

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF THE YHACS MEETING HELD ON 28TH JULY 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL, RIPON

DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Appendix 1

1. Welcome from Kevin Trickett and David Winpenny

Kevin welcomed everyone to Ripon Town Hall and thanked Ripon Civic Society for organising the meeting. The previous evening's meal and visit to the Workhouse Museum had been much enjoyed.

David also welcomed members to Ripon, including a special welcome to guest speaker Chris Winters, a Civic Voice trustee and chair of Wells Civic Society, in Somerset.

2. Minutes of last meeting held on 28th July 2018 at Leeds.

These were proposed by Clive Woods, seconded by Richard Ward and approved by the meeting.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Kevin Trickett reported that he had been to Buckingham Palace for his MBE which was presented by HRH Prince Charles.

He reminded societies that they should by now be up to date on everything to do with GDPR and its impact, including systems, privacy notices and access requests. Particular advice to small organisations had been a long-time coming but it was clear that all organisations, whatever their size, had to abide by the new law.

Kevin noted that revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) had been published by the Government earlier in the week and advised all members involved in planning matters to read it (available [here](#)).

In response to demand from members, the YHACS committee had agreed to run a design workshop. This would be facilitated by Elizabeth and Richard Motley from Sheffield-based Integreat Plus and would take place over two days, 12th and 13th November 2018 at a venue in Wakefield. Cost expected to be £20/day per person. People will need to attend both days. If demand is high a second workshop will be organised.

4. Treasurer's Report

Richard Ward reported that the bank balance was £5,714.61. Three societies have still to pay subs for 2018. A new organisation, Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust, has joined YHACS and we hope to welcome their members to future meetings.

5. Guest Speaker – Henri Murison, Director Northern Powerhouse Partnership

Henri Murison is executive director of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership which was set up by former Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne to promote the northern economy and address the question as to how the North could achieve economic growth. It was felt that the North was greater than the sum of its parts and that in the past, during the industrial revolution, the North had been the powerhouse of the UK. The hope was that it could return to a position at the forefront of change. NPP has identified some formidable barriers to this – not least being the poor transport links and a lack of education and skills.

These are the areas NPP is currently concentrating on to make progress, specifically in the fields of advanced manufacturing, energy, innovation and digital industries.

Henri thought that community pride was important to economic growth and developing the northern identity.

Henri's presentation raised a number of questions from the floor and led to a lively debate covering issues such as whether the government's responsiveness was adequate; the benefits to ordinary people; where money was being spent (and lost; cf Panorama); the impact on city regions; the ongoing debate about elected mayors; the impact on the role of the three Civic Voice regions in the north; how to make expenditure on big infrastructure projects more visible; the importance of quality of life; and why some public sector jobs were being moved (HMRC from Bradford to Leeds).

To join the NPH mailing list contact: <https://northernpowerhouse.gov.uk/>

6. Guest Speaker – Chris Winter, Chair, Wells Civic Society

Chris Winter spoke about Wells Civic Society and the similarities between Wells and Ripon, both small cathedral cities. Over half of the audience had visited Wells. Chris is on the steering group of the Alliance of Cathedral Cities and Towns and thought that the problems faced by Ripon and Wells were not unique. For Wells the problems were difficulties with 3 tiers of local authority and the split in responsibilities between them, an ageing population and the management of tourism. The civic society's approach to issues is cooperative and they go out of their way to improve communication between different groups in the city. They assisted with the 2020 culture bid as it helped to initiate various useful projects and brought new people in to civic activity, even though Wells did not win.

The civic society runs a plaque scheme, walking tours, In Bloom with an award for children, tree-planting, Art in the Community, HODs, Civic Day, various exhibitions, research and a meetings programme. They are strong on planning and have a retired inspector on their planning committee, which is useful. They aim to attract younger members (50+) to the Civic Society. Chris was the first female chair since the society's inception in 1952.

Problems were experienced with their neighbourhood plan with disagreement with the city council and with declining society membership and recruitment.

7. Introduction to GAMAR – Ripon Civic Society

Richard Taylor from Ripon Civic Society introduced Venu Tammabatula who explained how the GAMAR digital tool worked and some of its possibilities. This was demonstrated earlier on the morning walk round Ripon that many had attended. Using a mobile phone app, plaques on a walk can be recognised and a written or spoken commentary provided explaining what was commemorated. Much more information can be given than can be put on a plaque. The technology is being used in museums and is helpful to visually or hearing-impaired people as well as the general public. Commentaries can be customised for children. Advertising and business references can be included if needed for sponsorship. The cost of preparing a tour is £4-500 which includes some up-dating.

