

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Cedar Court Hotel Harrogate on Saturday 27th January 2018.

1. Present

Nearly 60 members and guests were present, representing 27 YHACS member societies, NWACTS and Civic Voice. A full list appears at Appendix A.

Members sent best wishes to the Association's President, Peter Cooper, who is recovering from a fall. Members gave their warm congratulations to Kevin Trickett on being awarded an MBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours List.

2. Apologies for Absence

See Appendix A

3. Minutes of the AGM 28.01.17

These were proposed by Erica Amende of Spen Valley Civic Society and seconded by Lynda Kitching of Leeds Civic Trust and approved by the meeting.

6. Matters Arising.

There were none.

7. Annual Report.

Kevin Trickett presented the annual report, which had been circulated in advance, together with a forward look for YHACS for 2018. He outlined the highlights of 2017.

8. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 2017 were presented.

The question of individual membership of YHACS was raised. Kevin Trickett explained that this was not yet a current option but one that the YHACS committee had discussed. He added that it may be necessary to consider it for the future if society closures continued to allow individuals to continue to connect with the movement if they so wished.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were proposed for adoption by Margaret Hicks-Clarke of Goole Civic Society and seconded by June Paxton-White of Halifax Civic Trust and approved by the meeting.

9. Election of Officers

The following officers were nominated and elected unopposed by the meeting:

Chairman: Kevin Trickett (re-elected for 3 years in accordance with the constitution amendment of 2017)

Vice Chair: David Moss

Treasurer: Richard Ward

Secretary: Helen Kidman

10. Election of Executive Committee

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

Margaret Clarke

Malcolm Sharman

Tony Leonard

Jim Robinson

Paul Cartwright

Phyllis Barnes
Martin Hamilton

In addition, Alison Drake MBE from Castleford Heritage Trust was nominated to join the committee and elected unanimously.

David Winpenny has resigned from the committee. On behalf of YHACS members, Kevin Trickett thanked David for his contributions, particularly on public relations. The presentation of a gift for David was made to Chris Hughes of Ripon Civic Society in David's absence.

11. Election of President

Peter Cooper was nominated and elected unanimously by the meeting.

12. Any Other Business

None.

MEMBERS' MEETING

13 Guest speaker Ruth Garratt from the Canal and River Trust

Ruth spoke about her organisation which until 2012 was British Waterways. Now a charity, it receives funding from the government, from business, waterway users, grants and lottery bids. Their turnover is around £200m per annum.

The organisation's remit is wide, including maintenance of canals and rivers, museums and archiving, maintenance of many old buildings from medieval to 2nd World War defence structures, 3000 listed buildings, environmental and wildlife protection along waterway margins and 'non-navigable waterways', many of them SSSIs.

Their portfolio includes sunken historic boats, part of Liverpool docks, brick and lime kilns, aqueducts, canal tunnels, archaeology, dealing with heritage crime and inspection procedures. They have to deal quickly with damage to bridges by road vehicles or to waterside structures by boats.

To undertake these many and varied requirements, they employ experts in stone, brick, cast and wrought iron technology and the historic working practices used to build canals – by hand. This has a number of safety issues. One of their recent tasks had been to replace the collapsed Elland Bridge in Calderdale after the 2015 floods. They run an apprentice scheme and train staff for the NVQ in Heritage Skills.

In addition the organisation has a large volunteer force undertaking manual maintenance work and manning museums and places of interest on the system such as lock flights.

There is an opportunity to work more closely with Civic Voice on Heritage Open Days.

[Ruth Garratt's contact details are Tel: 07825 853 773; email: ruth.garratt@canalrivertrust.org.uk]

14. The Big Conservation Conversation – Helen Kidman

Helen explained that she had been doing some research on conservation areas in both Yorkshire and the rest of England to build up data on conservation areas at risk and the loss of conservation officers and exploring what activities civic societies were undertaking to support conservation areas at a local level. There are some 500 conservation areas at risk in England, (50 in Yorkshire) and the problems identified vary considerably, from rural areas where stone

walls are prohibitively costly to repair, to urban areas of industrial buildings which cannot be found a viable use to sustain them.

Helen encouraged YHACS societies which had not responded to the questionnaire to get in touch with her.

Seven societies in Yorkshire (York, Ripon, Wakefield, Skipton, Knaresborough, Huddersfield and Selby) have conservation areas which will be 50 years old in 2018 or 2019 – an opportunity to celebrate.

Helen pointed out that even the most difficult buildings and conservation areas can be restored - for example, the Glasgow School of Art Mack building, restored, reopens this summer following the 2014 disastrous fire, Wentworth Woodhouse has at last received substantial funding for restoration (not enough but a good start). Grainger Street in Newcastle was conserved and saved when it might so easily have been demolished when in severe decline in the 1970s – it's now a tourist destination in its own right. Research continues.

15. Latest News from Civic Voice – Sarah James of Civic Voice

As membership Development Officer, Sarah explained her role at Civic Voice, including projects such as community rights, war memorials and fund raising. The main campaign in 2018 would be The Big Conservation Conversation, for which the CA audit tool was being developed and tested. A number of societies were prepared to trial it. Anyone wishing to pilot it should contact Sarah direct.

The APPG for Civic Societies will be on 13th March 2018 and will cover the NPPF review and new homes. It was hoped that the new housing minister Dominic Raab would attend. On 3rd April the topic would be conservation areas and the speaker was to be Michael Ellis MP.

