

Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the North West Association of Civic Trusts and Societies held at County Hall Preston on 3 July 2010.

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

Des Brennan (Formby*), D. J. & Marilyn Bysh (Darwen*), Kate Cartmel (Lytham St Annes), Marion Cochran (Blackpool*), Barbara Colley (Ambleside*), Marion Coupe (Lytham St Annes), Terry Edgar (Wallasey), Roger Frankland (Lancaster), Lorna Gartside (Saddleworth*), David Harrison (Oldham Area*), Ian Harvey (Wavertree*), Ian & Yvonne Johnstone (Fleetwood*), John Kershaw (Manchester), John Lippiatt (Bolton*), Frank McCall (Grange-over-Sands*), Vivien McNeil (Mossley Hill*), Martin Meredith (Chester*), Jean Mildren (Blackpool*), Lynn Millard (Burnley*), Christopher Norton (Blackpool*), Alan & Gillian Postill (Marple*), Paula Ridley (Civic Voice*), Elaine Smith (Blackpool*), Susan Spibey (Merseyside), Paul Thornhill (Didsbury*) Aidan Turner-Bishop (Preston & South Ribble*) Millie Tyson (Preston & South Ribble*) & Tom Webster (Didsbury). *Note: visitors are marked with an asterisk.*

Apologies for absence: Stephen Langtree (Chester) & Cynthia Radford (Hoylake)

Minutes of the 2009 AGM: Previously circulated, these were briefly covered by Peter, proposed and seconded as a true record and agreed unanimously.

Matters Arising: None.

Chairman's Report. This had been previously circulated but the chairman expanded upon it to emphasise certain items.

Treasurer's Report. This was circulated and a copy is shown at the end of these minutes. The Treasurer went over the report. The report was moved for acceptance by Martin Meredith, seconded by Barbara Colley and agreed unanimously.

Revised constitution: Peter began by saying that he and John Kershaw had spent seven hours at John's offices going over the old constitution and revising it. He said that the Aims and Objectives had been expanded; this gave the Association the power to become involved with certain issues not before included but did not impose a duty to do so. The Membership criteria had been broadened. There was now a need to ask for membership subscriptions whereas previously this had not been necessary as the old Civic Trust had funded the regions. The criteria for membership of the committee had been relaxed in that there were to be two representatives from each county area with five individual positions not being specifically area based. The financial arrangements had become stricter.

Christopher Norton pointed out that the requirement of fifteen members for a quorum could be a problem if there were fewer members. It was pointed out by John Kershaw that a meeting was only inquorate in law if someone challenged it.

Desmond Brennan asked if there could be variable fees rather than a blanket figure for all societies. Peter said that it was the easiest way to have just a standard fee but said it was up to the meeting to decide. Desmond said he would be worried over the impact of such an approach on some groups who might not wish to afford it.

Peter asked if the constitution could be accepted and the issue of fees discussed afterwards. There was a further query over the disposal of archive material in the event of dissolution; it was agreed that this be referred to the committee for consideration in the future.

Mr Bysh said that Darwen would have no problems as they were a part of the Lancashire Federation but might have reservations over joining NWActs.

Adrian Dunning moved acceptance of the constitution and Martin Meredith seconded this and it was 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), John Kershaw, Frank McCall (Grange-over-Sands), Cynthia Radford (Hoylake), Susan Spibey (Merseyside) & Tom Webster (Didsbury).

Twelve were existing members of the committee and there was one new nomination for Frank McCall. Stephen Langtree and Gordon Sidery had decided to stand down. Iain added that there were four people nominated for the Lancashire region, four for the Manchester region, two for the Cumbrian region and three for Merseyside; there were no nominations for the Cheshire area.

It was agreed to put the nominees to a block vote. Elaine Smith proposed the nomination of all thirteen nominees and Barbara Colley seconded her and this was agreed unanimously.

The existing officers were re-elected unanimously.

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. Tom Webster proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Colley and John Kershaw for their work on the revision of the constitution and that a letter of thanks be sent to Stephen Langtree for his work over the previous eight years. This was agreed.

The issue of the membership subscription was returned to. Frank McCall suggested that societies should sign up and pay the full amount and if they were not satisfied they would not renew next year. Brian Gilbert said he would be prepared to accept staged payments over the course of the year to ease the financial shock, particularly on smaller societies.

The fee of £40 per year (£20 for the remainder of 2010) was agreed.

The Annual General Meeting was then closed at 3.00 pm.

The speaker, Paula Ridley, the Chairwoman of Civic Voice was then introduced by Peter Colley.

She praised the North West Area saying she was locally based in the Merseyside region. She pointed out that she had not been involved in the Civic Society Initiative and the formation of Civic Voice; this had been carried out by many local groups with a desire to have a representative national voice.

