



Board of Trustees

AGENDA
1pm 4pm finish.

Attendees

Freddie Gick (Chair)
John Kershaw
Helen Marcus
Martin Meredith
David Tittle

Staff

Ian Harvey

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Neil Sinden and John Walker.

2. Draft Minutes of January meeting

Subject to the following amendments the minutes were agreed.

-  It was agreed that JK would present a paper at the next board meeting on the role and representation of regional associations and link with Civic Voice
-  It was agreed to organise an advisory meeting of regional associations
-  It was agreed to take forward to the development of a Core Cities group.

3. Matters arising

It was noted that:-

-  All actions from the previous meeting had been completed
-  Updates were requested on the future of the planning panel and the current status of a project centred on war memorials to commemorate the First World War. It was explained by FG that these would be covered during the meeting.

4. Chair's update

The Chair gave an update on operational activities for the period covering January to March 2014.

It was noted that:

- ☞ The work of the Localism Alliance continues and recent meetings have taken place with the Minister for Communities, Stephen Williams MP. Future meetings are planned for Wakefield and London
- ☞ The Chair had recently “chaired” the National Association of Local Councils conference called “What Next for Localism” which was attended by 50-60 councillors from across England.
- ☞ The Chair will be speaking at a House of Commons event on April 8th talking about the different elements of the Localism Act, but specifically Community Right to Bid
- ☞ The Chair will be attending a meeting of the DCLG Communities Board. This is a partnership meeting that helps advise DCLG on the implementation of the Localism Act. It is a clear demonstration that our voice is listened to by the Government
- ☞ It was noted that the Chair had visited Oxford, Marple and Bath groups in the past few weeks and he was planning on making more visits to civic groups across the country.

5. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer gave a verbal report and explained that there is no real change for the business in relation to cash flows since the previous meeting. He explained that significant changes are likely to occur before the next board meeting due to membership renewals and various other activities being in process.

6. Membership Renewals 2014 2015

Staff explained that the membership renewal process has started with all current groups on our database being communicated with by letter and email.

Lockton Insurance will be writing out to all groups who currently access the insurance benefit. The policy is the same as previous years and it is only available to groups that are members of Civic Voice.

7. Business Plan and Esmee Fairbairn

The Board discussed a paper setting out a proposed business plan for the period 2014 – 2019. It was agreed that the themes running through the plan would help inform the strategic direction of a funding bid to Esmee Fairbairn and provide a focus for future decisions on staffing and funding proposals.

It was agreed that

- ☞ The paper would be used to inform a bid to Esmee Fairbairn
- ☞ A small group, led by the Chair would be set up to draft a first stage pass to Esmee Fairbairn in time for the May board meeting
- ☞ The document is a work in progress and all Trustees are asked to submit thoughts

8. Programme updates

Staff gave an update on current activities. It was noted that

- ☞ The next APPG meeting will be held on Tuesday the 9th April. The Housing

Minister, Kris Hopkins MP will be speaking. We will be asking members to submit questions.

- 🗨️ Based on the project proposal Civic Voice submitted to English Heritage in 2013, English Heritage (EH) invited Civic Voice to complete a full Project Design (PD). This was signed off by English Heritage for a 12 month piece of work running from April 1st until March 29th 2015. The ultimate aim of this project is to inspire more participation and interest in the importance of community generated local heritage lists.
- 🗨️ We launched the Localism Alliance with CAMRA, NALC, Theatres Trust and Supporters Direct in late February. The Plunkett Foundation has since joined this group and we have managed to achieve press coverage in The Times and Planning Magazine for this group.
- 🗨️ We have produced a short two minute explaining “assets of community value”
- 🗨️ Griff Rhys Jones has been very active over the past quarter including appearing on BBC Daily Politics and having several media interviews, including with The Times, BBC Bristol, The Bristol Post.
- 🗨️ Board were pleased to hear that Griff Rhys Jones will be hosting an evening dinner, sponsored by Bircham Dyson Bell to talk about the future of the civic movement.
- 🗨️ We have received funding from Murrey Preston Limited and Robert Rummey of £2k to help cover the costs of the Lecture and will be held in Central Hall Westminster. 62 people are so far confirmed and we have capacity for 100.
- 🗨️ As a part of the event on April 17th, we are publishing the first ever history of the civic society movement. This is a project that has been in the background for two years and is now ready to launch. The board were pleased to hear about the considerable success in raising over £5,000 from members to help fund the “History of the Civic Movement Publication”. The lecture will be getting recorded which will incur a cost for us.
- 🗨️ The board agreed to set the price for the Brief History of the Civic Movement at £5 and to encourage all groups to purchase it. It will be available to purchase via cash, cheque and online.

9. Manifesto Updates

An update was provided around the current status with the Civic Manifesto. It was explained that the current draft “Civic Manifesto” has been based on the input that we have had from members since the start of the year. A significant number of groups have held meetings and contributed via formal documents, telephone call and emails. It was emphasised that the only “voices we have listened to in this process” are the voices who have contributed to the process. As such, if individuals and groups have not responded, their views are not reflected.

It was noted that

- 🗨️ All trustees should respond by 14th April with any queries they have on the document.
- 🗨️ The document will be shared with all members asking them to read and consider the contents.
- 🗨️ A survey will be shared with groups asking them to respond to the contents of the current document
- 🗨️ The survey results will be shared with members and others in a number of round table discussions. These will be made available to member groups.
- 🗨️ The board will approve the manifesto in July

10. Regional Associations and Civic Voice

JK introduced a paper discussing the relationship between Civic Voice and the regional associations

It was noted that

- ☛ While the original 'Constitution' of Civic Voice from 2009 (the 'Articles of Association' of its establishment as a Company Limited by Guarantee) was silent on regional groupings, regulations made in accordance with these provisions (under Article 15) by the Board in March 2010 approved for, 'inter alia', regional groupings to be admitted to 'associate membership'.
- ☛ The revised 'articles of association' passed in 2013 (clause 52) provides 'The Board shall have the power to constitute an advisory regional forum on matters affecting their respective regions'
- ☛ It was suggested that regions could have several important roles including advisory bodies; as co-ordinating bodies; as delivery organisations for national work; linking with other organisations at a similar level.

It was agreed that

- ☛ Staff should circulate a paper to the membership seeking input to the future relationship between individual civic societies, regional associations and Civic Voice.
- ☛ After this consultation, this item to be discussed at the July board meeting
- ☛ It was agreed that IH and JK to take forward the above.

11. AGM, Trustees and Board Elections

Staff gave an update on the progress being made towards the Annual Convention to take place in Canterbury on 24th/25th October. A visit is being planned by staff to meet with the Canterbury Society at the start of May.

The discussion then centred on the process the organisation follows when recruiting new Trustees to the Board. It was explained that as a number of Trustees will be coming to the end of the second term in the next few years, good charity management requires that the current board should look at long term transition of bringing new trustees on.

It was agreed that as this was such an important item, we would defer this item until the next board meeting when we have a full complement of current trustees.

12. AOB

No additional items discussed.

13. Private Business

Staff left the room