

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Cedar Court Hotel Harrogate on Saturday 25th January 2020.

1. Present

Over 60 members and guests were present, representing 24 YHACS member societies. A full list appears at Appendix 1.

1a. Apologies for Absence

See Appendix 1

2. Minutes of the AGM 26.01.19

These were proposed by Susan Amaku of Harrogate Civic Society and seconded by Peter Coote from Doncaster Civic Trust 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 2020. He outlined the highlights of 2019. Alison Drake MBE and a YHACS committee member and Richard Ward, YHACS Treasurer, who passed away during the year, were specially remembered.

5. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 2019 were presented.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were proposed for adoption by Margaret Hicks Clarke of Goole Civic Society and seconded by Linda Kitching of Leeds Civic Trust and approved by the meeting.

6. Election of Officers

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

Vice Chair: David Moss
Treasurer: Alan Goodrum
Secretary: Helen Kidman

7. Election of Executive Committee

The following committee members were nominated and re-elected unopposed by the Meeting to serve for one year:

- Margaret Hicks Clarke
- Malcolm Sharman
- Tony Leonard
- Jim Robinson
- Paul Cartwright
- Phyllis Barnes
- Martin Hamilton

(Kevin Trickett was elected for three years from the 2018 AGM and therefore not up for re-election until 2021).

8. Election of President

Peter Cooper was nominated and elected unanimously by the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

None.

MEMBERS' MEETING

GUEST SPEAKERS:

10. Prof Rick Battarbee One Planet Living

Rick spoke on the subject of sustainability. There is no 'planet B', he said. The concept of sustainability was first proposed in 1972 in *Only One Earth* by Ward and Dubos. With a population of 7.7bn the world needs food, energy and water all of which produce pressure, destroy habitats and contribute to global warming, which is now at a critical tipping point. In turn, people produce waste which is not always well treated, or recycled. Western lifestyles are becoming unsustainable. Population is due to rise 1bn in the next decade leading to even greater global challenges. The UN has some 17 development goals to minimise the impact of people on the planet.

There are actions which can be taken at a local level, including Sustainability Plans, environmental groups with work programmes, reducing the number of vehicles, declaring climate emergencies and setting targets for reductions of carbon (CO₂) emissions and reaching zero carbon.

Rick advocated starting groups at local level, involving young people and sharing expertise. Rich countries, like the UK, need to lead the way. The target of reaching zero carbon by 2030 is not unrealistic if we start now.

11. Joan Humble, Civic Voice

Joan reported on current Civic Voice activities.

Joan started by saying that societies always reported that planning was a key issue. If One Planet is a key issue for them, societies should say so. It links well to planning and housing especially to specification of insulation and the use of solar heating.

Civic Voice is 10 this year and an important player in building the civic movement. There are 32 Civic Society members of Civic Voice in Yorkshire and Humber and there is an open invitation for those which are not currently members to join. Civic Voice can influence decision makers and promote civic pride, support societies to recruit younger members and make the agenda relevant, bringing communities together and conserving heritage.

In analysing the planning system, it is often felt that the power is more with developers and central government than with the community and local authorities. Civic Voice represented the community interest at the Building Better Commission conference at Birmingham University. The issue that volume builders felt no imperative to use best practice was raised with the late Sir Roger Scruton who chaired the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission, with the result that Civic Voice was invited to send a representative – the only community representative to be interviewed by the commission.

The APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) for Civic Societies met under the auspices of Craig Mackinlay MP and Jake Berry MP (the Northern Powerhouse minister). This group will be re-created in the new parliament. Societies were invited to recommend to their MPs that they joined the APPG.

Joan had also attended a meeting at Dumfries House (in Lanarkshire) which is managed by the Prince's Trust. Interesting presentations included one on Poundbury, the new town being created

on the outskirts of Dorchester. One speaker was the Earl of Arran who is developing a new township west of Inverness, proceeding via design charrettes.

The High Street Task Force also has civic society involvement in Blackpool, aiming at achieving a larger community voice, not just the business community input.

There had been very positive feedback on the Civic Voice manifesto and policy planning guidance now specifically mentions civic societies under community consultation.

Griff Rhys Jones, the Civic Voice President had been awarded the CBE.

The 2020 conference will be held in Blackpool on 1/2 May 2020. [NB: Since cancelled] There will be a repeat of England's Favourite Conservation Area, which saw 16 000 people voting and raised the profile in the media. The big campaign for 2020 will be to increase society membership by 10%.

12 Jemima Parker, Zero Carbon Harrogate

Jemima spoke on how our local areas can become zero carbon and why it was important that they became so.