The big central issue was planning regulation and always had been. She is head of a Board of Trustees composed of six members and all regions were represented by them. She said that the civic movement went back a long way, predating Duncan Sandys' creation of the Civic Trust in the late fifties; her own society, Merseyside, had begun under a different name in 1909.

There was no proposal to raise the £1.50 per head membership fee; there were already over a quarter of a million members and societies were joining the Voice at three a day.

She covered what had been done to date. There had been a lot of workshops, the website was up and running and it was promoting the issue of how to get rid of street clutter. Individual societies needed to provide information of their localities so that Civic Voice could speak from a position of knowledge when approaching and seeking to influence government.

She hoped that the issue of appeals against rejected applications could be raised soon with government. The website contained a poll asking societies to raise other concerns they wished Civic Voice to pursue. An example was the organisation of protests against the new High Speed 2 railway where Civic Voice could negotiate with the promoters.

There was to be a civic panel of trustees from many other organisations such as CPRE and ASHTAV. There was a proposal for a Civic Day on the 20th June 2011 and a steering committee had been created to arrange this.

A number of questions were then put to Paula.

Tom Webster asked how the Civic Voice was managing financially. Martin Meredith (Treasurer of Civic Voice) said they would be looking for outside support until 2013 after which they hoped to be able to rely on membership subscriptions. Ian Harvey said there were presently 250 societies registered to date bringing in about £60,000.

Peter Colley said that huge cuts by the government would reduce funding sources considerably. Paula said that the present funding arrangements, created for the Civic Society Initiative would come to an end in a fortnight.

The need for two offices for Civic Voice, one in Liverpool and one in London was queried. Martin Meredith said it was essential to have both, particularly the London one which gave quick access to central government.

Brian Gilbert asked about the possibility of regional funding from Civic Voice in the future.

The meeting closed at 4 pm.

North West Association of Civic Trusts and Societies

Income and Expenditure Statement

March 31st 2010

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2009/2010	Total Funds 2008/2009
Balance at 31/03/2009 b/fwd	1131.21	1890.79	3022.00	3318.12
INCOME				
Funding Appeal	1300.00		1300.00	
CAA Brochure Launch - collection	307.81		307.81	
Autumn Gathering (Lancaster)	1184.00		1184.00	
CAA Brochure sales		222.37	222.37	
NWActs Membership Fee	40.00		40.00	
sub-totals	2831.81	222.37	3054.18	2395.00
Total Income	3963.02	2113.16	6076.18	5713.12
EXPENDITURE				
Printing	114.61	1806.26	1920.87	
Photocopying	2.80		2.80	
Stationary	7.98	50.26	58.24	
Postage	78.36	197.59	275.95	
Travel/Subsistence	159.35		159.35	
Secretarial Services	277.50		277.50	
Data Protection Registration	35.00		35.00	
Fees (Heritage Trust)	50.00		50.00	
Catering	307.81	38.00	345.81	
Autumn Gathering	1109.96		1109.96	
Total Expenditure	2143.37	2092.11	4235.48	2691.12
	1819.65	21.05	1840.70	3022.00
	Bank	Cash		
Balances held at 31/03/2010	1836.92	3.78	1840.70	

B. Gilbert
Treasurer

B. Gilbert 17/05/2010

I have examined the Books, Accounts and Vouchers of the North West Association of Civic Trusts and Societies and 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 2010.

A. McFarland. MBA

A. McFarland

20/05/10

Unrestricted Funds

Balance at 31/03/2009 **1131.21**

Income

Funding Appeal **	1300.00
Collection CAA Brochure Launch	307.81
NWActs Membership Fee	40.00
	<u>2779.02</u>

Expenditure

	Cost	% of Expenditure
Printing	114.61	11.09
Photocopying	2.80	0.28
Postage	78.36	7.58
Stationary	7.98	0.77
Fees (Heritage Link)	50.00	4.83
Travel/Subsistence	159.35	15.42
Data Protection Registration	35.00	3.39
Secretarial Services	277.50	26.85
Catering (CAA Brochure Launch)	307.81	29.79
	<u>1033.41</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Balance held	1745.61	

Autumn Gathering

Income

Booking Fees	<u>1184.00</u>
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Expenditure

	Cost	% of Expenditure
Printing	7.42	0.68
Photocopying	57.20	5.15
Postage	40.32	3.63
Stationary	23.86	2.15
Catering	474.00	42.70
Room Hire	300.00	27.03
Tours	126.00	11.35
Miscellaneous Expenses *	81.16	7.31
Surplus/Deficit	<u>74.04</u>	100.00

* Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, Speakers Gifts.

** In response to the Funding Appeal (See Unrestricted Funds above), donations were received from: Cumbria Federation, Bolton Civic Trust, Formby Civic Society, Didsbury Civic Society, Chester Civic Trust and Sale Civic Society.