

Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the North West Association of Civic Trust Societies held at County Hall Preston on 4 July 2009.

Present: Chairman: Peter Colley (Ambleside)
Vice Chairwoman: Kathy Fishwick (Rossendale)
Secretary: Iain Gerrard (Littleborough)
Treasurer: Brian Gilbert (Rossendale)

D. J. Bysh (Darwen*), Marilyn Bysh (Darwen*), Kate Cartmell (Lytham St Annes), John Clancy (Pendle*), Barbara Colley (Ambleside*), Ian Dyer (Lake District*), Adrian Dunning (Worsley), Terry Edgar (Wallasey), Roger Frankland (Lancaster), David Harrison (Oldham & Saddleworth*), Stephen Langtree (Chester), Vivien McNeil (Mossley Hill*), Lynn Millard (Burnley*), Cynthia Radford (Hoylake), Beryl Radcliffe (Blackpool), Gordon Sidery (Macclesfield), Elaine Smith (Blackpool), Susan Spibey (Merseyside), Aidan Turner-Bishop (South Preston*), Millie Tyson (South Preston*), Charles Walker (Bury*), Tom Webster (Didsbury) & Pauline Wood (Clitheroe*). *Note: visitors marked with an asterisk.*

Apologies for absence: Lorna Gartside (Saddleworth), Dorothy Greaves (Rochdale), Marion Coupe (Lytham), Dave Makin (Saddleworth), Martin Meredith (Chester), Roy Needham (Ashton-under-Lyne), Alan Postill (Marple).

Minutes of the 2008 AGM: Previously circulated, these were proposed and seconded as a true record and agreed unanimously.

Matters Arising: None.

Chairman's Report. This had been previously circulated to all those present but Peter nevertheless read through it. He had written to all the chairmen and women of the local societies in the north west outlining the situation to date in regard to the Civic Trust/Civic Society Initiative. He pointed out that there was an urgent need to find alternative funding if the Association was to keep going and he said that donations from the member societies would be welcome just to cover the costs of paper and printing etc.

He referred to the English Heritage recent publication on Conservation Areas at Risk which had been mentioned in the press over the previous week or so. He also pointed out that the Autumn Gathering, scheduled for the 6th and 7th November in Lancaster, would coincide with Lancaster's fireworks display on the evening of the second day (Saturday).

He clarified that the North of England Civic Trust, which body was presently 'hosting' the finances of the Civic Society Initiative, were not a civic trust at all but a building preservation society. He felt the choice of name was regrettable as it had led to confusion in the past and would be likely to do so in the future, particularly now that it was associated with the remnants of the Civic Trust.

Treasurer's Report. This was circulated and a copy is shown at the end of these minutes.

The Treasurer went over the report pointing out that since the 31st March the current balance had shrunk to little more than £500. The report was moved and seconded for acceptance and agreed unanimously.

Election of the Co-ordinating Committee. The Chairman asked the Secretary to read out the nominations received. These were for: Kate Cartmell (Lytham St Annes), Peter Colley (Ambleside), Adrian Dunning (Worsley), Terry Edgar (Wirral), Kathy Fishwick (Rossendale), Roger Frankland (Lancaster), Iain Gerrard (Littleborough), Brian Gilbert (Rossendale), Stephen Langtree (Chester), Cynthia Radford (Hoylake), Gordon Sidery (Macclesfield), Susan Spibey (Merseyside) & Tom Webster (Didsbury).

All thirteen were existing members of the committee. Elaine Smith had decided to stand down. Iain pointed out that there were four people nominated for the three positions in the Lancashire region, but that Kate Cartmell had declared that she would be happy to stand as a deputy. This was agreed and all nominees were accepted unanimously.

The existing officers were re-elected unanimously but with Adrian Dunning becoming the second vice-chairman, and Roger Frankland becoming a full committee member, replacing Elaine Smith.

The Chairman confirmed that the officers for the coming year would be:

Chairman:	Peter Colley
Vice Chairwoman:	Kathy Fishwick
Vice Chairman	Adrian Dunning
Treasurer:	Brian Gilbert
Secretary:	Iain Gerrard

Any Other Business.

Stephen asked the assembly if everyone present had received the Conservation Awareness leaflet produced by NWActs and all present confirmed that they had. He said he had sent ten copies in the post which were free but that any extra copies could be ordered from him at £1.10 each plus postage; he suggested that societies may wish to send a leaflet to each of their local councillors. He also mentioned that the Conservation Areas at Risk booklet, referred to earlier by the Chairman, was to be officially launched in Warrington on the 14th July.

