

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

### **MINUTES OF THE YHACS MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2019 AT THE CIRCLE, SHEFFIELD**

#### **DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

See Appendix 1

#### **1. Welcome from Kevin Trickett chair of YHACS and Lilly Ingleby co-chair of Sheffield Civic Trust**

Kevin welcomed everyone including Sarah James and Ian Harvey from Civic Voice and John Hinchliffe and John Fletcher, members of Dronfield Civic Society.

Lilly Ingleby welcomed all YHACS members on behalf of Sheffield Civic Trust. Sheffield CT is raising design standards and best practice and increasing public participation in planning issues. The Trust's design awards have been running for ten years, a period of major re-development in Sheffield. The awards attract sponsorship and highlight all aspects of what makes a good place to live. Sheffield CT, now over ten years old, has created and maintained a unique and positive relationship with the city council.

Kevin thanked Sheffield Civic Trust and Civic Voice for co-hosting the event and for covering the costs of room hire and refreshments. He also thanked Sarah James for leading a lively morning session outlining the principles of Building for Life 12 (slides to be attached to these minutes) and Paul Bedwell of Sheffield Civic Trust for leading a short guided walk before lunch.

#### **2. Minutes of last meeting held on 6th October 2018 at Wakefield.**

These were proposed by David Moss of Selby Civic Society, seconded by Steve Kimber of Doncaster Civic Trust and approved by the meeting.

#### **3. Matters arising**

There were none.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

Kevin drew attention to the latest YHACS Newsletter, which had already received several positive remarks. Members may send articles to the editor, David Moss, at any time and he urged members to do so. Contributions from societies are always very welcome.

He reported a new committee member had been recruited. Alan Goodrum from Halifax CT has been co-opted to join the executive committee. Members present expressed their appreciation.

YHACS has recruited its first individual member. Judith Blackburn of Threshfield has not only joined YHACS but has also agreed to contribute rural affairs articles to the YHACS newsletter.

Kevin drew attention to the fact that the NPPF had again been updated: the latest version, dated February 2019 was made available on line in March.

There is a newsletter article on the Fundraising Preference Service which societies should note.

The YHACS Design Workshop took place on 5th/6th February 2019. Feedback has been positive but if repeated in future, the event could be available as two separate days.

YHACS will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in November 2019. There are plans for a luncheon event with a speaker. The date will be publicised as soon as it is established.

Kevin advised the meeting on discussions he had had with his own committee at Wakefield recently as to whether civic societies are viewed as 'cultural organisations'. The consensus seemed to be that civic societies were indeed cultural organisations, both in terms of what they did and also in terms of their programmes of talks, visits and blue plaque unveilings not to mention their publications. The question remained as to whether the general public and other 'cultural organisations' saw societies in this way but there was the potential for civic societies to access cultural and arts funding if they positioned themselves accordingly. Culture activity is a legitimate charitable objective that might be specifically included in societies' constitutions and was considered important by a number of people who spoke from the floor.

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

Richard Ward advised the bank balance is £5,709.41 with four societies still to pay. He also thanked members for prompt payment of their subscriptions which meant that we now had 35 paid up society members, as well as one personal member.

Richard said he had been endeavouring to recruit new members and reminded those present that YHACS membership is not limited to civic societies, so that if anyone knew of a "like-minded" organisation which might be a candidate for membership, they should let him know in order that he could send them an invitation.

## **6. Guest Speaker Ian Harvey, Executive Director of Civic Voice on Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission.**

Ian ran a lively interactive session discussing the engagement societies felt they had, and would like to see, in the planning process. Did societies want to become 'statutory consultees', for example? Ian outlined some of the feedback from the recent Civic Voice survey put out in response to the government's Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission and pointed out that he and Sarah James had recently been interviewed by the Commission on behalf of the civic movement.

