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BUILDING · CONSERVATION

NORTH WEST BRANCH

**Minutes of North West Branch Meeting
Held at Manchester Town Hall, 23/07/09**

	The meeting opened at 5.30pm	ACTIONS
1) Attendance	<p>Present: Acting Chair: Graham Arnold (GA), Kate Borland (KB), Louise Wallace (LW), Paul Mason (PM), Ashley Pettit (AP), Paul Butler (PB), Chris Griffiths (CG), Minutes: Crispin Edwards (CE)</p> <p>Apologies: Paul Hartley, Dave Hayes, Nick Grimshaw, Jason Kennedy, Adrian Dowd</p>	
2) Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2009 were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>VAT reclaim: the branch has passed the necessary information to the centre. The VAT reclaim bill has been reduced, and the Council will pursue whether the bill is legitimate or can be further reduced.</p> <p>Exemption from Part L of building regulations: the response to the consultation on this issue has not yet been posted on the website; past consultation responses are posted at http://www.ihbc.org.uk/consultations_archive.htm [Post meeting note 10/09/09 – a draft response has been circulated to committee. This will be tabled at GMCOG on 23/09 for comments]</p> <p>Civic Trust: it is reported that efforts are being made to revive the trust, but no details are available yet.</p> <p>Ian Lucas has not been invited to committee after being co-opted at last meeting.</p> <p>Conservation Areas at Risk: English Heritage response to feedback very limited, it was agreed that a more formal submission needs to be made.</p>	<p>LW to add to circulation list</p> <p>CE to pass correspondence to GA, GA to draft letter for committee comment</p>

3) Treasurer's Report	NG absent. Committee voted to donate £150 to the Morecambe Winter Gardens Friends, as a gesture of thanks for the successful visit at the Summer Social.	KB to arrange with NG
4) Consultations report	<p>PB outlined consultations received since April (18), few of which were specifically relevant to IHBC or the branch.</p> <p>Consultation on EH guidance on large digital screens was circulated; large screens in the NW have been cited as poor examples in need of improvement.</p> <p>PPS15/16 consultation draft is due Fri 25th, and branch needs an opportunity to discuss and agree a response. [Post meeting note – a joint seminar has been arranged for the afternoon of 23rd September following GMCOG in Bolton. Details have been posted on the website events page and in the newsletter.]</p> <p>PB expressed a wish to step down at AGM as he is now in the region less.</p>	LW to ask Ian Lucas if he is willing to stand.
5) Events sub-committee	<p>Thanks were given to Kate Borland and the events committee for organising a successful Summer Social in Morecambe. The event was subsidised but well attended.</p> <p>The October day conference flyer has been prepared.</p> <p>Christmas meal & AGM: Portico Library was suggested as venue following previous successful event there.</p>	<p>CE to arrange posting on web PM to email RIBA for circulation</p> <p>LW to co-ordinate taking money etc as KB will be absent.</p>
6) Joint events with COGs	See event under consultations	
7) Membership	No update	
8) Branch Newsletter	<p>Summer newsletter items largely written; AP offered to assist with production if this cannot continue with Taylor Young.</p> <p>Item to be included canvassing for submissions and candidates for editorship.</p>	CE to arrange production with Taylor Young
9) NW Historic Environment Forum	PM has prepared an item for the newsletter; a meeting is scheduled for w/c 27/07 to discuss consultants' proposed 5 year strategy (summary of reports circulated).	

10) National Rep report	<p>Attendance at Annual School: council has suggested that branches subsidise some places for members' attendance.</p> <p>CPD: council members have updated their returns. A 2% sample of members will be asked for their updated return.</p> <p>Regional Council meetings: Council will meet in NE in 2010 to assist branch in preparing for annual school, and in NW in 2011.</p>	
11) Any other business	GA expressed concern over declining Local Authority conservation provision.	PM to email GA re Lincs situation, DH to report on Cheshire, GA & CG on Merseyside, and KB on G.M.
12) Next meeting	Weds 14/10/09, change of venue to Stockport (probably Town Hall)	
	The meeting closed at 7pm	

