

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th January 2025 at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate.

1. Present

Over 45 members and guests were present, representing 20 YHACS member societies. A full list appears at Appendix 1.

1a. Apologies for Absence

See Appendix 1

2. Minutes of the AGM 27.01.24

These were approved by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising.

There were none.

4. Welcome

Mile Newby, the chair of Harrogate Civic Society, welcomed members to Harrogate. He explained that the society is flourishing and had recruited new members. They had collaborated with other groups in Harrogate such as the film society and the Soroptomists over brown plaques. A neighbourhood plan group is commencing work in the light of the local government changes in North Yorkshire.

Margaret Hicks Clarke also welcomed members, many of whom had experienced difficult journeys in bad weather to attend.

Minutes of the 2024 AGM

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were proposed by Kevin Trickett, seconded by Alan Goodrum and approved by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Margaret proceeded to outline the major events of 2024 which are covered in the annual report.

Kevin Trickett had been elected president of YHACS at the 2024 agm.

In April 2024, the Spring Convention had taken place, hosted by Wakefield Civic Society and in May the Yorkshire Society-sponsored the Yorkshire Heritage Summit in Hull. Several YHACS societies were represented.

The summer YHACS meeting was held in Cleethorpes hosted by Grimsby and Cleethorpes CS. It rained! Ian Harvey, shortly bound for university post in Manchester, gave a talk on new government policy.

Several societies celebrated their 60th anniversaries in 2024. YHACS itself celebrated its 25th anniversary in October 2024 with a lunch in Leeds.

Pontefract CS won a Kings Award for Voluntary Service in November.

The Civic Voice AGM was held in London in December in stormy weather, which did not deter YHACS members from attending. CV President Griff Rhys Jones spoke on how he was 'proud to be a NIMBY'. He also presented a special "Blue Plaque" to Ian Harvey, who left his role as CV Executive Director at the end of 2024. Ian continues his association with CV as Vice President.

At this meeting, the acting chair Martin Hamilton (of Leeds Civic Trust) stood down as chair from Civic Voice and Andrew Jackson of Merseyside Civic Society and Robert Osbourne of St Albans Civic Society were elected co-chairs. CV is making good progress and is now recruiting staff.

YHACS now has 12 trustees and the executive committee met four times during the year. YHACS has been invited to bid for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to increase capacity and provide additional support to member societies. YHACS continues to offer support to societies where members are finding it difficult to continue, with some success.

Margaret closed by remembering Peter Cooper, who died in 2024. Peter, formally Chair of Scarborough and District CS, had also been chair and later president of YHACS.

The annual report was proposed by John Clarke, seconded by Alan Nicholson and approved by the meeting. There were no questions.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jane Lee reported that YHACS had a balance of £10,947 and had made a surplus of £367 in 2024. A sum of £385 is still held for Market Weighton following the closure of the society awaiting a suitable project. A further £2,000 was held for the Richard Ward memorial prize.

The Treasurer's Report were approved by the meeting. Jane reported the key finance figures were as follows:-

Held from Market Weighton CS (now closed) £385.40
Surplus for year £367.45
Closing balance £10,947.83

6. Election of Officers

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

President Kevin Trickett

Vice Chair: Alan Goodrum

Treasurer: Jane Lee

Secretary: Helen Kidman

Margaret Hicks Clarke still has two years to serve as chair.

7. Election of Executive Committee

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

- Paul Cartwright
- Martin Hamilton
- David Moss
- John Clarke
- Alan Nicolson
- Simon Green
- George Eglese
- Ben Cowell

Richard Taylor of Ripon Civic Society, nominated by David Winpenny, was also elected.

8. Presentation of Awards

The Spawforth Award had attracted seven of entries. The applications had been judged by the YHACS committee (with no member being allowed to vote on their own society's entry) and the winners were announced as follows:-

3rd Pontefract CS

2nd Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District CS

1st Goole CS

These awards were presented by Kevin Trickett in Peter Spawforth's absence.

9. Richard Ward Memorial Prize

The prize was awarded to the only entry, Scarborough Civic Society, for creating a Knowledge Exchange, blue plaques, and good local co-operation.

The prize was presented by Kevin Trickett.

10. Any Other Business

There was none.

MEMBERS' MEETING

After the AGM, the business moved on to the quarterly members' meeting.

List of attendees

Erica	Amende	Spenn Valley
Tina	Anderson	Doncaster
Nick	Brennan	Harrogate
Linda	Burgess	Barnsley
Paul	Cartwright	Pontefract
Margaret Hicks	Clarke	YHACS/Goole/Scarboro
John	Clarke	YHACS/Goole/Scarboro
Sheila	Clarke	Skipton
Alex	Cockshott	Ilkley
Peter	Coote	Doncaster
Ben	Cowell	Wakefield
John	Culpan	Brighouse
George	Eglise	Knaresborough
Barry	Goodchild	Wakefield/Civic Voice
Alan	Goodrum	YHACS/Halifax
Colin	Grant	Richmond
Martin	Hamilton	Leeds
Carol	Hillyard	Richmond
Helen	Kidman	Ilkley
Lynda	Kitching	Leeds
Jane	Lee	YHACS
Tony	Leonard	Individual member
Dick	Lidwell	Beverley
Sue	Milsom	Grimsby and Cleethorpes
Peter	Milsom	Grimsby and Cleethorpes
Colin	Martin	Wakefield

Andrew	Morrison	York Civic Trust
David	Moss	Selby
Claire	Nash	Skipton
Michael	Newby	Harrogate
Alan	Nicholson	GC&DCS
Michael	O'Donnell	Wakefield
June	Paxton-White	Halifax
Adrian	Perry	Scarborough
Christine	Perry	Scarborough
Beverley	Robb	Harrogate
Nigel	Mc Lea	Harrogate
Eleanor	Mc Lea	Harrogate
Kevin	Swift	Wakefield
Robert	Thraves	Brighouse
Kevin	Trickett	YHACS/Wakefield
Myfanwy	Truman	Skipton
Stephen	Walker	Goole
Rachel	Walker	Goole
Brian	Ward	Wakefield
Jim	Wildash	Selby
Terry	Williams	Harrogate
David	Winpenny	Ripon
Geoff	Wood	Wakefield
Sue	Wrathmell	Skipton

APOLOGIES

Gill	Battarbee	Addingham
Simon	Green	Wakefield
Rowena	Mellows	Doncaster
Peter	Spawforth	Wakefield
Pat	Spawforth	Wakefield
Graeme	Bassett	Grimsby Ice Factory
David	Rhodes	Knaresborough
Geoff	Brown	Harrogate
Stella	Brown	Harrogate