

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

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate on Saturday 26th January 2019.**

### **1. Present**

Over 50 members and guests were present, representing 23 YHACS member societies. A full list appears at Appendix A.

### **1a. Apologies for Absence**

See Appendix A

### **2. Minutes of the AGM 27.01.18**

These were proposed by Peter Spawforth of Wakefield Civic Society and seconded by Alan Nicholson of Grimsby and Cleethorpes Civic Society and approved by the meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising.**

There were none.

### **4. Annual Report.**

Kevin Trickett presented the annual report, which had been circulated in advance, together with a forward look for YHACS for 2019. He outlined the highlights of 2018.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The accounts for 2018 were presented.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were proposed for adoption by Margaret Hicks Clarke of Goole Civic Society and seconded by Paul Cartwright of Pontefract Civic Society and approved by the meeting.

### **6. Election of Officers**

The Chairman, Kevin Trickett, had been re-elected for 3 years at the 2018 AGM and therefore continues in post.

The following officers were nominated and re-elected for another 12 months, unopposed by the meeting:

Vice Chair: David Moss  
Treasurer: Richard Ward  
Secretary: Helen Kidman

### **7. Election of Executive Committee**

The following committee members were nominated and elected for a period of 12 months, unopposed by the meeting:

Phyllis Barnes	Paul Cartwright
Margaret Clarke	Alison Drake MBE
Martin Hamilton	Tony Leonard
Jim Robinson	Malcolm Sharman

### **8. Election of President**

Peter Cooper was nominated and elected unanimously by the meeting to serve for another year.

**9. Any Other Business:** There was none.

## **MEMBERS' MEETING:**

### **10. Good Design - Kevin Trickett**

Kevin Trickett gave an illustrated talk on the principles of good design pointing out that to focus on aesthetics alone would end up in arguments about personal taste.

He reminded the audience that there were still places available on the YHACS Design Workshop on 5-6 February 2019 if anyone wished to book.

### **11. Where Does Design Fit into the Planning System? Stephen Walker Conservation Officer, East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

Stephen Walker explained with illustrations how Design is integrated into the planning system

Questions to Kevin and Stephen were wide ranging and covered de-listing listed barns which had been converted, loss of listed building interiors, the urgent need for listed building re-assessment, staff reductions in some planning departments, the need for meetings with conservation staff and getting design statements adopted as supplementary planning documents.

[In response to requests from YHACS members, Stephen has agreed that his slides can be circulated with the minutes – please see separate attachment.]

### **12. Building Better, Building Beautiful - The Government Commission - Kevin Trickett**

Kevin detailed the background and current activities of the Commission which is chaired by Sir Roger Scruton. Kevin is on the Civic Voice panel that has been set up to put together a response to the commission from the civic movement.

Kevin gave an entertaining presentation on how we judge 'beauty' – what it might be and how we recognise it but asked whether our appreciation of beauty is an instinctive response or the product of learned behaviours.

### **13. The Peter Spawforth Excellence Awards**

These were announced and then presented by Peter Spawforth as follows:

3<sup>rd</sup> Whitby CS for their War Memorials project (£50 prize)

2<sup>nd</sup> Addingham CS for the Four Becks project (£100 prize)

1<sup>st</sup> Ripon CS for Ripon Reviewed (£200 prize and the Peter Spawforth Trophy)

Highly commended: Horbury CS for a blue plaque scheme incorporating QR codes. Kevin Trickett explained that the judges were delighted to see an entry from Horbury Civic Society as the society had so very nearly closed down just a few years before.

A Vote of Thanks to Kevin Trickett was made by Peter Cooper on behalf of YHACS members.

### **14. Latest News from Civic Voice**

Helen Kidman gave the latest news from Civic Voice, including continued work on conservation areas at risk, England's favourite conservation area - winners and Yorkshire nominees, (many areas would have the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of their Conservation Areas coming up which might provide civic societies with opportunities to get involved in celebrations or to point out the problems), the future of high streets, inappropriate upward extensions built without planning permission and permitted development rights.

Civic Day is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019.

Civic Voice is in the process of appointing a new finance and admin officer. Conference 2019 is under discussion.

### **15. Just a Minute!**

Clive Woods from Aireborough Civic Society spoke on green belt threats in NW Leeds and the need to put up a barrister at Local Plan hearings.

Paul Cartwright proudly announced that Pontefract Civic Society is 50 this year and members look forward to welcoming YHACS members to the YHACS meeting in October 2019 which Pontefract is hosting.

