

## **YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Cedar Court Hotel Harrogate on Saturday 25th January 2014.**

### **1. Present**

Some 50 members and guests representing 24 YHACS member societies. A full list appears at Appendix A.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

See Appendix A

### **3. Minutes of the AGM 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

These were proposed by David Winpenny, seconded by Kevin Grady and approved by the meeting.

### **6. Matters Arising.**

There were none.

### **7. Annual Report.**

Kevin Trickett presented the annual report which was pre circulated together with a forward look for YHACS for 2014.

Questions and Observations from the floor:

- David Rhodes suggested that instead of focusing just on the impacts of 'climate change', civic societies might like to think more about 'human global impact', a term which encapsulates a wider range of consequences of human activity.
- It was pointed out that the £285+VAT quoted to set up a society website under the YHACS/Statement offer was very good value for money and compared very favourably with what others were charging.
- Kevin confirmed that it was the intention to set up a user group for societies who had taken up the website offer so that future enhancements to the design or functionality could be agreed and discussed with Statement.
- Peter Spawforth noted that Kevin had commented on the quality of residential design, with too many housing estates being 'bog standard', off-the-peg designs that perpetuated urban sprawl. He asked that if anyone had any thoughts or experience on how the design quality of residential developments could be improved, to contact him (via Kevin).

### **8. Treasurer's Report**

The annual report and treasurer's report were proposed by Jim Wildash and seconded by Peter Spawforth.

## **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**

Cyril Oliver stepped down after seven years on the committee. He was thanked by Kevin Trickett on behalf of YHACS and presented with a gift token.

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

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

Anyone interested in joining the committee as a co-opted member during the coming year was invited to express their interest in serving to any existing member of the committee, at any time.

## **11. Election of President**

Peter Cooper was nominated and elected unanimously by the meeting.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Nothing was raised.

## **GUEST SPEAKER FREDDIE GICK, CIVIC VOICE.**

Freddie Gick spoke about the history of the civic society movement and the current issues and opportunities now facing Civic Voice and civic societies across the UK. These include an ageing and dwindling membership, lack of direction and the difficulty of presenting a positive image.

CV is addressing a number of national context issues and events, including localism and community rights, Assets of Community Value, planning reforms, neighbourhood plans, increased permitted development rights, the housing shortage and commemoration of World War One. Collectively, CV has over 150,000 civic society members, many of whom have specialist skills and the ability to influence. CV provides a strong collective voice and in the next phase in the organisation's growth aims to build a stronger and rejuvenated movement. Freddie would like to hear direct from individual volunteers who would like to help with this in any way: it does not mean committing to becoming a trustee necessarily.

CV is considering the preparation of a manifesto, to state clearly the organisation's principles and objectives. They are currently working with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies to increase membership and would like to hear from societies that have links to members of the House of Lords in their localities.

The first Sandys lecture is about to be announced. This will be held in London on 17<sup>th</sup> April and will coincide with the publication of a history of the movement.

Civic Day will be on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014. CV is also commenting on the consultation on the future of English Heritage.

Taking questions from the floor, Freddie was asked about Civic Watch and he explained that it was a toolkit to use as an audit of local issues. Interested members should contact Ian Harvey for more details.

He explained that the Sandys lecture is aimed at national decision takers, which was why its location was London.

Freddie confirmed that HODs has a firm slot in the calendar for the foreseeable future.

Members encouraged societies both to join CV and to offer help to its initiatives.

### **Kevin Trickett: FUTURE OF ENGLISH HERITAGE CONSULTATION**

Kevin explained the background to the consultation. It is proposed to split EH into two, with Monuments, Buildings and Land set up as a separate charity (to be known as English Heritage) and the regulatory elements remaining in government as 'Historic England'. A public consultation is open until 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and issues which might cause concern to members include

- Will the elements remaining in central government, especially enforcement, be adequately resourced?
- Will maintenance be adequately funded by Historic England?

- Will English Heritage the charity get professional advice from Historic England?
- Will they be in competition with the National Trust and could this be a positive driver?

### **LYONS REVIEW**

Sir Michael Lyons is reviewing the housing market. YHACS has an opportunity to influence the debate and any society with views should pass these to Kevin Trickett by 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.

