

**Minutes of Committee Meeting - TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
At The Fox & Crown, Appletongate, Newark**

**Present:** Chris McKinney, Roy Lewis, Rose Thompson, Stephen Bradwell, Robert Walker, Fiona Newton, Jenny Timothy, Jane Roylance & James White. Branch Member Philip Grover also attended.

**1. Apologies from:** David Boyson, Jason Mordan, Chloe Oswald and Rachel Booth

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed; a 'potential new members list' was circulated for comment.

**3. Chair's Report & Business Plan**

Robert Walker noted that it had been relatively quiet over the Christmas period but he did suggest that an issue raised by Barry Joyce at a previous Annual School Committee regarding archaeology and the HER records could make a useful Branch event if it could be organised other than by those involved in Annual School. It was understood that Jason Mordan had shown some enthusiasm for following this up and agreed that an approach be made to Jason.

**[ACTION – Jason to confirm whether he is  
willing to organise and report back]**

In addition the Branch Committee had previously discussed the prospect of a BaR seminar.

**[ACTION – James White & Liz Mayle to consider feasibility  
of holding a BaR seminar]**

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Rose Thompson gave the latest figures from the accounts:

Current Account: £112.59

Reserve Account: £389.43

It was noted that the £500 grant from national office had still to be included in the accounts.

Rose also confirmed that there was a contingency fund for Annual School related expenditure and that so far the only expense was for travel by Alan Morrison.

It was agreed (proposed by Roy Lewis and seconded by Philip Grover) that this fund could be used to provide refreshments at future meetings of the Organising Committee.

**5. Membership Secretary's Report**

David Boyson was absent.

## **6. Branch Rep's Report**

A written report is attached to the Minutes, however Roy Lewis drew particular attention to:

- Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has recently changed its interpretation of VAT exemption and as result the IHBC may have to pay a retrospective VAT bill from previous conferences;
- The proposed joint network with the RTPPI had been delayed as the RTPPI was not in a position to proceed at present;
- Concerns raised by Dave Chetwyn about the amount of information brought to Council which left little time to discuss more strategic issues, it had been proposed that at least one council meeting a year could be dedicated to strategic issues;
- That the East Midlands Branch's suggestion that the workings of the Institute should be made more open was well received, as a result more details of committee membership, structure and agendas and minutes will be put on the IHBC web-site;
- The Heritage Protection Bill had been omitted from the Queen's Speech;
- Following feedback given by failed applicants to the IHBC it was suggested that a mentoring programme could be introduced to help future applicants.

Robert Walker thanked Roy for his attendance at the Council meetings.

## **7. County Representatives' Report**

James White (Leicestershire) reported that the County Officers' group had met in December; of particular note was concern over staffing. Leicester City was looking to reduce planning staff and Ros Willatts was about to retire from Harborough District Council without any prospect of a replacement conservation officer being appointed.

It was suggested that the IHBC should write to Harborough stressing the importance of and benefits of having a conservation officer in post. Fiona Newton thought any letter should be delayed until after the IHBC/English Heritage report on staffing was published.

It was therefore agreed that the final decision on any such letter should be held back until after Ros's retirement and after the publication of the IHBC/English Heritage/ALGAO's service standards and staffing report.

James also reported that the Leicester HBT had been reinvigorated with a new chairman (Keith Hamilton of B3 Burgess) and they were now looking for projects to take on.

Chris McKinney (Derbyshire) reported that there had not been a meeting of the County officers' group since the last Branch meeting.

There were no Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire or Northamptonshire reps at the meeting. However Jenny Timothy did report that there was general concern in Northamptonshire about the continued lack of archaeological advice at the County level. Robert Walker noted that Bob Stewart was due to retire from South Kesteven and his post was going to be replaced.

## **8. Improving Communications and Raising Interest Initiatives**

Following discussions at the last Branch Committee and response from IHBC Council, Robert Walker asked for volunteers to act as the Branch's nominees to promote better communications between the Branch and the chairs of the various IHBC Committees. It was not intended that these roles should take up too much time, essentially to build up contacts by e-mail with the relevant Committee chair, read the appropriate Minutes and Agendas and report on issues being raised at national level to the Branch Committee. Robert suggested that David Boyson might act as link persons to the Membership & Ethics and he had suggested to Liz Mayle that she might be interested in Education & Standards Committee.

However, Philip Grover agreed to take on the Education role and the Branch Committee felt that Philip would make an excellent nominee and accepted his offer to liaise with the Education & Standards Committee.

In addition:

- Jenny Timothy agreed to liaise with the Policy Committee;
- James White agreed to liaise with the Communications & Outreach Committee; and
- Rose Thompson agreed to work with the Finance & Resources Committee.

**[ACTION – Robert Walker to approach David Boyson and send introductory e-mails to Committee chairs]**

## **9. Branches Meeting in Birmingham**

James White had represented the Branch at the Birmingham 'Connection Day'. It was reported that the East Midlands Branch fared well in comparison with other Branches in terms of its activities and having key officers in place.

There was much discussion about promoting better communications particularly between the national level and individual members, although it was recognised that the county officer meetings were not an appropriate forum to do this as they did not represent all IHBC members in the county and that not all local planning authority conservation officers were IHBC members and that it was not appropriate to open these meetings up to all IHBC members.

A suggestion by James was to hold county-wide IHBC member forums with the possibility of extending the invitation to occasional joint meetings with other professionals involved in the historic environment.

So whilst promoting better communications raises many issues, the 'Connection Day' had been a good forum to share ideas.

Information about the event should appear on the IHBC web-site in due course.

## **10. IHBC Web-site**

Robert Walker asked that the Branch web-page be brought up-to-date, in particular with the latest Business Plan and Branch meeting Minutes.

**[ACTION – Stephen Bradwell to submit Business plan and Branch Minutes to Peter Badcock for inclusion of the Branch web page]**

Robert also asked if any photos of the Stoke Rochford day and AGM could be sent to Jane Roylance so that a selection could be put on the IHBC web-site.

#### **11. 2009 Annual School**

It was reported that David Boyson had almost finalised the School programme and that most of the speakers were signed up, the only significant omission was a speaker to address the European perspective.

Barry Joyce had agreed to be the Day School Chair and Alan Morrison would chair Saturday's events.

The next key deadline is the preparation of the promotional leaflet for inclusion in the next issue so that people can then start booking.

Chloe Oswald and Jane Roylance continued to work on sponsorship and were still looking for a number of sponsors, particularly as some of the larger packages were still to be taken up. Mark Strawbridge from Plannit, the entertainment sponsor, is organising the entertainment for Friday night.

Now that the main school was coming together the next stage would be the fringe activities, but overall the timetable is on target.

#### **12. AOB**

Jenny Timothy made a request for information to help her with a dissertation on 'modern ruins' – examining the question of whether we should be rebuilding historic buildings or managing them as ruins – any suggestions as to potential examples would be welcome.

#### **13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009**