Civic Day will be on 16th June 2018. Societies were invited to advise their planned events to CV. The annual convention will be in Birmingham in October 2018 and speakers already engaged include Griff Rhys Jones, Dame Laura Sandys, Sir Terry Farrell, Rob Kerslake, Dame Fiona Reynolds and Julie Kenny, the chair of Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust.

Sarah hoped to see everyone in Birmingham.

16. Presentation of the YHACS/Peter Spawforth Excellence Awards

The presentation of YHACS annual awards.

Peter Spawforth MBE made the presentations as follows:

3rd Prize (£50) Hornsea CS

2nd Prize (£100) Bradford CS

1st Prize (£200 plus the award of the Peter Spawforth trophy) Howden CS

Congratulations were offered to all prize winners.

17. GDPR

Kevin briefly reported that detailed guidance relevant to small (or micro) organisations such as civic societies was still awaited, even though the new legislation takes effect in May 2018 and is binding on all organisations that collect personal data. Members were urged to refer to the information Commissioner's website www.ico.org.uk

More information will be made available as soon as YHACS receive it.

18. 100 places

Kevin drew attention to this initiative to nominate important places from Historic England.

19. Civic Voice Events in Yorkshire

War Memorials Condition Survey Workshop in Wakefield on 13th February 2018
Involving young people in Heritage workshop in Leeds on 21st February 2018

Further details can be found in the Winter 2017/18 newsletter.

20. Round up of news ONE MINUTE per society

Paul Cartwright (Pontefract) sought information from members for the YHACS report to the Regional Forum - issues and successes.

Chris Hughes (Ripon) highlighted the forthcoming YHACS meeting in Ripon meeting (27/8th July 2018) which may have a market towns theme.

YHACS might also like to take a look at Neighbourhood Planning...

Erica Amende (Spennithorne) pointed out the 2018 HODS theme is Extraordinary Women for societies that were thinking about putting on an event.

Margaret Hicks Clarke (Goole) updated on their film which has proved tremendously popular with lots of good feedback.

Susan Spibey (NWACTS) explained that she had invited YHACS to work with NWACTS on issues of mutual interest. She pointed out that the RSA have an initiative on market towns.

Alan Nicholson (Grimsby) told the meeting about their blue plaque for champion swimmer Brenda Fisher.

Philip Mephram (Howden) explained that they were going to host an archaeological dig behind their heritage centre.

David Moss (Selby) drew attention to the fact that there is a **prize** for the photo competition in the newsletter!

21. AOB

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Kevin reminded members that the next YHACS meeting would be in Leeds on 28th April and that the 2019 AGM would be on 26th January 2019. He asked members to put the dates in their diaries and to keep them free! With a year's advance notice of the AGM, he expected a full attendance and no excuses!

Helen Kidman
28th January 2018.

List of people in attendance and apologies received for the 2018 AGM

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Addingham Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Robinson	Jim
2	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Lynda
3	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
4	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
5	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Phyllis
6	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
7	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
8	Castleford Heritage Trust	Appleyard	Jessica
9	Castleford Heritage Trust	Drake	Alison
10	Castleford Heritage Trust	Wallis	Tony
11	Civic Voice	James	Sarah
12	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
13	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
14	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
15	Goole Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
16	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
17	Grimsby & Cleethorpes Civic Society	Nicholson	Alan
18	Halifax Civic Trust	Connolly	Eileen
19	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
20	Harrogate Civic Society	Amaku	Susan
21	Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
22	Harrogate Civic Society	Siddans	David
23	Howden Civic Society	Mepham	Philip
24	Huddersfield Civic Society	Marsden	Chris
25	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
26	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Mike
27	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
28	Hull Civic Society/Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Sharman	Malcolm
29	Ilkley Civic Society	Blackburn	David
30	Ilkley Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
31	Leeds Civic Trust	Hamilton	Martin
32	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
33	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
34	Knaresborough Civic Society	Richardson	John
35	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
36	North West Association of Civic Trusts and Societies	Spibey	Susan
37	Ossett Civic Society	Amos	Ruth
38	Ossett Civic Society	Mitchell	David
39	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine

40	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Paul
41	Richmond Civic Society	Hilyard	Carol
42	Ripon Civic Society	Hughes	Christopher
43	Ripon Civic Society	Taylor	Richard
44	Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Ward	Richard
45	Selby Civic Society	Clegg	Marie
46	Selby Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Moss	David
47	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
48	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Wood	Ann
49	Spen Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
50	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
51	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
52	Wakefield Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
53	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
54	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
55	Guest Speaker (PM) Canal and River Trust	Garratt	Ruth
56	Guest Speaker (AM) Harrogate Civic Society	Holland	Stewart
	Apologies		
1	Beverley Civic Society	Hopkins	Pamela
2	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
3	Bradford Civic Society	Cunningham	Si
4	Grimsby Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Graeme
5	Grimsby Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Bassett	Teresa
6	Grimsby Cleethorpes & District Civic Society	Turner	Martyn
7	Harrogate Civic Society	Fahy	Angela
8	Horbury Civic Society	Roberts	Graham
9	Hornsea Civic Society	Salvidge	Nicki
10	Horsforth Civic Society	Hughes	Martin
11	Huddersfield Civic Society	Earnshaw	Lesley
12	Pickering Civic Society	Potter	Mike
13	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
14	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
15	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
16	Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Cooper	Peter
17	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Nash	Claire
18	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
19	Whitby Civic Society	James	David
20	Whitby Civic Society	Stangoe	Joyce