



Civic Voice Annual General Meeting 2019- 2020
via Zoom
Wednesday 17th March 2021, 1:00pm – 1:45pm
(POSTPONED FROM DECEMBER 4TH 2020)

Attendees:

Eighty-two representatives from the following fifty-two societies were present:

Addingham Civic Society, Aireborough Civic Society, Alton Society, Altrincham and Bowdon Civic Society, Blackpool Civic Trust, Bristol Civic Society, Chester Civic Trust, Dorchester Civic Society, Fleetwood Civic Society, Goole Civic Society, Grimsby, Cleethorpes + District Civic Society, Halifax Civic Trust, Hereford Civic Society, Horbury Civic Society, Huddersfield Civic Society, Hunstanton and District Civic Society, Kidderminster Civic Society, Kingston upon Thames Society, Lancaster Civic Society, Leeds Civic Trust, Littleborough Civic Trust, Long Sutton and District Civic Society, Lytham St Annes Civic Society, Margate Civic Society, Marple Civic Society, Merseyside Civic Society, Oxford Civic Society, Reading Civic Society, Retford Civic Society, Rossendale Civic Trust, Skipton-in-Craven Civic Society, Southgate District Civic Voice, St Albans Civic Society, Stroud Civic Society, The Birmingham Civic Society, The Brighton Society, The Canterbury Society, The Chichester Society, The City of Rochester Society, The City of Winchester Trust, The Coventry Society, The Deal Society, The Friends of Lewes, The Heath and Hampstead Society, The Kew Society, The March Society, The Purbeck Society, The Ramsgate Society, The Yateley Society, Wakefield Civic Society, Wellingborough Civic Society, Worcester Civic Society

1. Welcome: Joan Humble, Chair of Civic Voice

Chair of Civic Voice welcomed everyone to Civic Voice's first ever online meeting.

Joan explained that as we were holding an online AGM, Civic Voice had received advice and guidance from the Charity Commission to ensure that we continued to meet the appropriate requirements.

Joan explained that since **this AGM is for 2019-2020**, the Civic Voice Board had made the decision to focus solely on the **legally required issues** for the AGM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following sixteen societies:

Alnwick Civic Society, Beeston and District Civic Society, Brockley Society, Buntingford Civic Society, Frome Civic Society, Isle of Wight Society, Knaresborough Civic Society, Pontefract Civic Society, Ripon Civic Society, Shrewsbury Civic Society, The Reigate Society, Tiverton Civic Society, Wem Civic Society, Wetherby Civic Society, Wimborne Civic Society, Wotton-under-Edge Civic Society

3. Approval of minutes from 2019 AGM

The minutes of the previous were proposed by Blackpool Civic Trust and seconded by Bewdley Civic Society.

Civic Voice, The Coffin Works, 13-15 Fleet Street, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, B3 1JP

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The following societies Addingham Civic Society, Canterbury Society, Coventry Society, Hereford Civic Society, Isle of Wight Society, Margate Civic Society and The City of Rochester Society all approved the minutes ahead of the meeting.

All in agreement.

4. Ratification of Annual Accounts for 2019-2020

The annual accounts were proposed by Epsom Civic Society and seconded By Chester Civic Trust.

5. Director's Update – Ian Harvey, Executive Director

Ian Harvey gave a short presentation on Civic Voice updates, including the projects lost due to Covid-19 and gave a breakdown of expenses and reserves. Accounts are available on the Civic Voice website.

Ian Harvey expressed disappointment over the necessity of cancelling Civic Voice's 10th anniversary celebration in 2020 due to Covid-19. However, the development and widespread use of Zoom was regarded as a positive step forward for the movement in terms of developing digital skills and broadening participation. He then gave an update on Civic Voice's work on the Planning White Paper and thanked the 86% of civic societies who had participated in our consultation response. He also specifically thanked the Planning White Paper working group, which was one of the groups formed in the year, to support and advice on our consultation response.

He assured members that there are plans to re-establish the All-Party Parliamentary Group to combat the threat of government policies for the planning system. He called for societies to renew their memberships soon and to encourage other likeminded local groups to join.

6. Appointment of independent examiners – proposed by Martin Gunson, Treasurer

Messrs. McMillan and Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants of Buckshaw Village, Chorley as Independent Examiners for 2019-2020.

Proposed by Martin Gunson, Civic Voice Treasurer & Lytham St Anne's Civic Society

We are thankful to John Beveridge and City of Winchester Trust for seconding the appointment of McMillan and Co as independent examiners.

The decision has ratified d by 26 member societies.

7. Civic Voice Board elections 2020 – 2024

Joan Humble announced the results of the ballot for trustees to join the Board and welcomed

- Gill Battarbee (Addingham)
- Linda Brown (Kidderminster)
- Robert Osbourne (St Albans)
- Jane Maggs (Southgate)

The Chair thanked all civic society members who stood for election and said it was a positive sign that each year we have an election and she looked forward to even more members putting themselves forward to support Civic Voice in future years.

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Joan finished by saying thank you to Paul Bedwell, Sheffield Civic Trust who has played a huge role in Civic Voice over the years, including hosting the Civic Voice conference in Sheffield in 2012, supporting the Civic Voice Design Awards, and helping with our policy development and being Deputy Chair and Staff Lead.

She also thanked Gavin Orton who has decided to step down, due to recently getting married and relocated to South Wales. Joan thanked Gavin for his contribution to Civic Voice, particularly hosting the Civic Voice conference in Birmingham in 2018 and wished him well in his new stage in his life.

8. Any other business relevant to the AGM

Comments were made and questions were asked by members pertaining to the Government's intentions for communities regarding planning and the actions which Civic Voice was taking in response to this. Ian Harvey assured members that Civic Voice had clear plans for combatting the decline in community voices which included hosting targeted training sessions to help raise the understanding of the basics of planning system and relaunching the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies. He urged all groups to approach their MP to join the APPG when the opportunity arises.

Joan finished the meeting by saying that she hoped our next AGM would be face-to-face and wished everyone well.