It was proposed that Peter's earlier remark, suggesting donations from member societies wishing to help with the much-needed funds for NWActs, should preferably be in terms of a levy. Peter defended his opinion pointing out that it was likely that some individual societies may be incapable of raising a fixed amount; he also said that it was imperative that the future direction of the movement was understood before the amount of any levy could be decided upon. He was asked how much money would be needed in the short term. He said that as the annual budget for NWActs had been £2000 that an average donation of £40 from 50 societies would cover this. John Clancy suggested that those societies which had not paid their registration fees to the Civic Trust before it went into administration might consider paying the same amount to the Association; also some societies on the database had not been registered and would not have paid anything anyway. Charles Walker asked who any monies should be paid to; Brian Gilbert said donations should be sent to him. Iain Dyer said it would be easier for his group to consider a donation if it went to a

specific project. Tom Webster said that so far the request for funds had not been accompanied by information on what they were for.

The conservation area pamphlet was praised for its usefulness. Peter said that it would be placed on the NWActs website along with the Conservation Areas in the North West database which was finished and in the process of being translated for the Web.

The Annual General Meeting was then closed at 3.00 pm.

The speaker, Nick Thompson, the Regional Chairman for the Campaign to Protect Rural England was then introduced by Peter Colley.

He spoke of an opportunity to strengthen the links between the two organisations and said that Peter and Andy Yuille of the Campaign had already had many meetings in an attempt to combine approaches to problems. He said he felt that each organisation had its strengths and covered areas that the other was somewhat weaker in. He said that many who were members of both organisations wished to continue and increase the dialogue between them. He suggested a memorandum of agreement.

He pointed out that the current cash crisis had hurt both the CPRE and the Civic Trust. The latter had unfortunately gone under, but the CPRE had had to make some 12 members of its permanent staff redundant; this figure represented almost 25% of the total.

It was necessary to avoid duplication and to make best use of resources. He gave as an example the local civic society and CPRE in Sefton who had combined their efforts to deal with the formulation of the Local Development Framework.

'Born' in 1926, the Campaign had originally wanted to see the creation of National Parks, a planning system and green belts, all of which had been achieved. He pointed to a newly published leaflet, entitled 2026, which set out the future vision for his organisation, some copies of which he distributed, and said that the goals outlined within it were also achievable. These goals covered the point that the economic growth experienced over the last 25 years could continue for the next 25 years without destroying the heritage and the landscape.

In the discussion that followed Peter expressed his concern over the growing number of people in the world calling on the same level of resources. Stephen said he felt there was an obvious need to reduce travelling to work and to have more local business centres. Susan Spibey agreed that working 'closely' together rather than 'loosely' would benefit any results and Peter also said that joint campaigns could be promoted.

Stephen said his own society (Chester) had adopted a less rigorous policy towards development within the green belt applying a 'give and take' adjustment; Nick Thompson agreed saying that the Campaign was rethinking its blanket opposition to green belt development. Created originally simply to provide a barrier to the expansion of urban areas into the countryside there were parts of such areas which were not worth keeping sacrosanct and could be developed.

The meeting closed at 3.48 pm.

North West Association of Civic Trust Societies

Income and Expenditure Statement

March 31st 2009

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2008/2009	Total Funds 2007/2008
Balance at 31/03/2008 b/fwd	1347.78	1970.34	3318.12	4143.05
INCOME				
Civic Trust Funding (see note*)	1000.00		1000.00	1500.00
Autumn Gathering (Manchester)	1295.00		1295.00	1049.00
English Heritage Grant	-		-	
Donation - Didsbury Civic Trust	100.00		100.00	
Bank Interest Credited (net)				0.85
<i>* Including £500 from final quarter 2007/8</i>				
Total Income	2395.00	1970.34		
	3742.78	1970.34	5713.12	6692.05
EXPENDITURE				
Printing/Photocopying	213.03	79.55	292.58	548.58
Postage/Telephone	143.99		143.99	213.28
Stationary	25.94		25.94	58.69
Fees (Conferences etc.)	264.63		264.63	
Speakers	10.99		10.99	15.76
Travel/Subsistence	577.93		577.93	313.05
Data Protection Registration	35.00		35.00	35.00
Website (Bi-annual fees)	128.74		128.74	
Secretarial Services	45.00		45.00	396.00
Autumn Gathering	1166.32		1166.32	1004.12
Total Expenditure	2611.57	79.55	2691.12	3373.93
	1131.21	1890.79	3022.00	3318.12
	Bank	Cash		
Balances held at 31/03/2009	3019.50	2.50	3022.00	

B. Gilbert

Treasurer



I have examined the Books, Accounts and Vouchers of the North West Association of Civic Trust Societies. In my opinion, the above Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet is a true and fair view of the Association's financial affairs as at the 31st March 2009.

A. McFarland. MBA

Auditor



Analysis of Expenditure as a percentage of the total

	Unrestricted Funds	% of Total	Restricted Funds	% of Total
Printing/Photography	292.58	19.12		
Postage	143.99	9.48		
Stationary	25.94	1.76		
Travel/Accommodation	577.93	37.79		
Fees	320.62	21.15		
Website	128.74	8.45		
Data Protection Registration	35.00	2.29		
		<hr/> 100.00		

Note:

Autumn Gathering 2008

Income	1295.00
Expenditure	1166.32
Surplus	129.68