

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF THE YHACS MEETING HELD AT THE MANSION HOUSE DONCASTER ON 9TH APRIL 2016

DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Appendix 1

WELCOME FROM JOHN HOLMES, DONCASTER CIVIC TRUST

John warmly welcomed YHACS members to Doncaster and to the Mansion House and introduced the Mayor.

WELCOME FROM CLLR PAUL WRAY, CIVIC MAYOR OF DONCASTER

Cllr Wray also warmly welcomed members and described Doncaster's diverse heritage. A very old town established on the Roman road to York which became the Great North Road, Doncaster flourished through time, there being two castles at Tickhill and Conisbrough, and connections to the Pilgrim Fathers.

Doncaster is the home of the earliest recorded horse racing (Doncaster Gold Cup and later the St Leger). It has many Georgian and regency buildings. In 1852, the railway works were opened and the town honours the 20th century railway engineer/designer Sir Nigel Gresley who built locomotives for the LNER.

There are many initiatives to ensure the town's prosperity and to preserve heritage and Cllr Wray thanked Doncaster Civic Trust for its good work and contribution to the town.

DONCASTER CIVIC TRUST'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Jeff Prior made a short presentation on this particular project.

Jeff explained the student bursary scheme DCT operates which has so far supported five students through higher education in architecture and town planning related subjects. The scheme promoted architecture and town planning as specialist professional careers which many students had not considered.

The Trust supplied all 120 schools in Doncaster with a toolkit to introduce school children to architecture and the built environment, with MA students acting in support on specific projects. Those schools which had taken up the toolkit had found it highly worthwhile. For young children, a project based on 'Doncaster Sounds' had been developed, enabling interpretation through drawings and stories.

A project surrounding the Mansion House included research materials and downloadable information. The Mansion House needs new users and income.

MINUTES OF THE PONTEFRACT MEETING 10TH OCTOBER 2015

These were proposed by Erica Amende, seconded by David Moss and approved by the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kevin reported that he had been very busy both with YHACS activities and with Wakefield CS. Civic Voice (who had been represented by Ian Harvey at the YHACS AGM) had requested him to make the Strategy and Growth presentation he made at the YHACS AGM to their annual Convention in Chester in the autumn.

He had attended the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meeting on historic cathedral cities, which was well-attended and included remarks from Griff Rhys Jones and Ptolemy Dean, while Jonathan Foyle had been in the audience. Civic Voice urged societies to ensure that their MP is aware of the APPG and, whenever possible, attends it.

Kevin had also travelled to Grimsby to meet with the committee of Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Civic Society's executive committee and had attended the unveiling of Goole Civic Society's first blue plaque. In addition, he had been working with YHACS committee members on the re-launch of Horbury Civic Society.

The next date and venues for the next three YHACS meetings had been set – Whitby on 25th June, Goole on 29th October and the AGM again in Harrogate on 28th January 2017. Members were asked to note these dates in their diaries and to keep them free so that they did not find themselves double booked!

TREASURER'S REPORT

YHACS now has 41 members. Subscription reminders have been issued to those societies yet to pay. There is £5,375 in the bank account. The Locton Insurance deal notices are being issued to civic societies that are members of Civic Voice. Members were advised that other suppliers may offer lower prices but that they should check on the cover provided, especially with regard to trustee liability cover. Kevin said that he had recently been approached by a major insurance company offering cheap insurance for voluntary groups but after discussion about the sort of cover that societies would need, including the trustee/professional indemnity cover, it transpired that there was only 75p difference in the price quoted by the company and the Lockton deal.

PRESENTATION - 'SCANNING THE FAR HORIZON - A TECHNIQUE FOR PLOTTING THE FUTURE' BY KEVIN TRICKETT

Following on from his presentation on 'A Strategy for Growth?', presented at the YHACS AGM in January, Kevin's presentation on 'Scanning the Far Horizon' examined how the changes in the way we live (social, technological, economic and political) might impact on us in the future. This raised questions not only about how civic societies would operate in future but also about what sort of policies they might

adopt when responding to proposed developments in their area – would people continue to use cars, would these cars be powered by electricity, would more people want solar panels on their homes, etc, etc. How will society at large adapt and what are the implications for civic societies who rely mainly on volunteer effort to keep going?

He recommended that civic societies adopt techniques such as Horizon Scanning for so that they could action plan and prepare for change. Perhaps all civic societies should have a ‘futures’ group or sub-committee?

Rachael Unsworth from Leeds Civic Trust pointed out that Leeds had already set up such a group. She also referred to an article she had seen recently that suggested private car ownership would decline as driverless cars were introduced – people would be able to summon a car to collect them wherever they were using a smartphone app – and after they had reached their destination, the car would trundle off to either park itself or respond to another booking.

PRESENTATION – TOWNS AND CITIES BY PETER COOPER

Peter’s presentation covered current developments and society initiatives in a number of Yorkshire towns and cities. See app 2.

