



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

**Meeting held on
Friday 15th March 2019
10.00am until 3.00pm**

**The Dining Room, Forde House,
Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX**

DRAFT MINUTES

Attending: James Caird; Maureen Pearce; Greg Venn; Charlotte Bowles-Lewis; Colin Ellis; Liz Smith-Gibbons; Helen Garside; James Caird, James Webb; Nick Cahill; Jill Himsworth

- 1.0 **Apologies** Action
- 1.1 Jonathan Taylor; Stephen Guy.
- 2.0 **Minutes of last meeting held on 26th October 2018**
- 2.1 Agreed as a correct record
- 3.0 **Matters Arising**
- 3.1 -
- 4.0 **Treasurer's Report**
- 4.1 GV reported back on current Treasurers situation. The current balance stands at £13,228.48 prior to today's meeting which includes a cheque for £11.07 which went out at £110.70 due to a banking error. Charles Mynors has still not claimed his fee for the event last year.
- 4.2 Signatories need updating on the IHBC account. James Webb (Dorset representative) and Jill Himsworth who is taking over as secretary from Kate Baxter-Hunter are to be added as signatories. Greg Venn to forward the paperwork for signing. GV/JW/JH
- 5.0 **Branch activities**
- 5.1 Private sector meetings
- CE ran through his proposal for private practice consultants to get together for networking and CPD. Nicola Burley and JW have offered to assist with this. The meetings would be held quarterly at a location accessible from the region (possibly Bristol or Torre Abbey) to discuss national and local issues, with guest speakers or site visits if possible. A fee of £10 per session is proposed. CE

to establish a database of people that are interested.

CE

5.2 AGM / Conference

This is to be held at the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth on Friday 17th May 2019, and is to be entitled 'Recognising significance in twentieth century buildings'. The itinerary is attached to these minutes. After discussion it was agreed that the fee for the conference would be £50, with the potential to buy Elaine Harwood's book at a reduced price. GV to put on Eventbrite for bookings. JH to send to RIBA for circulation to its members.

GV/JH

5.3 September training day

MP tabled JT's draft agenda for a training day on 27th September 2019 in Bath, entitled 'Damp, timber decay and sustainability'. It was felt by all that this would be very well attended. The Elwin room in Bath is a potential venue, which would be £290. MP to circulate the proposed itinerary.

MP

6.0 **Future governance**

6.1 James Caird, IHBC chair, ran through the IHBC future governance discussion document.

JC ran through the background to the IHBC and the reasons for the proposed constitutional changes which the IHBC are currently consulting on. The IHBC was formed from the former ACO in 1997 and was formed with charitable status emulating other professional institutions.

Since then membership has grown significantly, and has a professional administration but is heavily reliant on volunteers, and it is recognised that there is a declining capacity of members to undertake voluntary roles. The change in governance proposed would allow for a more international perspective in line with ICOMOS guidelines but would also allow the IHBC to become a chartered institute and for the potential to apply for a Royal Charter. Chartership criteria would need to be confirmed. A board would be elected by national election.

6.2 Generally the idea of chartered membership was supported. The cost implications for members would need to be ascertained as would the benefits of being chartered, given that many members already belong to other professional bodies. Concern was expressed at the potential requirement to reapply for accreditation at set periods.

6.3 MP asked that meeting locations be given some thought in terms of geographical accessibility, or whether there were other solutions to increase accessibility such as skype etc.

6.4 NC asked about the liability of trustees and JC stated that this would have to be communicated to trustees. NC also suggested an organisational chart showing the existing and proposed organisation would be a good idea to best communicate the proposed changes.

6.5 The committee gave other more general feedback to JC as follows:

- The IHBC website is not very intuitive to use

- The use of social media should be considered
- Events should be circulated nationally not just regionally
- It is very difficult to identify new and retired members following receipt of updated membership databases.

6.6 The committee thanked JC for the opportunity to comment on the proposed constitutional changes and for the general opportunity to give feedback regarding the running of the IHBC.

7.0 **News from around the region**

7.1 MP is to write to the heritage minister once a quarter with updates of relevant regional issues, highlighting in particular the lack of conservation officers.

MP

7.2 LSG stated that Swindon has become accepted as a Heritage Action Zone. This is a 5 year plan to improve the connectivity between the railway village and the town centre. The current conservation area designations will also be revisited.

7.3 CBL confirmed that the Gloucester City Heritage Strategy is out to consultation. The new HLF South West framework is being launched at Llanthony Priory this month. The current HLF projects are coming to an end but Gloucester hope to apply for funding for new projects from the Future High Streets fund.

7.4 News from Cornwall: NC is currently pursuing a compulsory purchase order in Penzance. Conservation officers are severely under pressure in Cornwall and planning officers are now only required to consult with conservation officers if they are also consulting Historic England. Where conservation officers are asked to comment, positive comments go straight on to the planning portal whereas negative comments are fed back to the planning officer.

7.5 Several interesting projects have just been completed or are under construction in Cornwall; the Kresen Kernow building in the former Redruth Brewery site and the Hall for Cornwall in Truro. Cornwall have a backlog of conservation area appraisals, with 147 areas designated but just 67 appraisals and potentially further areas needing designating. A Townscape Heritage Initiative in St Austell has been training up local volunteers to carry out building surveys to produce a buildings at risk study.

7.6 In Devon, MP stated that fire precautions have been upgraded at Saltram and fire precautions and insurance would be an interesting topic for further training.

7.7 The planning permission for a new hotel on the harbour and pavilion at Torquay has been quashed and is subject of local/legal dispute.

7.8 Cockwood harbour flood defence scheme by the environment agency has been officially opened and will be entered for a civic trust award.

7.9 The recent Mike Wye CPD went very well with another event planned later in the year.

8.0 **Any other business**

8.1 LSG stated would be pre-occupied with her masters degree which would be coming to the end over the next few months. LSG confirmed she would be happy to stand down but equally happy to stay in post.

8.2 Post meeting note: There is an IHBC Council + meeting on 2nd May in London. JH to attend.

DRAFT