

Minutes of Meeting: Tuesday 19th May 2009 at The Fox & Crown, Appletongate, Newark

Present: Robert Walker, Fiona Newton, Rose Thompson, David Boyson, Chris McKinney, James White, Liz Mayle, Jenny Timothy & Steve Bradwell.

1. Apologies Jason Mordan, Roy Lewis, Rachel Booth, Jane Roylance, Chloe Oswald & Philip Grover

2. Matters Arising from Minutes

Improving Communications & Raising Interest: Rob reported that he had been in contact with Charles Strang, who should now be contacting James White.

IHBC web site: Steve had not yet managed to contact Steve Bowyer.

[Action: Steve to contact Steve Bowyer regarding old AGM papers]

RIBA Split from AABC: Rob had now contacted Anthony Streeton and passed on the Branch's views. Roy had also contacted Sean, who has agreed to take up the issues at a higher level.

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 whilst the priority of the Branch remained the Annual School, other matters on the Business Plan seemed to be on track and within the budget.

However he did note that after the Annual School the Branch would need to focus on arrangements for the AGM in September.

5. Treasurer's Report

Rose reported that the current account balance stands at £397.58, while reserve account was £389.58 with £174.99 remaining in the Annual School budget.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

David noted that he had recently sent comments on an application for a membership upgrade.

He also raised some queries about the status of the recent consultation regarding national procedures for membership applications. Fiona noted that these were issued for reference and comment and that they were in accordance with the assessment form used by the national committee.

7. County Reps Reports

Derbyshire (CM): there had been no recent meetings of the Derbyshire group but members were busy working towards the Annual School.

Leicestershire (JW): noted that the next meeting of the Leicestershire group was due in June, to look at the County's HER, and hopefully there would be someone from English Heritage in attendance.

Lincolnshire (LM): the recent meeting in Spalding had received a good turnout of local conservation officers and included a visit to a recent grant scheme.

Nottinghamshire: in his absence Jason had sent a written report noting that whilst staffing levels were about the same, Dave Shaw had recently retired from Rushcliffe Borough and they were not replacing his post.

Northamptonshire: Jenny noted that there had been no recent meetings.

8. IHBC Branch Committees

Mixed reports were received about the success of early liaisons with IHBC committees. Mike Brown had given a very positive response and Rose Thompson had also received a response from Richard Morrice from the Finance and Resources Committee. Rob said he would chase all the IHBC Chairs in due course and remind them to keep in touch with the Branch contacts.

Rob queried whether anyone was checking whether the Minutes of the committees were being placed on the IHBC website as promised, although he did note that Branch nominees should be getting the Minutes sent to them direct.

David reported that he had had no contact from the Membership Secretary.

9. Annual School 2009

Rob noted that the bookings were going very well, Fiona reporting that at the latest count there were 190 delegates for the Day School.

Rob also noted that he had been contacting volunteers and allocating them various roles particularly to help manage the groups on the Day School and tours and that there were sufficient volunteers to help assemble the delegate packs on the Wednesday.

It was also noted that the sponsorship had gone well and all of the exhibition boards had been sold, and that the Annual School was likely to be profitable.

Chris noted that the last organising committee meeting had conducted a 'dry run' through the Palace but that there was still a need to check the facilities at the Dome.

Dave noted that some help may be needed to chase and assemble the additional information provided by the speakers.

10. AGM

Steve noted that following the Annual School, Branch committee members and officers should begin to draft their report for the AGM papers with by the next Branch meeting - without fail.

[Action ALL: – AGM reports to be forward to Steve Bradwell by 7 July]

There was also discussion about a potential venue and event for the AGM. It was agreed that a 'buildings at risk' event should be arranged through James Edgar, who had previously offered to act as a host, and, after discussions regarding a number of venues, it was decided that Harlaxton House could be a suitable venue if this could be arranged.

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

11. AOB

David noted the recent announcement about the death of Mickey King, a renowned personality in conservation in the North West, particularly around Liverpool and Shrewsbury. Rob agreed to pass on the Branch's condolences to Sean.

Liz Mayle raised some concerns about dealing with the English Heritage standard 'no comment' letter and a response from Anthony Streeton suggesting that the standard letter does make a recommendation. However, it was also noted that the standard of comment from English Heritage was improving with their new officers now in place.

Rob offered the Branch's congratulations to Jenny Timothy on completing her MSc. degree.

Rob also noted his recent involvement with a dangerous building, and in working with his Building Inspector it was agreed that 'removing the danger' did not necessarily mean demolishing the building and that the Building Inspector was prepared to accept other solutions.

David queried the legal definition of 'removing the danger' and that much was down to having a sympathetic Building Control officer to secure a satisfactory outcome.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th July 2009