CIVIC SOCIETY NEWS

Clive Woods of Aireborough CS drew attention to an ongoing issue with a house in Weetwood, north Leeds . Spensfield House, designed in 1875 by George Corson, who was responsible for the Leeds Grand Theatre and the School Board building in central Leeds, is an important Victorian gothic revival house with a chequered recent history. It has been empty since 2006. It is Grade II* listed but has been not very well maintained. The woodwork, stained glass and plasterwork are ornate. The house was sold in 2011 with planning permission for conversion into six flats, with more new houses in the gardens, but this approval has now expired. Most of the once extensive grounds had been sold previously and are now part of The Village Hotel complex.

It is desired to save the building as a community building and funders are being sought. It was suggested that Civic Voice and other civic societies in the area might wish to be involved in this growing campaign.

AOB

None raised

Dates of Next Meetings

Whitby on 25th June 2016; Goole on 29th October 2016; AGM Harrogate on 28th January 2017

Helen Kidman
April 2016

Appendix 1

Attendees & Apologies

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
2	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
3	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
4	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Phyllis
5	Bridlington Civic Society	Payne	Jane
6	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
7	Doncaster Civic Trust	Burley	Sue
8	Doncaster Civic Trust	Carpenter	Frank
9	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
10	Doncaster Civic Trust	Fevre	Lynn
11	Doncaster Civic Trust	Holmes	John
12	Doncaster Civic Trust	Lloyd	Julian
13	Doncaster Civic Trust	Kimber	Steve
14	Doncaster Civic Trust	Prior	Jeff
15	Doncaster Civic Trust	Sinclair	Archie
16	Doncaster Civic Trust	Ward	Andy
17	Doncaster Civic Trust	Wrigglesworth	Tony
18	Goole Civic Society	Holmes	Gerald
19	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Rachel
20	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
21	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme
22	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
23	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Turner	Ann
24	Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Turner	Martyn
25	Halifax Civic Trust	Connolly	Eileen
26	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
27	Huddersfield Civic Society	Earnshaw	Lesley
28	Huddersfield/Scalby and Scarborough Civic Societies/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Ward	Richard
29	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
30	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Leonard	Tony
31	Leeds Civic Trust	Unsworth	Rachael
32	Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth

33	Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
34	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
35	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
36	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	David
37	Saddleworth Civic Trust	Langton	Meg
38	Saddleworth Civic Trust	Makin	David
39	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
40	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
41	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS President//Horbury Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
42	Scarborough Civic Society	Raine	Pete
43	Selby Civic Society	Moss	David
44	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
45	Skipton Civic Society	Clarke	Sheila
46	Skipton Civic Society	Wood	Ann
47	Spen Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
48	Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
49	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Trickett	Kevin
50	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
51	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
	Mayoral Party		
	Apologies Received		
1	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
2	Bridlington Civic Society	Oliver	Cyril
3	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
4	Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Clarke	Margaret
5	Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
6	Historic England	Wall	Deborah
7	Hornsea Civic Society	Salvidge	Nicki
8	Howden Civic Society	Shipstone	Peter
9	Howden Civic Society	Warren	Graham
10	Hull Civic Society	Fowley	Cynthia
11	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
12	Hull Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
13	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitchin	Lynda
14	Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	Ian

15	Pickering Civic Society	Potter	Mike
16	Pudsey & District Civic Society	Depelle	Jackie
17	Pudsey & District Civic Society	Johnson	Molly
18	Richmond Civic Society	McDonald	John
19	Saddleworth Civic Trust	Gartside	Lorna
20	Scalby Village Trust	Dixey	Hazel
21	Scarborough & District Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
22	Scarborough & District Civic Society	Perry	Chris
23	Sheffield Civic Trust/Civic Trust	Bedwell	Paul
24	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
25	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
26	Whitby Civic Society	James	David

**Presentation on the Towns and Cities Portfolio
By Richard Ward and Peter Cooper**

The Towns and Cities Portfolio covers international, national and regional issues affecting our towns and cities in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Peter had trawled internet websites to find out what was happening around the region and further afield.

Subjects covered in the presentation included:

- Copenhagen, the most bike friendly city on the planet, where the City Engineer is reducing car parking by 2% every year and encouraging people to put out more tables and chairs
- The National Infrastructure Delivery Plan, published in March 2016
- The Building Better Places Report, published in February 2016
- The Civic Voice War Memorials Campaign. There is a book, 'Empires of the Dead' which gives the background to the founding of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- Hull, UK City of Culture, 2017
- Huddersfield Design Awards
- Sheffield Civic Trust's Trees Statement
- Grimsby and Cleethorpes and Scarborough's new railway station signs
- Scarborough's work on helping their Conservation Officer with a Conservation Area Appraisal
- The Institution of Civil Engineers Centenary Award presented to the Leeds Station Southern Entrance project
- The involvement of Pickering and District Civic Society in a flood prevention campaign
- Hornsea Civic Society's £8000 grant from Tesco
- Harrogate Civic Society's work on saving cast iron lighting columns, a critical article in Private Eye magazine on proposals for the Church of St Wilfrid and the featuring of Harrogate's Royal Hall on BBC television

The presentation concluded by mentioning the death of historian Lord Asa Briggs. Lord Briggs, 'one of the last of the great Keighley men' who had achieved great distinction in many fields. One of his books, *Victorian Cities*, contained chapters on Middlesbrough and Leeds.