



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Tuesday 3rd November 2009
The Fox & Crown, Appleton Gate, Newark**

Present

Jane Roylance, James White, David Boyson, Liz Mayle, Philip Grover, Roy Lewis, Rose Thompson, Robert Walker & Fiona Newton

Apologies Jenny Timothy, Steve Bradwell

1. Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

There were no actions from the last meeting which were considered a true record.

2. Chairman's report and business plan

The business plan was submitted and was the first branch plan to be so. Two agenda items follow from the business plan.

3. Treasurers report

Accounts stand at £189.67 & £107.45. The end of year returns were submitted and a copy of the business plan emailed to Sean.

4. Membership secretary

Dave reported he had a new membership spreadsheet from Devon. The IHBC has now passed 2,000 members. The branch membership is over 160.

5. Branch reps report

Roy reported that the IHBC Council away day was held in Cardiff with the meeting and a conference. The profile of the IHBC was substantially raised and the Welsh heritage minister was very good and aware of the issues. The format for next year was discussed. There was concern that once Wales, NI & Scotland were done there was no reason for the same format in the rest of the English regions. A visit to Manchester does not seem to need an overnight stay. The costs of such an event are not sustainable. The system needs to be seen to be fair to all branch members and the current system does not seem to be so.

ACTION: Roy to raise concerns at Council

Next year's September Council will be held in the North West.

Relations with the IfA have gone through another hurdle as IfA wanted to offer full membership to IHBC members who were not competent in archaeology.

IHBC subscriptions have been held at current levels for the next year. Membership has topped the 2,000 mark which is a major landmark. Nearly a quarter of the membership has joined in the last three years.

The PPS response was submitted jointly with RTPI.

The corporate plan for 2010-15 is being developed and Roy will need to feed back at December Council. There is also a survey on the web site to feed into this process.

A few issues raised were:

- To continue to grow the numbers and breadth of the Institute without reducing quality.
- Continue to strengthen and empower the branches.
- Increasing profile and standing of the IHBC
- Aspire to continue to develop the role of the IHBC as the principle historic environment body in the view of all in the sector
- To be respected by government as the lead force
- Forging constructive links with other professional bodies
- Accept that we are small, do not aim for chartered status

ACTION Roy to feedback the above to Council in December

Roy reported that Council formally thanked the branch for the work on the Annual School. Fiona had circulated her report on the Annual School which included a lot of positive feedback. It was asked that a final balance sheet be made available.

ACTION Fiona to ensure branch get a balance sheet for School

The proposal to join the Society of the Environment was discussed and it was felt that the case needed to be made more strongly as few people could see the benefit of it.

ACTION Roy to feedback to Council

6. County Reps report

James reported there had been a meeting in Oakham in September where PPS 15 was discussed.

Liz reported that Lincolnshire had hosted the Branch AGM at Harlaxton. A

Lincolnshire meeting was held in Barton in September.

Nottinghamshire has not had a meeting but one is due to be held in the next week.

7. Gus Astley Awards

The AGM considers that a donation may be made but no sum has been confirmed although £500 has been pencilled in. It was felt that this was a good use of the money and should be supported.

8. Bursary scheme for Annual School

Rob had obtained feedback from the three branches who already operate a bursary scheme.

Dave wondered if it was to be invested to get an annual return to fund a place or that money is spent until it runs out.

Criteria for success will be very important. It may even be that a straight lottery is simpler than a competition.

The full place will eat up lots of money so day school places might be better.

Is there a real benefit for the branch out of doing it and fair criteria need to be laid down.

It would be worthwhile getting some payback from the place – this may require a report or attendance at the branch meeting.

A booking can be made by the branch at the early bird rate.

Other possible uses of the money include updating and developing of education pack

**ACTION: (i) Philip to begin to draft criteria;
(ii) Rob to send through Steve an email on expressions of interest to branch members.**

9. Committee nominees

Jane reported on the Technical Panel which had met but she had been unable to attend. Fiona drew attention to the technical bibliography which is posted on the IHBC web-site.

James reported that Communications and Outreach has met a couple of times.

The newsblog, e-newsletter and other items were discussed. An electronic version of Context was seen to be a negative idea.

10. Branch Connection day

Dave noted the Branch Connection day on 27 November is on membership and asked whether it would be appropriate for him to go. This was agreed. **ACTION Dave to attend and report back**

11. Hathern Terracotta factory

Roy suggested the possibility of a trip to the Hathern terracotta factory in Leicestershire.

ACTION Jane to contact Hathern to find out what numbers they can take and arrange a possible date.

12. AOB

Liz raised the issue of accreditation and EH grant schemes. The new scheme agreement requires that grant jobs over £20,000 have an accredited architect or surveyor, but now as a result of complaints they have also added the option that the local authority could employ their own accredited architect or surveyor. Whilst this ensures an accredited person is involved in the job it can undermine the role of the unaccredited conservation officer.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th January 2010
