

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF THE YHACS MEETING HELD ON 29th JULY 2017 AT THE FLORAL HALL HORNSEA

DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Appendix 1

1. Welcome from Kevin Trickett

Kevin welcomed members and thanked Hornsea Civic Society for their assistance in organising the meeting. In particular, he wished to convey appreciation to the Society for their generosity in providing lunch and for organising both the Saturday morning walk and the meal on Friday evening at a local restaurant, which had been great fun.

2. Keith Whittle, Vice Chair of Hornsea Civic Society

Keith welcomed members to Hornsea - a very special Yorkshire coastal resort. He outlined the activities of the civic society, including planning issues, environmental work on the Mere, Heritage Open Days and a programme of talks. The Floral Hall had been taken over by the community as an Asset of Community Value.

3. Minutes of last meeting held on 29th April 2017 at Barnsley

These were proposed by Geoff Barnes, seconded by Richard Ward and approved by the meeting.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Chairman's Report

Kevin reported on YHACS activities since the Barnsley meeting. He had been interviewed by Radio Leeds about the expenditure on the renovation of Piece Hall in Halifax, which he had defended, emphasising the importance of such landmark buildings to shaping a sense of place and local identity. He had called for consistency in approach to what can often be costly renovation work. He asked the audience to imagine the alternative: what would happen to the county's iconic architecture if money was not spent on maintaining it – would the public be happy to see it falling down or being demolished? What would York be without its Minster, Skipton without its castle, and so on?

Kevin had also spoken at two public meetings in Stockton on Tees where a new civic society was being considered. The new society has been invited to join YHACS (though Stockton is not and never has been in Yorkshire!). It did look as if a new society there was likely and Kevin was optimistic for its future.

Many YHACS societies had been busy with Civic Day and the Big Conservation Conversation.

On 23rd June a YHACS Futures Workshop had been held in Wakefield and it is hoped that this event can be repeated for another group in the Autumn. These workshops were being run to encourage societies to do some action planning and future proofing.

There will be challenges ahead for civic societies due to changes coming up from the Charity Commission with a new governance code being launched and changes to Data Protection policies which Kevin outlined.

[Some of the slides shown by Kevin at the Hornsea meeting are being circulated with these minutes]

Ever mindful that 3 societies have dropped out of YHACS in the last year, Kevin asked whether YHACS needed an individual membership category as members of societies that had dropped out of YHACS membership were effectively 'disenfranchised' when it came to YHACS benefits.

Talking of the benefits of YHACS membership, Kevin displayed a Word Cloud on screen (see Appendix B) that he had created from the returns submitted by societies in response to a recent request to say what they got out of being a member of YHACS. Key benefits of YHACS membership were networking with other societies and access to ideas and inspiration.

The Civic Voice Convention is coming up fast – this will be in Wakefield on 20th and 21st October 2017. Kevin urged members to book their places quickly, particularly if they also wished to book overnight accommodation at the hotel being used for the Convention (Cedar Court). Places for the Convention can be booked on-line via the Civic Voice Eventbrite pages. Accommodation at the hotel has to be booked separately and directly with the hotel.

Kevin said he often received copies of newsletters from member societies which he enjoyed reading and felt they should be seen by others. However, he did not wish to act as a post box for correspondence between societies! On top of this, he sometimes received request from one society or other to be put in touch with other societies. In view of this, YHACS would like to create a list of contacts for each society that can be shared but, conscious of data protection legislation this will need the consent of individual societies, particularly where the contact is a specific person rather than a generic 'info@' style email address. Kevin is to contact societies shortly to see if this can be taken forward.

Kevin recommended the book *Walkable Cities* by Jeff Speck which had some interesting and challenging ideas for the development of towns and cities. Although very much written from an American perspective, some of the ideas were transferable to the UK. One of the main points that Kevin had taken from the book (and which was borne out by other research) was that when cities are configured around the needs of the motorist in an attempt to ease congestion, car use is actually incentivised thereby increasing congestion (and deterring pedestrian use)!

On a personal note, and as an example of how to make the most of an opportunity when it presented itself, Wakefield Civic Society had recently held a '1960's Immersive Cinema Night' supported by UCL and in which drama students had come to Wakefield from London. The evening had included Pearl and Dean adverts, old newsreels, a Yogi Bear cartoon and the main feature, *Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush*, - a coming of age comedy released in 1967. The evening had generated lots of publicity for the Society and was very successful, even returning a modest surplus.

