

Minutes of Meeting: Tuesday 7th July 2009 at The Fox & Crown, Appletongate, Newark

Present: Robert Walker, Fiona Newton, Roy Lewis, Rose Thompson, Rachel Booth, David Boyson, Chris McKinney, Liz Mayle, Jane Roylance, & Steve Bradwell.

1. Apologies Jenny Timothy, Chloe Oswald, Jenny Timothy, James White, Jason Mordan & Philip Grover

2. Matters Arising from Minutes

Fiona noted that the IHBC had written to Mickey King's wife to offer condolences and Eddie Booth had attended the funeral. An article would also appear in the forthcoming Context.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

4. Chairman's Report and Business Plan 2008/2009.

Rob noted that Buxton was now over and congratulated all who had helped in its organisation, the focus now shifts to the arrangements for the Branch AGM.

5. Treasurer's Report

Rose reported that the current account balance stands at £321.38, while the reserve account was £389.58. There was also £98.79 remaining in the Annual School budget to return to Branch funds.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

David noted that the Branch now had over 160 members, an increase from last year's numbers.

7. Branch Reps Report

From the notes of the IHBC Council circulated at the meeting, Roy drew particular attention to:

- the joint IHBC/IfA/ALGAO Stewardship report had not been reported to the AGM;
- the Treasurers Report noted that the VAT issue had been resolved;
- Sean had been invited to speak at a parliamentary briefing on heritage, a further indicator as to the recognition of the IHBC;
- a PII scheme was now established, improving IHBC services to its members;
- Branch Business Plans had revealed different Branch approaches to payments for officers attending the AGM, the national office would now give some guidance on this. Rob noted that there was an opportunity for the

East Midlands Branch to offer a bursary for one year to allow someone to attend the Annual School as a result of the profit from the AGM;

- evidence suggests that conservation posts were increasingly at risk as a result of re-organisation and the economic situation. IHBC Council were aware of the issues and were monitoring the situation. Fiona noted that the appendix to the recently published IHBC/EH/ALGAO survey on staffing provided a useful matrix covering the responsibilities associated with conservation work;
- the draft PPS guidance is expected in June, and is likely to be a slim-line document combining PPGs 15 & 16;

8. County Reps Reports

Derbyshire (CM): there had been no recent meetings of the Derbyshire group.

Leicestershire (DB): the June meeting of the Leicestershire group had looked at the County's HER. It was noted that in recent months the County had lost two conservation officers, Ros Willatts and Sue Dobby from Harborough and Blaby respectively.

Lincolnshire (LM): the recent meeting the Lincolnshire group had raised issues about the loss of conservation policies from local plans and the future implications if PPG15 is replaced. There was also concern about the impact on grant schemes of the AABC-RIBA split and it was also noted that there was likely to be merger of some Lincolnshire services with reorganisation proposals.

Nottinghamshire: no report as Jason was absent.

Northamptonshire: it was noted that there was now improved responses from English Heritage following the appointment of new officers and there was also an agreement for a County-based archaeological officer to comment on planning applications. It was also noted that South Northants had lost its conservation officer.

Rachel also commented on the degree of political 'fall out' following the publication of the 'Conservation Areas at Risk' survey, particularly the justification for identifying conservation areas. Liz suggested that should be an IHBC response to what seemed like a very superficial survey, very much dependent on whether local authorities had provided the information correctly or even at all.

9. IHBC Branch Committees

Nothing to report. Fiona noted that the forthcoming Context would have a 'rural' theme and the September issue would feature the Annual School.

10. Annual School 2009

Rob noted that the School had been a great success with a record attendance.

Fiona reported that the feedback from over 100 respondents had been good; rating the speakers as excellent or very good; the most popular being Chris Wood but also that Richard Tuffrey's presentations had scored highly. The organisation and venues were also scored as excellent or very good and that overall there was high level of satisfaction.

11. Branch AGM

A provisional date of Friday 4th September had been set and, in the absence of other venues, the venue was likely to be Harlaxton Manor, with a tour of the gardens and their 'buildings at risk' conducted by James Edgar preceding the AGM.

Liz was continue to negotiate on the arrangements and costs, trying to keep these to a minimum, looking at a buffet in the region of £10 per head if possible. Bit to cover these costs it was agreed that that a charge of £5 would be made to those attending the tour and buffet.

[Action: Liz Mayle to liaise and organise arrangements for the AGM]

It was noted that a number of revisions were needed to the Business Plan to note the success of Buxton, the revamp of the IHBC Branch page web site and the building bridges initiative with IHBC Committees. Liz noted that one future initiative could look at more specific conservation training to address reductions in training budgets.

12. AOB

Rob noted that this was possibly his last time as Chair as he was hoping to step down from this post at the AGM.

13. Date of Next Meeting: To follow the AGM – provisional date early November.