## **7. Guest Speaker Rachel Walker, Project Manager Don Catchment Rivers Trust on Salmon to Sheffield.**

Rachel advised that most UK rivers have a local trust that has a role of raising awareness of river issues with the public. The Don Catchment Rivers Trust has an objective of getting salmon back in the river by 2025. Salmon have been lost to the river for a number of reasons over a long period including the creation of weirs for water power schemes, pollution, loss of spawning beds, and river straightening schemes which increase flow rates. By the 1970s it was a dead river, but since then clean up legislation has dramatically improved the water quality. The trust sought HLF funds to make further improvements and install fish passes at weirs. There is a community engagement programme which has had a major impact on litter collection. Neglected areas have been converted to Youth Art and there is also work with schools. Towpath reinstatements are opening up river banks to walkers. Anglers have reported improvements and in late 2018 a spawning salmon was reported which implies the presence of male fish. The Trust continues to work with the national Canal and River Trust to maintain the improvements and with the planning departments to produce satisfactory plans for fish passes where a weir is a listed structure.

## **8. Just a Minute – a round-up of news and views from local societies**

Graeme Bassett from Grimsby Ice Factory Trust explained that a drone survey of their site had just been carried out. The Kasbah had received funding to restore a smoke house and the site will be open for Heritage Open Days this summer.

Erica Amende from Spenn Valley advised that their HODS event would be a walk on the Luddite Trails.

Kevin Trickett on behalf of Market Weighton CS announced that the Blue plaque for Hilda Lyon will be going ahead. A fund raising campaign had raised over £600 to cover the cost of the plaque and an unveiling event. He hoped that the event would encourage local people to come forward to support the Society. The Lord Lieutenant for East Yorkshire will be present.

Ian Harvey reported that Civic Voice membership is growing. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April 2020 will be marked with the annual conference on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020. In the meantime Civic Voice priorities are being reviewed and much discussion with regional associations and individual societies is underway.

Richard Taylor from Ripon Civic Society asked why YHACS was not called Civic Voice Y&H? Kevin explained that YHACS was set up before Civic Voice was established – but said he would take the suggestion back to the YHACS Committee. He wondered if Ripon Civic Society would be changing its name to Civic Voice Ripon?

#### **9. AOB**

David Moss announced that the Newsletter Brainteaser prize had been won by Richard Ward.

#### **10. Date of next meeting:**

27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Selby. Details will follow.

## List of people attending or sending apologies

	<b>Society/Organisation</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>
1	Brighthouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
2	Brighthouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
3	Castleford Heritage Trust	Wallis	Tony
4	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
5	Doncaster Civic Trust	Kimber	Steve
6	Dronfield Civic Society	Fletcher	John
7	Dronfield Civic Society	Hinchliffe	John
8	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
9	Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
10	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
11	Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust	Bassett	Graeme
12	Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust	Bassett	Teresa
13	Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Civic Society	Nicholson	Alan
14	Halifax Civic Trust	Connolly	Eileen
15	Halifax Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Goodrum	Alan
16	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
17	Horbury Civic Society	Roberts	Graham
18	Hull Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
19	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society/Civic Voice	Kidman	Helen
20	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
21	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
22	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
23	Ripon Civic Society	Hughes	Christopher
24	Ripon Civic Society	Taylor	Richard
25	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
26	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
27	Scarborough Civic Society/Huddersfield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Ward	Richard
28	Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Moss	David

29	Sheffield Civic Trust/Civic Voice	Bedwell	Paul
30	Sheffield Civic Trust	Godfrey	Liz
31	Sheffield Civic Trust	Ingleby	Lily
32	Wakefield Civic Society	Swift	Kevin
33	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Trickett	Kevin
34	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
35	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
	<b>Guest Speakers:</b>		
36	Civic Voice	Harvey	Ian
37	Civic Voice	James	Sarah
38	Don Catchment Rivers Trust	Walker	Rachel
	<b>Apologies Received</b>		
1	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
2	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
3	Barnsley Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Barnes	Phyllis
4	Beverley Civic Society	English	Barbara
5	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
6	Bradford Civic Society	Cunningham	Si
7	Castleford Heritage Trust	Drake	Alison
8	Harrogate Civic Society	Pankhurst	Henry
9	High Wycombe Society	Fooks	Tony
10	Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
11	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
12	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS	Leonard	Tony
13	NW ACTS	Spibey	Susan
14	Richmond Civic Society	Hilyard	Carol
15	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
16	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
17	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
18	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clarke	Sheila
19	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
20	Whitby Civic Society	James	David