon.

MINUTES OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held at Scarborough on 6th July 2013 were proposed by Malcolm Sharman seconded by Mary Edwards and approved by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kevin Trickett reported the welcome news that Peter Cooper is now out of hospital and recuperating at home.

Margaret Clark of Goole CS has been co-opted onto the YHACS executive committee. More committee members are needed and anyone interested should contact Kevin Trickett.

Kevin drew attention to the Civic Voice campaign on Permitted Development Rights and the issues of change of use, for example, from retail to residential without the need for planning permission. There may be further changes to the rules concerning conservation areas. Those feeling strongly about this are encouraged to write to their MPs.

CV also has a campaign running on the maintenance of war memorials. If there is sufficient interest in Yorkshire and Humber, a workshop event could be arranged to cover conservation issues.

The CV AGM in Liverpool - Kevin Trickett will be attending. Other members are encouraged to attend as there are great opportunities for networking.

English Heritage has recently published its annual Heritage at Risk report. A survey of grade 2 listed buildings is likely to go ahead with voluntary sector involvement. Societies wishing to get involved are advised to contact Tammy Whitaker at EH at Tanner Row, York.

Kevin reminded members that project details for the Spawforth Award are needed by 25th October 2013. Projects will be adjudicated and the results announced at the AGM.

Kevin recommended the use of social media to societies particularly for making contact with younger people.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Ward reported that funds totalled £4,444. Richard alerted members to the fact that the only means of claiming gift aid is now on-line.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Andrew Moss the National Trust Volunteer Coordinator at Fountains Abbey. He gave an overview of his activities and some insights as to how this worked successfully.

The National Trust has over 70,000 volunteers delivering 3.7m hours per annum of volunteer time. Andrew is responsible for some 24 teams of over 400 volunteers, delivering some 30,000 voluntary hours each year, which indicates the sheer scale of volunteering at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. He regarded almost no tasks as off-limits for volunteers. Many of the volunteers are locally based. They are treated like members of staff in almost every respect. Some have been volunteering for decades. Many are highly skilled and experienced. The National Trust could not operate without them. For many volunteers, the activity is an important part of their lives, undertaken not for a salary but for all of the other benefits they gain – friendship, social contact and doing something useful for a charity that they support.

In addition to local volunteers, Andrew employs interims, persons on work experience, young people on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, corporate groups and working holidays. Some of the work experience students are from Askham Bryan College of Agriculture, others are from local schools.

Volunteers fall broadly into five disciplines - conservation, welcoming and assisting, interpretation, enterprises and administration. All are trained to give excellent customer service.

Recruitment procedures are similar to any kind of job. Posts are advertised and candidates are interviewed and the National Trust takes up references.

Key to successful volunteering is ensuring that roles are clear and standards of performance and behaviour are understood. There is a clear process for complaints and discipline, and rewards and recognition. There are a number of social events and trips for volunteers, shop discounts, branded clothing, newsletters, and an annual survey.

Andrew recommended the NCVO and Charity Commission guidance for committee members on volunteers. Advertising clear roles and responsibilities was key as was having clear obligations on inclusivity and diversity. Giving people a trial in a particular role can help to boost their confidence.

The National Trust has a clear understanding of the boundaries between volunteering and paid work, the need for CRB checks and the legal issues involved.

Some 80% of volunteers have IT access and experience but they do not want to cut out people who do not. There is no formal upper age limit but some roles may need to be modified as volunteers get older.

Andrew's presentation was very well-received by the audience.

GOOD PRACTICE TIPS FOR COMMITTEES

Following Andrew's presentation, Kevin Trickett gave an overview of recent advice from the Charity Commission which, although aimed at charities, contained advice that could be applied by the committee of any voluntary organisation.

Societies considering using volunteers need to take a creative approach to getting the help that they need: not all the work has to be done by committee members. However, there may be occasions when societies may find that they have to buy in skills if volunteers are not forthcoming.

Societies also need to consider re-branding themselves to attract new members; they cannot just rely on their past successes to appeal to younger people today. What is the perception of your society within your community, and within different sections of your community? Are you easy to find and contact? Do you have a modern website? Are you using social media? It is particularly important to review your brand and communications strategy to attract new members, particularly younger members who will expect to be able to communicate with you via social media such as Twitter.

REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES

Blowing the Horn for Ripon – David Winpenny

David mentioned some of the negative issues they experience in Ripon – traffic, pollution, parking in the square, empty shops derelict buildings and the curious geological phenomena of holes in the ground which open up as the underlying gypsum is soluble.

Ripon Civic Society has a ten point plan to tackle these issues, which David outlined, which has led to an increased profile for the society and a doubling of membership.

Fracking – Judy Dixon Pickering Civic Society

Judy drew attention to the fact that Pickering CS has researched fracking – the extraction of shale gas for energy. There are concerns that this could pollute aquifers and cause future problems. Activity may be as deep as 7,000 feet. Areas that could be affected by fracking include parts of the Vale of York and Rydale and land between Nottingham and Leeds. Judy will keep YHACS members posted with any developments they discover in their ongoing researches.

Planning - Sheila Clark Skipton Civic Society

Sheila expressed concern that the local SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) could double the size of Skipton which has a current population of 14,000. She sought YHACS support to fight development in the flood plain. Following discussion, it was agreed that the YHACS committee would discuss this topic.

AOB

Kevin reminded societies of the YHACS offer negotiated with Statement to set up a new website (Cost £285 to set up + £85 annual maintenance, plus VAT in both cases). Interested parties should contact Statement directly. (If any member needs to be re-advised of the offer, please contact Kevin).

Date of Next Meeting

The AGM in January will be held at the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate on 25th January 2014.

Helen Kidman
14th October 2013

List of Attendees

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1.	Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	John
2.	Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	Mary
3.	Allertonshire Civic Society	Welburn	Dorothy
4.	Beverley Civic Society	Ashwell	Sylvia
5.	Beverley Civic Society	English	Barbara
6.	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
7.	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
8.	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
9.	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	Margaret
10.	Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
11.	Harrogate Civic Society	Rhodes	David
12.	Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Joan
13.	Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Ted
14.	Huddersfield Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Ward	Richard
15.	Huddersfield Civic Society	Earnshaw	Lesley
16.	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
17.	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
18.	Ilkley Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
19.	Knaresborough Civic Society	Brock	Christine
20.	Pickering Civic Society	Dixon	Harold
21.	Pickering Civic Society	Dixon	Judy
22.	Pickering Civic Society	Potter	Mike
23.	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
24.	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
25.	Ripon Civic Society	Reid	Gilbert
26.	Ripon Civic Society	Taylor	Richard
27.	Ripon Civic Society	Teale	Pauline
28.	Ripon Civic Society	Wordsworth	Susan
29.	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	David
30.	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	Sheila
31.	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Peter
32.	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
33.	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
34.	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
35.	Selby Civic Society	Moss	David
36.	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
37.	Skipton Civic Society	Clarke	Sheila
38.	Skipton Civic Society	Wood	Anne
39.	Wakefield Civic Society	Duffy	Kate

40.	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
41.	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
42.	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
43.	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
	Apologies Received		
1	Addingham Civic Society	Bolton	Mike
2	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
3	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
4	Bradford Civic Society	Oates	Amanda
5	Bridlington Civic Society	Oliver	Cyril
6	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
7	Castleford Civic Trust	Wright	Sandra
8	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
9	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme
10	Halifax Civic Trust	Northcott	Ken
11	Halifax Civic Trust	Northcott	Pam
12	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
13	Hornsea Civic Society	Miller	John
14	Horsforth Civic Society	Wright	Janis
15	Huddersfield Civic Society	Kirby	William
16	Huddersfield Civic Society	Marsden	Chris
17	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
18	Lytham St Annes Civic Society	Talbot	Judith
19	Market Weighton	Leonard	Tony
20	Pudsey & District Civic Society	Depelle	Jackie
21	Pudsey & District Civic Society	Richards	Dave
22	Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
23	Saddleworth Civic Trust	Gartside	Lorna
24	Scalby Village Trust	Dixey	Hazel
25	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS President	Cooper	Peter
26	Spennithorne Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
27	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
28	Wetherby Civic Society	Chapman	Jean
29	Whitby Civic Society	Harty	Susan
30	York University	Marrison	Helen