### **YHACS AWARDS**

The annual awards were made to societies for outstanding activities between 01.10.12 and 30.09.13.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £250 Wakefield Civic Society for the Wood St Market initiative

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £100 to Addingham Civic Society for the Multi-Use Games Area project

3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes £50 each to Pontefract Civic Society for setting up the Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens, and to Hull Civic Society for setting up the Joseph Rank Gallery

In congratulating all four societies on their efforts, Kevin reminded members that the awards scheme would continue in the coming year and that societies would be invited to submit details of the projects or activities conducted or completed from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2103 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Awards would then be presented at the AGM in January 2015.

He urged societies to take part – the rules had been made much more flexible to take account of suggestions put forward by societies but that in each year, yet the number of societies competing had reduced.

### **NEWS ITEMS FROM SOCIETIES AND OTHER ITEMS**

Malcolm Sharman Hull CS advised members that Hull is City of Culture 2017 and that the new Scale Lane Bridge over the River Hull has won a World Architecture Award and a Civic Trust Award. It is worth a visit.

Peter Spawforth drew attention to Leeds CT's Regeneration Conference and Exhibition, which attracted local groups such as the Group looking after Holbeck Cemetery. He also noted that in Newmillerdam a conservation society has been set up. Civic Societies should support such local groups and aim to work with them.

Kevin Grady advised that Leeds CT had been piloting an English Heritage scheme to investigate and record the condition of G2 listed buildings. 50 volunteers had checked some 500 buildings, with a further 500 to go.

Jim Robinson of Addingham CS highlighted that Addingham is the place to see the Tour de France on both days.

Henry Pankhurst of Harrogate C.S. related the problem of the Council relocating from a historic building which they intend selling - most probably for a boutique hotel. English Heritage will not list it & the Ombudsman cannot intervene. New offices are proposed on what up to now has been considered a brownfield housing site by the Council.

Adrian Perry of Scarborough CS responded that in a similar situation in Scarborough, many organisations opposed a plan, and they did succeed.

Mary Edwards of Allertonshire advised members that their prison, built in 1788, is closing at short notice. They were able to have a 1 hour visit and the civic society's views were taken on board on the important site.

Kevin Trickett reminded members that much of this news would make interesting contributions to the newsletter and potentially for the 2014 Spawforth Award.

**Appendix A to AGM Minutes**

**YHACS AGM 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014  
CEDAR COURT HOTEL, HARROGATE  
LIST OF ATTENDEES**

<b>Society/Organisation</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>
Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	John
Allertonshire Civic Society	Edwards	Mary
Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Phyllis
Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
Bradford Civic Society	Oates	Amanda
Bridlington & Beverley Civic Societies	Payne	Jane
Bridlington Civic Society/YHACS committee	Oliver	Cyril
Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
Castleford Civic Trust	Wallis	Tony
Castleford Civic Trust	Wright	Sandra
Civic Voice	Gick	Freddie
Halifax Civic Trust	Hanson	David
Harrogate Civic Society	Hacker	Peter
Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
Harrogate Civic Society	Rhodes	David
Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Joan
Horbury Civic Society	Fawcett	Ted
Huddersfield Civic Society	Earnshaw	Lesley
Huddersfield Civic Society	Kirby	William
Huddersfield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Ward	Richard
Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
Hull Civic Society/YHACS committee	Sharman	Malcolm
Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
Leeds Civic Trust	Grady	Kevin
Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
Lytham St Anne's Civic Society	Talbot	Judith
Market Weighton Civic Society	Leonard	Tony
Knaresborough Civic Society	Kaye	David
Knaresborough Civic Society	Richards	John
Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
Richmond & District Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	Sheila
Ripon Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Winpenny	David
Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glenn

Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS President	Cooper	Peter
Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Moss	David
Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Wood	Anne
Spen Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
Spen Valley Civic Society	Berry	Colin
Wakefield Civic Society	Bailey	Darren
Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
Wetherby Civic Society	Gordon	Andrew
<b>Apologies</b>		
Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
Beverley & District Civic Society	Hopkins	Pamela
Bradford Civic Society	Oates	Mandy
Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
Goole Civic Society	Clarke	Margaret
Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme
Halifax Civic Trust	Northcott	Ken
Halifax Civic Trust	Northcott	Pam
Halifax Civic Society	Paxtow-White	June
Ilkley Civic Society	Cockshott	Alex
Ilkley Civic Society	Blackburn	David
Hornsea Civic Society	Miller	John
Horsforth Civic Society	Wright	Janis
Pickering Civic Society	Dixon	Judy
Pudsey & District Civic Trust	Depelle	Jackie
Pudsey & District Civic Trust	Richards	Dave
Saddleworth Civic Society	Makin	David
Scalby Village Trust	Dixey	Hazel
Whitby Civic Society	James	David
Whitby Civic Society	James	Margaret