8. Ripon Civic Society at 50 – David Winpenny

David reflected on the society's first 50 years. Ripon is North Yorkshire's only city (created in 1936 when the Minster became a Cathedral). The civic society was formed in response to concern over various developments including the proposed demolition of the Unicorn Hotel on the Market Place (saved; it's still there). The society supported the bypass, the Dishforth to Pudsey motorway (not proceeded with) the conversion of the Liberty Prison to a Museum, the re-setting of the market place which had been concreted and the improvement of the canal basin so that the waterway was navigable once more.

The society organises green plaques, runs a biennial design award, supported the Ripon Reviewed exhibition at the Workhouse Museum, has produced a calendar and made input to the Local Plan.

Future tasks include keeping Harrogate planners on their toes and continuing to celebrate all that is good in Ripon. YHACS was cordially invited to return in 2068 to review their progress!

9. Update on the Civic Voice Regional Forum – Helen Kidman

The Forum meets again on 18th September. The Jargon Buster is soon to be published on the CV website. The Forum would like any feedback on GDPR. Members of the Forum are supporting CV prepare an HF bid for a project on conservation areas at risk, to support CV and civic societies to take action.

10. News from Civic Voice

The 2018 Design Awards had been very successful and the Yorkshire winner was....The Piece Hall at Halifax – worth a visit.

The CV conference will be held at Birmingham REP on 19 and 20 October 2018. Bookings can be made now via the Civic Voice website. Members were encouraged to book now.

Civic Voice board members had been reviewing priorities. There had been concern at poor attendance by members of the house at APPG but the meetings are considered to be valuable as so much goes on behind the scenes. All societies are encouraged to get their MPs to sign up.

11. Just a Minute – a round-up of news and views from local societies (where each society present gets to speak for just one minute!)

Sue Wrathmell (Skipton CS) reported that they are producing a booklet on the 1st World War in Skipton.

June Paxton White (Halifax CT) advised that if any society wishes to visit Halifax and the Piece Hall to contact her via the website as they are very happy to show visitors round.

12. AOB

-

13. Date of next meeting: 6th October 2018 at The Centre for Creativity, Theatre Royal Wakefield.

List of people and societies attending or submitting apologies

	Society/Organisation	Surname	First Name
1	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Clive
2	Aireborough Civic Society	Woods	Judy
3	Barnsley Civic Society	Barnes	Geoff
4	Barnsley Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Barnes	Phyllis
5	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
6	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
7	Brighouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
8	Castleford Heritage Trust/YHACS Committee	Drake	Alison
9	Castleford Heritage Trust	Wallis	Tony
10	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
11	Doncaster Civic Trust	Kimber	Steve
12	Halifax Civic Trust	Connolly	Eileen
13	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
14	Harrogate Civic Society	Amaku	Susan
15	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
16	Hull Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
17	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
18	Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
19	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
20	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
21	North West Association of Civic Trust Societies (NWACTS)	Spibey	Susan
22	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
23	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
24	Richmond Civic Society	Hilyard	Carol
25	Richmond Civic Society	McDonald	John
26	Ripon Cathedral	Barker	Julia
27	Ripon Civic Society	Hughes	Christopher
28	Ripon Civic Society	Rawlinson	Nigel
29	Ripon Civic Society	Taylor	Richard
30	Ripon Civic Society	Winpenny	David
31	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen

32	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
33	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
34	Scarborough Civic Society/Huddersfield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Ward	Richard
35	Selby Civic Society	Dyson	Michael
36	Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Moss	David
37	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clark	Sheila
38	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Wrathmell	Sue
39	Wakefield Civic Society	Farman	Sue
40	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Trickett	Kevin
41	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
	Guest Speakers:		
42	Henri Murison		
43	Chris Winter		
44	Venu Tammabatula		
	Apologies Received		
1	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
2	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
3	Civic Voice	Harvey	Ian
4	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
5	GGIFT (Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust)	Bassett	Graeme
6	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
7	Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
8	Howden Civic Society	Mepham	Philip
9	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
10	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
11	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Chris
12	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
13	Sheffield Civic Trust	Bedwell	Paul
14	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
15	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
16	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
17	Whitby Civic Society	James	David