

# **YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES MEETING AT RICHMOND 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

## **1. Introduction - Kevin Trickett, YHACS Chair**

Kevin welcomed members and thanked Richmond and District Civic Society for their hospitality in hosting the event, including organising a very enjoyable meal at the Station Restaurant in Richmond on the preceding evening, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Welcome from Colin Grant, the chair of Richmond and District Civic Society**

Colin welcomed everyone to Richmond

### **Welcome from the Mayor of Richmond, Ian Woods.**

The Mayor welcomed members to Richmond. He advised that renovation works were shortly to get under way on the building we were meeting in, the historic town hall. Regular events involving the Civic Society include the Civic Service, the Christmas celebration and an old tradition of the Poor Old Hoss. The Society had written to their MP, Rishi Sunak, about the impact of government policy on the Dales. He ended by quoting Philip Larkin's poem *Going, going* about rapid urban development and modern life.

## **2. Minutes of the YHACS meeting held with Doncaster Civic Trust on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

These were agreed as a true record.

## **3. Matters arising**

None

## **4. Chairman's report**

As this was the first YHACS quarterly event since the AGM, Kevin gave an outline of some of the things that YHACS had been involved with since the beginning of the year.

Yorkshire Heritage Summit - YHACS had been represented at this event on 18<sup>th</sup> May, organised by the Yorkshire Society in Saltaire, and it was good to see other civic societies there too. As a result of contacts made, North Craven Preservation Trust had joined YHACS after the event.

The next day was the Civic Voice and YHACS Convention held in Halifax at the Piece Hall. The event had been organised by YHACS, Halifax Civic Trust and Civic Voice and had been very successful, not just as an event in itself with an impressive list of speakers but also because it had generated a small financial surplus that had been shared with Civic Voice.

Many societies took part in this year's HODS (Heritage Open Days) with walks and talks.

Two more societies have joined YHACS recently: they are Castleford Civic Society (formerly, Castleford Civic Trust), which was making a welcome return to YHACS membership after several years, and the newly formed Keighley Civic Society.

At the AGM, YHACS recruited some new members to its executive committee. We welcome John Clarke (Goole) Jane Lee (Keighley) and George Eglese (Harrogate)

and, after the Civic Voice Spring Convention added to this when Ben Cowell (Wakefield) was co-opted to the Committee.

Kevin drew attention to the Government proposal (via Historic England) to launch a new national blue plaque scheme. Some societies were concerned about this potential competition/duplication/overlap with their own schemes but it would seem from subsequent conversations that HE only intend to do 8-10 plaques per year and aim to work with the local society where there is one.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

### Position at 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Civic Voice Convention surplus was £1063.28, £482 was paid to Civic Voice. £100 was paid to Halifax Civic Trust to cover some of their costs and the balance of £481.28 was retained by YHACS.

Castleford CS and North Craven BPT now paid-up members.

	£	£
Current A/C Balance		10,580.38
Less MWCS wind up funds still held	385.40	
YHACS Funds		10,194.98
Of which Richard Ward legacy (treated as restricted funds)		2,000.00
YHACS Available funds:		8,194.98

## 6. Guest Speaker Dr Neil Powe

Neil is a Senior Lecturer in Planning, University of Newcastle School of Architecture Planning and Landscape. He gave an illustrated presentation on the role of social enterprises in the regeneration of town and city centres by, for example, taking on old and unused buildings. Some of the lessons were applicable to what civic societies might do – or campaign for in their own towns and cities.

## 7. Update from Civic Voice – Martin Hamilton

Martin outlined the current position. Civic Voice has attracted some funding through consultancy undertaken by Ian Harvey. A lottery bid can be made next month. A series of webinars is to be announced. A face-to-face AGM will take place in November or December. There is sufficient funding to continue until the next membership round brings in subscriptions in the Spring. Recovery of the missing funding is still being sought but progress is slow.

## 8. Richmond & District Civic Society Update – Colin Grant

Colin reported that Richmond and District Civic Society has 167 members and is re-branding itself (following the presentation on the importance of branding at the Civic Voice Convention!). The area surrounding Richmond is rural with farming, tourism and the military at Catterick, all contributing to the local economy. Planning excludes the Dales which are part of the national park.

The society runs a lecture programme, has a town trail, steel plaques, keeps an eye on 346 listed buildings, a civic awareness schools programme and produces the Richmond Review.

They are involved in the John Carr Challenge celebrating the architect's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday with renovations to Richmond Grandstand (the world's oldest surviving grandstand although there have been no races there since 1891...). They are also involved with work at Hushh House at Middleton Tyas which has won a RIBA award.

