



# Board of Trustees

8 November 2011

Chester Civic Trust, Bishop Lloyds Palace, 51/53 Watergate Row

## MINUTES

Paula Ridley (Chair)  
Paul Clarke  
Freddie Gick  
Helen Marcus  
Martin Meredith  
Neil Sinden  
David Tittle  
John Walker

Tony Burton (Director)  
Ian Harvey (Co-ordinator)

### 1. Apologies and welcomes

There were apologies from David Lovie and Paul Clarke and Helen Marcus were welcomed to the meeting following their election through the trustee ballot.

### 2. Trustee co-options

Paula Ridley (Chair) and Martin Meredith (Treasurer) were co-opted by the Board as trustees following their ratification at the AGM.

### 3. Minutes of meeting of 8 September 2011

The September Minutes were signed and there were no matters arising. It was agreed to keep the mix of the Board under review and that it was important to encourage local groups to look beyond their existing networks to encourage volunteers who could provide a greater mix to the movement as a whole.

### 4. Director's report

Tony summarised his report with an emphasis on the completion of the first full financial year and lobbying and influencing work on localism and planning. He reported on a very successful AGM and national convention at which the first report and accounts was agreed. This had been followed up by a successful network event in Birmingham with the President. Tony reported a third successful amendment to the Localism Bill resulting from Civic Voice's lobbying and the emphasis now being placed on supporting civic societies engage with neighbourhood plans. This had been confirmed in the recent speech given by Eric Pickles, Communities Secretary, to Yorkshire groups.

There had been a very successful launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group for civic societies, attended by Freddie Gick. Civic societies also featured strongly in the latest Heritage Counts and this included important research about attracting new volunteers to civic societies. The role of civic societies and Civic Voice in bringing a stronger community-led approach to design had also featured in the Bishop Review commissioned by Design Council CABE. Tony noted that Civic Voice had now taken on formal responsibility for national co-ordination of Heritage Open Days in partnership with the National Trust and The Heritage Alliance.

The Board enquired about the Portas high street review and it was agreed it would be helpful to trial an email group on high street issues to be linked to the conclusion of the review. The Board also expressed interest in the work on the history of the civic movement being undertaken by Lucy Hewitt.

There was some discussion about how to take forward the campaign ideas developed at the AGM on design awards and civic shame. There was important feedback at the Birmingham meeting about these which needed to be taken on board along with further discussions at future network events.

It was agreed to keep a watching brief on the various “red tape challenges” underway across Whitehall.

## **5. Membership report**

The Board noted the success in attracting 36 new groups so far but expressed disappointment that nearly 60 groups had not yet renewed. This was despite a large majority indicating that they would renew or thought they had already done so. It was agreed that the Treasurer should write to the groups which had not renewed enclosing an invoice and renewal form and this would be followed by a phone call from a trustee (**Action 33/11 MM/IH**). It was also agreed to remind groups where necessary of the importance of being insured (**Action 34/11 TB/IH**). Approaches would also be made to the c300 groups for which we have details who have not yet joined (**Action 35/11 IH**).

## **6. Financial update**

The Management Accounts were introduced by Martin and noted by the Board. They showed a healthy financial position dependent on securing the grant from DCLG.

## **7. Success measures**

Tony spoke to the report and highlighted upward trends in readership of the bulletins and visits to the website.

## **8. AOB**

An independent examiners fee of £1,500 per year for three years was agreed.

It was later agreed that trustee meetings in 2012 would be in London on the following dates - 19 January; 26 April; 21 June; 5 September (Wed); 15 November (awayday) with an October AGM in the Midlands.

The Board then began its awayday.