Kevin also reported that he had written a book *Wood Street: The Heart of Wakefield*, published by the Society with all proceeds going to the Society.

6. Treasurer's Report

Richard Ward reported that the balance in the YHACS account was £5463.39 with 37 paid up member societies. YHACS continues to hold funds for Horbury and Market Weighton Societies although strenuous efforts are being made by Horbury Civic Society to open their own account.

7. Guest Speaker John Miller on the History of Hornsea Mere

John gave an illustrated presentation on Hornsea Mere and its early involvement in the development of sea planes, particularly during the war.

8. News from Civic Voice - Paul Bedwell

Paul Bedwell advised that CV was working through the consultancy report that was part of its 2016 review. The report had contained some 43 recommendations. The urgent ones will be addressed by the end of 2017 but coming out of the review, Civic Voice had decided to relocate its offices to Birmingham and had reviewed its staffing structure as part of the move. This had resulted in some changes in staffing.

Sir Terry Farrell had called for more civic champions to support conservation and architecture. The shortage of conservation officers was a very big concern. Some Local Authorities were not mindful of their responsibilities with regard to conservation.

Paul was pleased to report that the APPG for Civic Societies had been re-established and Civic day had been very successful. He drew attention to the Big Conservation Conversation leaflet produced by Ilkley Civic Society and delivered to 1800 homes and businesses in the conservation areas in Ilkley.

On NIMBY-ism, Paul pointed out that 180,000 planning applications produced annually only about 20% receive objections. Societies need to present their messages effectively and some may need support to do so. Societies and local people should hold local authorities to account and use best practice as an example eg with the protest over Sheffield's street trees which have been in the media. Lynda Kitching pointed out that societies should be the 'critical friend' when needed.

Paul said he was pleased to note that of the 18 Civic Voice Design Award nominations this year, 10 were situated in conservation areas. There were three nominees in Yorkshire, one of which YHACS will visit at the Bradford meeting on 30th September.

Civic Voice was looking forward to the Convention in Wakefield and working closely with Wakefield Civic Society to make the event a success.

9. Civic Society News

Held over to the Bradford meeting: societies should wherever possible book a slot in advance by emailing Kevin Trickett.

10. Any other business

None

11. Date of next meeting: Saturday, 30th September 2017 at Bradford City Hall.

List of attendees/apologies received

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
2	Barnsley Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Barnes	Phyllis
3	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
4	Hornsea Civic Society	Bardsley	Samuel
5	Hornsea Civic Society	Johnson	Judy
6	Hornsea Civic Society	Miller	John
7	Hornsea Civic Society	Miller	Vanda
8	Hornsea Civic Society	Salvidge	Nicki
9	Hornsea Civic Society	Tharratt	Alan
10	Hornsea Civic Society	Tharrat	Carol
11	Hornsea Civic Society	Whittle	Keith
12	Hull Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
13	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
14	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
15	Leeds Civic Trust	Brettell	Jim
16	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
17	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
18	Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth
19	Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
20	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
21	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
22	Ripon Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Winpenny	David
23	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	Sheila
24	Scarborough & District Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Scalby Village Trust/Market Weighton Civic Society/Huddersfield Civic Society	Ward	Richard
25	Scarborough & District Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
26	Scarborough & District Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
27	Scarborough & District Civic Society	Hepworth	Christine
28	Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Moss	David
29	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
30	Sheffield Civic Trust/Civic Voice	Bedwell	Paul
31	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
32	Wakefield Civic Society	Peacock	Brian
33	Wakefield Civic Society	Peacock	Rita
34	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Trickett	Kevin
35	Wakefield Civic Society/Barnsley Civic Trust	Ward	Brian

	Apologies Received		
1	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
2	Beverley Civic Society	English	Barbara
3	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
4	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
5	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
6	Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Horbury Civic Society	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
7	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
8	Historic England	Wall	Deborah
9	Hornsea Civic Society	Walker	Maureen
10	Huddersfield Civic Society	Earnshaw	Lesley
11	Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
12	Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
13	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS President/Market Weighton Civic Society/Horbury Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
14	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clarke	Sheila
15	Spen Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
16	Wakefield Civic Society	Farman	Sue
17	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
18	Wakefield Civic Society	Uttley	Viv
19	Wakefield Civic Society	Vasis	Sue
20	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
21	Whitby Civic Society	Harty	Susan
22	Whitby Civic Society	James	David