Chris Hughes of Ripon Civic Society advised that they had bid to provide a placement for a York University student and been successful. The student produced a very useful report on Ripon's military heritage.

Lynda Kitching of Leeds Civic Trust has recently become chair of Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum, a consortium of some 90 local groups concerned with green space, 'in bloom' and parks. They had recently made a deputation to a Leeds City Council full council meeting as green spaces are impacted by almost every area of council business. The text of their deputation address is available on request.

Rick Battarbee from Addingham Civic Society provided more detail on the Four Becks project which had received a £20k grant and appointed a project officer to reduce flooding via Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (SUDS). This raised awareness in Addingham about the risk of flooding and had provided every home with emergency contact numbers in the event of flooding.

Susan Spibey of NWACTS extended an invitation to members to attend the NWACTS AGM which is on 16th March 2019 in Manchester, with a keynote speaker from Transport for the North.

Alan Nicholson from Grimsby and Cleethorpes Civic Society advised that Grimsby had recently achieved Town Plan status with substantial funding attached. The civic society would be involved in these developments and has recently updated the Grimsby Heritage Trail.

David Moss of Selby Civic Society and YHACS Newsletter editor thanked contributors of articles and encouraged others to send in material. The Brainteaser was won by Ann Valentine from Wakefield Civic Society, (and within a few minutes of the newsletter being published!).

Helen Kidman from Ilkley Civic Society advised members of the need to check on public footpaths as the Definitive Maps of these were going to be closed. Various groups such as the Ramblers Association have been working on getting routes included, but not necessarily in built up areas. In Ilkley many short sections of footpath were found to be not yet designated and a large number of un-adopted back roads. More details at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/04/memory-lanes-the-ramblers-trying-to-save-10000-lost-footpaths>

Kevin Trickett drew attention to the Gardens Trust Workshop on Historic Landscapes on 12th March 2019. Cost not known but more details would be published when they became available.

A Vote of Thanks to Kevin Trickett, Peter Cooper and the YHACS committee was made by Peter Spawforth.

**Appendix 1**

	<b>Society/Organisation</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>
	<b><i>Present:</i></b>		
1	Addingham Civic Society	Battarbee	Gill
2	Addingham Civic Society	Battarbee	Rick
3	Addingham Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Robinson	Jim
4	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Lynda
5	Aireborough Civic Society	Ingham	David
6	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
7	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
8	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
9	Brighouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
10	Castleford Heritage Trust/YHACS Committee	Drake	Alison
11	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
12	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
13	Doncaster Civic Trust	Holmes	John
14	Goole Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
15	Grimsby & Cleethorpes Civic Society	Nicholson	Alan
16	Halifax Civic Trust	Connolly	Eileen
17	Halifax Civic Trust	Goodrum	Alan
18	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
19	Harrogate Civic Society	Amaku	Susan
20	Howden Civic Society	Mephram	Philip
21	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
22	Hull Civic Society/Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Sharman	Malcolm
23	Ilkley Civic Society	Blackburn	David
24	Ilkley Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
25	Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	Helen
26	Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	Ian
27	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
28	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
29	North West Association of Civic Societies	Spibey	Susan
30	Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth
31	Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
32	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
33	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
34	Ripon Civic Society	Hughes	Christopher
35	Ripon Civic Society	Taylor	Richard
36	Scarborough Civic Society	Cooper	Alison
37	Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Cooper	Peter
38	Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Ward	Richard
39	Selby Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Moss	David

40	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
41	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
42	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
43	Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
44	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
45	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
46	Wakefield Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/ YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
47	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
48	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
49	Whitby Civic Society	Stangoe	Joyce
50	Individual	Barker	Bob
<b>51</b>	<b>Guest Speaker</b>	Walker	Stephen
	<b><i>Apologies received</i></b>		
1	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
2	Barnsley Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Barnes	Phylis
3	Beverley Civic Society	English	Barbara
4	GGIFT	Bassett	Graeme
5	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
6	The High Wycombe Society	Fooks	Tony
7	Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
8	Historic England	Wall	Deborah
9	Horbury Civic Society	Nichol	Deb
10	Huddersfield Civic Society	Wyles	David
11	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
12	Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
13	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
14	North West Association of Civic Trusts and Societies	Fishwick	Kathy
15	Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
16	Saddleworth Civic Trust	Harrison	David
17	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
18	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
19	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
20	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
21	Spenn Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica