

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF THE YHACS MEETING HELD AT THE LOWTHER HOTEL, GOOLE, 29th OCTOBER, 2016

DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Appendix 1

1 WELCOME FROM MARGARET HICKS CLARKE, CHAIR OF GOOLE CIVIC SOCIETY and CLLR TERENCE SMITH, MAYOR OF GOOLE.

Margaret warmly welcomed YHACS members to Goole and hoped people would have sufficient time to have a good look round the town, which is unique, having been built 200 years ago for the Aire and Calder Navigation Company. It has, she explained, fantastic heritage and character. Goole Civic Society is a young society, founded five years ago, with much activity to do to encourage residents old and young to take an interest in their town. Recent initiatives have been a conservation leaflet for all residents in the conservation area and a postcard competition for the Goole 'Beach Day' 2016.

Margaret introduced the Mayor of Goole, Terence Smith.

2 MINUTES OF THE WHITBY MEETING, 25TH JUNE 2016

These were proposed by Paul Cartwright, seconded by John Clarke and approved by the meeting.

3 MATTERS ARISING

None

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Kevin reported that the executive committee was considering the issues of succession planning for YHACS, particularly for the post of chair and vice chair. A three-year time limit is being discussed and a proposal will be formulated for members' attention at the AGM. He pointed out that, should members decide to support the proposal, they would then have to commit to helping the committee to find new people to take on the roles.

A public meeting had been held for Market Weighton Civic Society. Only half a dozen local residents attended but one person joined the Society as a result and had offered to work with the committee. There is optimism that further people will join in due course.

At Horbury Civic Society, the new secretary and vice chair have recently resigned from their posts but this is seen as a temporary setback and the society continues to recruit members. There will be an executive meeting next month. YHACS committee members will withdraw from direct involvement at the end of 2016.

Historic England is looking to set up a project to record the condition and history of Yorkshire's textile mills. Wakefield Civic Society had been involved to date and more details will follow in due course.

Yorkshire Gardens Trust had kindly donated to YHACS copies of the tercentenary booklet on 'Capability' Brown – enough copies for one to go to each YHACS society. (These were given out to those present at the end of the meeting.)

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Ward advised that YHACS currently has 41 members and funds totalling £5103.71.

6 GUEST SPEAKER CLLR TERENCE SMITH, MAYOR OF GOOLE

Cllr Smith explained that at 19, he was the youngest mayor in the UK. He is currently studying politics at Hull University but being the Mayor takes up much of his spare time, encouraging people to get involved with activities in the town. The mayor's role is to promote the town, speak positively and boost tourism as Goole is a vibrant place with lots to offer.

Because of his unique situation he is able to get stories into the national media and uses social media extensively to network and promote Goole. They will be using Hull, City of Culture, further to promote Goole and a new enterprise zone being set up with 4000 skilled jobs will boost employment opportunities in the area.

Cllr Smith was asked numerous questions from the floor.

7 GUEST SPEAKER GEORGINA PETTY, CHAIR OF THE FRIENDS OF WEST PARK, GOOLE

Georgina Petty spoke about the setting up and operation of the Friends of West Park, Goole, a 32 acre public park which while very popular needed some ongoing care and attention. In 2013, an HLF grant had been secured towards the park's restoration, including the bandstand, paths, toilets and café.

A wide range of events and regular activities now took place in the park, attracting more support from residents, including arts and crafts, sports, social events, wildlife provision and activities for children and older people.

The group had become a charity and used social media for communication and fundraising and was developing more ambitious plans for the future.

8 GUEST SPEAKER JULIE DUCKWORTH THE LOWTHER HOTEL, GOOLE.

Julie Duckworth made an illustrated presentation about how she and her husband had rescued the hotel from years of neglect and restored it to its Georgian splendour over the last eight years.

The hotel is named after John Lowther, one time chairman of the Aire and Calder Navigation Company and the building was the 'heart of Goole'.

Many of the original features had been restored including the maritime murals, which members were able to visit after the meeting. The Duckworths were shortlisted for a Heritage Angels award for their efforts to save buildings in Goole – the announcement was due to be made on 31st October in London.

They hope to move on to more buildings in Goole which need attention.

Members of YHACS congratulated the Duckworths on their sterling efforts.

9 FEEDBACK FROM CIVIC VOICE AND THE CIVIC VOICE CONVENTION

Kevin Trickett told the meeting about the Civic Trust Convention at Chester which had been attended by eight members from YHACS societies. Joan Humble had been appointed chair of CV and several new trustees had been appointed. Four new vice president posts had also been created with Baroness Andrews, Sir Terry Farrell, Laura Sandys and Freddie Gick being appointed.

