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BUILDING · CONSERVATION

SOUTH EAST BRANCH

## **IHBC South East Branch**

### **Committee Meeting**

**The George and Dragon, Westerham, Kent**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Lone Le Vay, Eimear Murphy, Paul Barker, Sean Rix, Ollie Chapman, David Kincaid, Nigel Barker, Peter Mills, Debbie Gardner, Glenn Moore, Andrew Norris.

**Apologies:** Jo Evans

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting (6<sup>th</sup> August and AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> October)**

Agreed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Sean reported that South East Regional Skills is now called 'Heritage Skills Network South East'. The contractors' breakfast has been postponed to early next year – Sean will publicise when details are available.

The South East Peg Tile booklet has been published at long last and copies distributed.

Nigel reported that the branch financial returns have been posted to Mike Knights.

### **3. Membership Management**

Sean attended the Branch Connection Day in Birmingham with the theme of how to attract more IHBC members. It was agreed that there is a need to increase the support for people seeking membership. It was suggested that people should be encouraged to seek affiliate membership first and get known by the rest of the branch. There is the possibility of branch 'mentors' for new members and this was generally discussed. Should it be done centrally? The whole process of becoming a full member needs to be simpler, including the application form. Do potential new members need coaching to help fill in the form? The IHBC needs to promote the advantages of becoming a full member. It was agreed that people could email Sean direct with their views, which would then be passed up to Sean O'Reilly.

### **4. Use of Committee County Reps**

It was suggested that we use the four county reps on the Committee to organise an event in each branch area over the coming year, using the branch page of the IHBC website or the branch newsletter. The four reps agreed to take on the responsibility but it was agreed that the main AGM event would remain a joint exercise.

It was also suggested that the Committee minutes be cascaded down to the branch. Peter agreed to get the minutes posted on the branch page of the website.

#### 5. **Branch Bursary Place at the IHBC Annual School**

Generally agreed that a branch bursary place at the annual school is a good idea. Most thought that one place at the Day School should be offered. This could be offered to unemployed people or people wanting to upgrade to full membership. David K agreed to write an email to the branch inviting people to apply, which Peter will distribute.

#### 6. **Future events**

Andrew suggested a stone and geology talk one evening. He has a contact and will follow it up.

David is still pursuing a seminar to be presented by Ventrolla on sash window refurbishment. They provide all the equipment, speaker etc and we just provide the venue. Agreed that it would be held at Westerham Village Hall, which was the successful venue for the Cultural Olympiad Seminar (NB Peter has now booked this for the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010).

Peter suggested a visit to the Charles Brooking historic window collection at Cranleigh (Charles has offered to host an event). Sean will look into this as his 'Surrey' event for next year.

Eimear suggested a legal update seminar, including the latest on the draft PPS.

Since the meeting David has also raised the possibility of a talk by Roger Bowdler of English Heritage on the current EH position on listing (why/what/who? etc). He will follow this up for later in the spring/early summer.

#### 7. **Any Other Business**

Paul reported that he is having difficulty with having to advise his local authority that he feels unable to get involved in a particular case because the stance he is being asked to take as an officer conflicts with his membership of the IHBC. Does anyone else have experience of this? Question could be asked via the IHBC website.

#### 8. **Date of next meeting**

To be combined with the Ventrolla seminar at Westerham on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March.