Colin remembered that YHACS last visited Richmond in 2014 since which there have been commemorations for the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, the Station refurbishment (alas no trains) an HLF bid of £2.8m by Richmond Grammar School for listed building repairs (unsuccessful) and more recently, the pandemic where we all discovered Zoom. Later came the renovation of Richmond Theatre, the 950th anniversary of Richmond Castle and, to bring us right up to date, community archaeology.

Tourism has recovered slowly but is vital locally as one in four local people are involved.

In 2023, Richmond was included in the North Yorkshire Unitary Authority and everyone is adjusting to that change.

Threats and Opportunities – Climate change will be watched carefully for its impact. The relaxation of planning regulations may have an effect as potentially 6,000 barns may be available for conversion to residential use. (This featured on Look North on 13.10.23) New developments at Catterick and the shopping centre being created at Scotch Corner may provide employment but will create pressure on shops in Richmond itself.

## **9. Just a Minute**

Paul Cartwright advised that Pontefract CS had run 50 HODS events and wanted to do 60 next year, working with other organisations. He announced that the Yorkshire Society Heritage Summit 2024 would be at Hull Minster on 11/12 May 2024.

Margaret Hicks Clarke explained that for HODS in Goole they had unveiled a blue plaque to Dorothy Bartlan, film star, who was born in Goole. They had managed to locate her film 'Fascination' released in 1934 and arranged a showing at the local cinema.

Val Hepworth of Yorkshire Garden Trust brought attention to the small grants scheme available for historic projects and conservation work. Members were asked to visit their website at <https://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/>

Kevin Trickett reminded people that, as well as his civic society roles, he is also the regional representative for Yorkshire & Humber (and also the North East) for the Art Deco Society UK. He was looking to organise guided walks, local visits and talks to cover items of interest from the Art Deco period and would like to work with any civic societies that had something of interest to offer in their areas. Interested societies should contact Kevin for more details.

Although not present at the meeting, Erica Amende of Spen Valley Society sought advice on what civic societies charged by way of membership fees. A quick show of hands at the meeting revealed a broad range of charges from up to £10 per year to £30 per year. Most seemed to be in the mid-range of around £10-£15.

Dick Lidwell of Beverley Civic Society reported they had run a photographic competition for young people and produced a calendar using the best pictures. Both Doncaster and Leeds societies were also producing calendars.

## **11. AOB**

Kevin reminded members to make their submissions for the YHACS/Peter Spawforth Award and the Richard Ward Memorial Prize, the deadline for each being 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

He reminded members that he would be standing down as Chair of YHACS at the AGM as required by the YHACS constitution but announced that Margaret Hicks Clarke had agreed to stand for election. There are other vacancies on the committee too.

Susan Spibey from NW Acts offered a vote of thanks for an enjoyable event and Colin Grant thanked members for making the weekend a success.

## **12. Date of Next meeting**

AGM at Harrogate on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate.

### List of Attendees and Apologies Received

	<b>Society/Organisation</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>
1	Beverley Civic Society	Lidwell	Richard
2	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
3	Brighouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
4	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
5	Doncaster Civic Trust	Holmes	John
6	Doncaster Civic Trust	Mellows	Rowena
7	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
8	Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
9	Halifax Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Goodrum	Alan
10	Halifax Civic Trust	Kirk	Rebecca
11	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
12	Hull Civic Society	Green	Simon
13	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Kidman	Helen
14	Keighley Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Lee	Jane
15	Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
16	Leeds Civic Trust/Individual Member	Kitching	Lynda
17	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
18	NWACTS	Spibey	Susan
19	Ossett Civic Society	Ellis	Pauline
20	Ossett Civic Society	Jones	Janet
21	Ossett Civic Society	Ross	Lynn
22	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
23	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
24	Richmond Civic Society	Berry partner	Jane
25	Richmond Civic Society	Berry	Graham
26	Richmond Civic Society	Hepworth	Ian
27	Richmond Civic Society	Hepworth	Val
28	Richmond Civic Society	Hilyard	Carol
29	Richmond Civic Society	Grant	Colin
30	Richmond Civic Society	Grant	Liz
31	Richmond Civic Society	Miles	Fleur
32	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
33	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
34	Wakefield Civic Society	Martin	Colin
35	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Trickett	Kevin
36	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
37	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
38	YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony

	<b>Guest Speaker</b>		
39	Dr Neil Powe		
	<b>Apologies</b>		
1	Addingham Civic Society/Civic Voice	Battarbee	Gill
2	Doncaster Civic Trust	Coote	Peter
3	Grimsby & Cleethorpes Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Nicholson	Alan
4	Harrogate Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Eglese	George
5	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
6	Hull Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Sharman	Malcolm
7	Ossett Civic Society	Long	Russell
8	Scarborough Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
9	Selby Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Moss	David
10	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
11	Wakefield Civic Society	O'Donnell	Mike
12	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
13	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
14	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS committee	Cowell	Ben