The convention had included a number of really good sessions including heritage walks round Chester city centre, led by technical experts.

Next year's convention is to be held in Wakefield with Wakefield Civic Society as hosts.

The chair of the Civic Voice Regional Forum, Tony Fooks, had stood down and the representative for Yorkshire and the Humber (Helen Kidman) had accepted an invitation to take on the role.

Helen Kidman explained the purpose of the Regional Forum and her endeavours to ensure that it fully represented civic societies and acted as a catalyst between Civic Voice, societies and regional associations, where they exist. YHACS needs to find someone to represent Y&H at future meetings

and any person desirous of volunteering for this should contact Helen or Kevin. Meetings will not always be held in London and travel expenses will usually be covered by YHACS.

Helen then presented the Civic Day Award to Goole Civic Society on behalf of Civic Voice: she had collected it on behalf of Goole at the Convention – see pictures on the CV website.

10 CIVIC SOCIETY NEWS

Lynda Kitching of Leeds Civic Trust asked if any other societies had been affected by theft of York stone – a few had. Not just York stone, but walling stones and copings had been disappearing. Some York stone removal may have been carried out by official bodies (often with tarmac infill) and some theft took place in broad daylight. It could look as if being carried out officially and had therefore gone unchallenged. Lynda has written to CV to ascertain if it was a national issue.

Sheila Clarke of Skipton in Craven Civic Society sought support from YHACS to resist threats of sale to the town hall in Skipton. Kevin Trickett explained that YHACS chose not to get involved with individual cases which were best dealt with at a local level. It was suggested that Skipton should contact Historic England and also consider if there was any merit in registering the building as an Asset of Community Value.

Sheila also drew attention to the revised Skipton history leaflet and their updated leaflet on historic yards and passages in the town centre (over 3000 hours of voluntary work went into their production).

11 AOB

CHARITY XPERTISE

Paul Cartwright had attended this event on applying for funding aimed at charity managers and volunteers, with sessions on applications, use of students and volunteers. Slide sets are available electronically from Paul on request.

CONSERVATION AREAS

Peter Cooper advised that Conservation Areas are 50 years old in 2017 and that celebratory activities would be taking place throughout England with Historic England in the lead. But in Yorkshire and Humber there are numerous conservation areas officially listed as 'at risk', although none of Wakefield's were so listed! Most district councils have a few and now is the time to investigate what action should be taken. More information will follow.

12 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

AGM Harrogate on 28th January 2017.

Helen Kidman
1st November 2016

Appendix 1

Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Phyllis
Bridlington Civic Society	Oliver	Cyril
Bridlington Civic Society	Payne	Jane
Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
Brighouse Civic Trust	Midgley	Jenny
Castleford Heritage Trust	Drake	Alison
Castleford Heritage Trust	Parker	John
Doncaster Civic Trust	Kimber	Steve
Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
Goole Civic Society	Crane	Les
Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
Goole Civic Society	Kitching	Jean
Goole Civic Society	Holmes	Gerald
Goole Civic Society	Laidler	Chris
Goole Civic Society	Walker	Rachel
Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
Goole Civic Society	Widdowson	Glen
Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme
Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
Howden Civic Society	Mephram	Phillip
Huddersfield Civic Society	Earnshaw	Lesley
Huddersfield/Scalby and Scarborough Civic Societies/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society/Market Weighton Civic Society	Ward	Richard
Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Mike
Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
Market Weighton Civic Society	Leonard	Tony
Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
Richmond Civic Society	Hilyard	Carol
Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS President/Market Weighton Civic Society/Horbury Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
Selby Civic Society	Clegg	Marie
Selby Civic Society	James	Barry
Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society/Horbury Civic Society	Moss	David

Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society/Horbury Civic Society	Trickett	Kevin
Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
Guest Speakers:		
Julie Duckworth, Lowther Hotel		
Georgina Petty, Friends of West Park		
Cllr Terry Smith, Mayor of Goole		
Apologies Received		
Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
Grimsby and Cleethorpes Civic Society	Turner	Martyn
Historic England	Wall	Deborah
Horsforth Civic Society	Wright	Janis
Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth
Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
Pudsey & District Civic Society	Depelle	Jackie
Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	David
Sheffield Civic Trust	Bedwell	Paul
Spen Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
Spen Valley Civic Society	Berry	Colin
Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
Whitby Civic Society	James	David