



Civic Voice Annual General Meeting 2021
DRAFT MINUTES
Friday 15th October 2021, 2:00pm – 2:30pm
Held via Zoom

1. Welcome and Introduction – Joan Humble

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 as this was an online meeting, the Civic Voice Board had made the decision to focus solely on the **legally required issues** for the AGM.

She explained that we had received advice from the Charity Commission and our Accountants to ensure we are meeting all legal obligations.

2. Apologies – Joan Humble

Apologies were received from Blandford & District Civic Society, Brentham Society, Buntingford Civic Society, Desborough Civic Society, Ealing Civic Society, Newport and District Civic Society, The Alton Society, The Chichester Society, The Wokingham Society, Wem Civic Society and Wimborne Civic Society.

3. Approval of 2020 AGM Minutes – Joan Humble

Proposed by Blackpool Civic Trust, seconded by The Wokingham Society

Votes for received from Blandford & District Civic Society, Brentham Society, Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society, Hereford Civic Society, Ilkley Civic Society, Merseyside Civic Society, St Albans Civic Society, The Deal Society, Tiverton Civic Society, Wimborne Civic Society and York Civic Trust.

Votes to abstain received from Cockermouth and District Civic Trust, Ealing Civic Society, Halifax Civic Trust, Marple Civic Society and Ripon Civic Society.

4. Financial Summary – Ian Harvey

Ian Harvey delivered a talk on the financial situation for Civic Voice, supported by a number of graphs and charts that visualised the financial picture.

Ian also explained that a link to the accounts had been shared ahead of the meeting (http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/uploads/files/Accounts_for_board_approval.pdf)

Ian explained that Civic Voice does not just rely on the AGM to share financial results and that the staff often have questions about finances through the year. Ian stated that we have made considerable improvements on the financial front, but along with 78% of charities, COVID had a direct impact on our work. This was particularly relating to two projects being cancelled with external funding bodies. Ian then emphasised the importance of civic societies to continue to support Civic Voice if the members wanted a national organisation campaigning on its behalf.

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Ian finished by thanking the Treasurer for continued support to the organisation, and to the Funding Sub-Committee for helping to continue to consider new sources of income.

5. Ratification of New Trustees – Joan Humble

In line with our constitution, we were looking to appoint three Trustees for the period of Office from 2021-2024. The four candidates being nominated by the board were:

- Helen Kidman, Ilkley
- Margaret Hollins, Epsom
- Phil Riden, Chesterfield

Votes in support received from Blackpool Civic Trust, Blandford & District Civic Society, Brentham Society, Cockermouth and District Civic Trust, Halifax Civic Trust, Hereford Civic Society, Ilkley Civic Society, Marple Civic Society, Merseyside Civic Society, Ripon Civic Society, St Albans Civic Society, The Deal Society, The Wokingham Society, Tiverton Civic Society, Wimborne Civic Society and York Civic Trust.

Votes to abstain received from Ealing Civic Society.

6. Appointment of McMillan & Co. Independent Examiners – Joan Humble

Proposed by Lytham St Annes Civic Society, seconded by Blackpool Civic Trust

Votes of support received ahead of the meeting from Blandford & District Civic Society, Brentham Society, Cockermouth and District Civic Trust, Ealing Civic Society, Epsom Civic Society, Halifax Civic Trust, Hereford Civic Society, Ilkley Civic Society, Marple Civic Society, Merseyside Civic Society, Ripon Civic Society, St Albans Civic Society, The Deal Society, The Wokingham Society, Tiverton Civic Society, Wimborne Civic Society and York Civic Trust.

7.

a. Motion 1 – Climate Change Emergency

Joan Humble introduced the first of two motion that were being put forward to the membership

Motion One was:

We recognise that a climate crisis is upon us. As a national organisation, we recognise the influence that we have with civic societies and community groups across England.

We commit to delivering our charitable objectives, which include promoting sustainable development by the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, and the promotion of the prudent use of resources

We commit to informing communities about the challenges the planet is facing, and to highlight examples of how community can take practical action, with the aim to inspire civic societies to develop local activities that respond to this agenda.

We commit to supporting individual civic societies to consider how they can promote sustainable development in their own activities.

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We commit to developing the capacity and skills of individuals and communities to understand and act to conserve, protect, and improve the environment of their locality

Votes of support were received from Addingham Civic Society, Blackpool Civic Trust, Blandford & District Civic Society, Cockermouth and District Civic Trust, Ealing Civic Society, Epsom Civic Society, Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society, Halifax Civic Trust, Hereford Civic Society, Horbury Civic Society, Ilkley Civic Society, Leeds Civic Trust, Market Weighton Civic Society, Marple Civic Society, Merseyside Civic Society, Peckham Vision, Pontefract Civic Society, Reading Civic Society, Ripon Civic Society, Southgate District Civic Voice, St Albans Civic Society, The Deal Society, The Wokingham Society, Tiverton Civic Society, Wakefield Civic Society, Wimborne Civic Society, York Civic Trust and YHACS* (*not paying members of Civic Voice).

Votes against received from Brentham Society.

Votes to abstain received from The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society.

The motion was supported.

b. Motion 2 – Formal Status for Civic Societies in Planning System

Joan Humble introduced the second motion:

If the Planning Bill removes the right of individuals to make representations at the individual planning application stage, Civic Voice commits to working with the APPG Civic Societies to:

- (1) Amend the Planning Bill to prevent this from happening, but, if it does,*
- (2) We commit to building on the excellent work of civic societies by working to ensure civic societies are named as ‘formal representatives’ at the local plan stage*

Votes in support were received from Addingham Civic Society, Blackpool Civic Trust, Blandford & District Civic Society, Brentham Society, Cockermouth and District Civic Trust, Desborough Civic Society, Ealing Civic Society, Epsom Civic Society, Halifax Civic Trust, Hereford Civic Society, Horbury Civic Society, Ilkley Civic Society, Leeds Civic Trust, Market Weighton Civic Society, Marple Civic Society, Merseyside Civic Society, Peckham Vision, Reading Civic Society, Ripon Civic Society, Southgate District Civic Voice, St Albans Civic Society, The Deal Society, The Friends Of Abingdon Civic Society, The Wokingham Society, Tiverton Civic Society, Wakefield Civic Society, Wimborne Civic Society, York Civic Trust and YHACS* (*not paying members of Civic Voice).

Votes against were received from Pontefract Civic Society.

Votes to abstain were received from Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society and Rossendale Civic Trust.

The motion was supported.

8. Any other business relevant to the AGM

Joan finished the meeting by saying that as no other issues had been submitted ahead of the meeting, she was bringing the meeting to an end, so that everyone had time to log out and join the session between Ian Harvey and Joanna Averly, Chief Planner at MHCLG.

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