Zero Carbon Harrogate is a voluntary body which started in 2016 by talking to the Chamber of Commerce and residents' bodies. They are part of Zero Carbon Yorkshire which has many new groups. Their role is to provide vision as it is hard to visualise what a zero-carbon economy will look like. Harrogate Borough Council has declared a Climate Emergency and set up a Climate Change Coalition. North Yorkshire County Council is aiming to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. This is to support the need to ensure that heating of the earth does not increase more than 1.5%.

Harrogate is currently achieving 7.1 tonnes per person so need to reduce emissions dramatically and speed up reductions to reach and maintain a zero level.

Carbon comes from a number of sources, particularly idling car engines, but also homes, transport, food waste and recycling, aviation and shipping.

Within the HBC area a solar farm is planned at South Staveley. There are plans for air-source heat pumps to equip local people with the move from gas and oil. There will be no new gas installations after 2025. Car usage must be reduced. More attention needs to be paid to pedestrians and cyclists. New woodlands will be created, 2-3 times the area of The Stray in Harrogate, each year for the next 30 years.

13. The Peter Spawforth Excellence Awards

These were announced and presented as follows:

- 3rd Wakefield Civic Society
- 2nd Pontefract Civic Society
- 1st Addingham Civic Society

15. Just a Minute!

Malcolm Sharman of Hull drew attention to the Maritime Celebration 'Navigate' in Hull in early February.

Alan Nicolson of Grimsby and Cleethorpes highlighted the Mayflower 400 celebration events in early February and the Pilgrim Fathers' association with Immingham and Grimsby. New heritage guides for Immingham, Grimsby and Cleethorpes are now available.

Wakefield Civic Society showed a video of a blue plaque unveiling at Wakefield's Festival of the Moon in August 2019 – an event that rather broke the mould for blue plaque unveilings as it featured a group of actors telling the story of Dame Marjorie Williamson, space scientist who grew up in Wakefield, set to music.

Appendix 1

Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
Addingham Civic Society	Battarbee	Gill
Addingham Civic Society	Birch	Ken
Addingham Civic Society	Birch	Pauline
Addingham Civic Society	Keeble	Diane
Addingham Civic Society	Keeble	Malcolm
Addingham Civic Society	Robson	Beryl
Addingham Civic Society	Robson	Jack
Addingham Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Robinson	Jim
Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Lynda
Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
Barnsley Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Barnes	Phylis
Beverley Civic Society/York Civic Trust	Burrows	Chris
Beverley Civic Society	English	Barbara
Beverley Civic Society/York Civic Trust	Young	Sarah
Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
Brighouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
Doncaster Civic Trust	Holmes	John
Doncaster Civic Trust	Mellows	Rowena
Dronfield Civic Society	Hinchcliffe	John
Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
Goole Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
Grimsby & Cleethorpes Civic Society	Nicholson	Alan
Halifax Civic Trust	Connolly	Eileen
Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
Harrogate Civic Society	Amaku	Susan
Harrogate Civic Society	Dicken	Chris
Harrogate Civic Society	Holland	Stuart
Harrogate Civic Society	Siddans	David
Harrogate Civic Society	Siddans	Margaret
Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
Harrogate Zero Carbon	Hallett	Kirsty
Harrogate Zero Carbon	Scales	Stephen
Howden Civic Society	Mepham	Philip
Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
Hull Civic Society/Scaborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Sharman	Malcolm
Ilkley Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	Ian
Knaresborough Civic Society	Wright	
Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth

Ossett Civic Trust	Long	Russell
Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
Richmond Civic Society	Grant	Colin
Ripon Civic Society	Taylor	Richard
Scarborough Civic Society	Cooper	Alison
Scarborough Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS Committee	Cooper	Peter
Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
Wakefield Civic Society	Barnes	Rosemary
Wakefield Civic Society	Cobham	Sarah
Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
Wakefield Civic Society/Market Weighton CS/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
Wakefield Civic Society/Barnsley Civic Trust	Ward	Brian
Whitby Civic Society	Stangoe	Joyce
York Civic Trust	Scott	Andrew
Guest Speakers		
Addingham Civic Society	Battarbee	Rick
Civic Voice	Humble	Joan
Harrogate Zero Carbon	Parker	Jemima
Apologies		
Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust	Bassett	Graeme
Halifax Civic Trust/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Goodrum	Alan
Historic England	Walker	John
Huddersfield Civic Society	Hughes	Geoff
North West Association of Civic Societies	Spibey	Susan
Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
Ripon Civic Society	Hughes	Christopher
Saddleworth Civic Trust	Harrison	David
Selby Civic Society/YHACS/Market Weighton	Moss	David
Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
Sheffield Civic Trust	Ingleby	Lilly
Spen Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
Wakefield Civic Society	Swift	Kevin
Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
Individual Member	Blackburn	Judith

