



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:  
Tuesday 6 December 2016  
At The Organ Grinder, Portland Street, Newark**

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**Attendance:** Liz Mayle (Chair), Stephen Bradwell (Secretary), Rose Thompson (Treasurer), Matthew Crook, Jason Mordan, Rob Walker, Kelly Appleton-Swaine and Jane Roylance

**Apologies:**

Chris McKinney, Ros Worrall, Becky Waddington, Paul Grundy, Fiona Newton, Liz Blood & Roy Lewis

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**Minutes of Last Meeting**

Agreed.

**Chair's Report & Business Plan**

Liz had no specific comments on the Business Plan, but noted the importance of discussing the Branch's response to the Conservation Area Celebrations.

**Branch Reps Report**

As Roy was at the IHBC Council+ meeting in London, he had sent a written report that was circulated with the Agenda.

**Treasurer's Report**

Rose reported that:

Current account balance: £873.94

Reserve Account balance: £190.32

Rose also confirmed that the Business Plan had been submitted to the IHBC.

**Membership Report**

Matthew Crook made it known that he was about to move out of the area to take up a new position and was unable to continue as Membership Secretary.

Jason Mordan volunteered to take up the position and this was unanimously approved by the Committee.

### **County Rep's Reports**

**Derbyshire** – report circulated.

**Leicestershire** – attached to the Agenda.

**Lincolnshire** – Kelly reported that LCOG was due to meet later that week, however she also reported that Heritage Lincolnshire had advertised for a Buildings at Risk officer.

**Northamptonshire** – no report

**Nottinghamshire** – Jason reported that the last NCOF was held in Wellow in January.

The formal launch of Nottingham City's Heritage Strategy had been well attended.

Jason also noted that Dan Windward was due to leave Nottingham City and that Mark Wilkinson had left Mansfield.

### **Communications Officer**

Chris McKinney was absent from the meeting, but he had advised that he was looking to update the Branch website.

### **50 Years of Conservation Areas Celebrations**

Liz reported that a meeting had been held in Stamford to discuss various initiatives to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Conservation Areas, Stamford being the first to be designated, with a number of stakeholder groups. Proposals included: from RIBA, a series of professional CPD courses; a craft fair to promote traditional crafts; Civic Society seminars to support the local authority in protecting the Conservation Area; and building maintenance events for home owners.

There was a suggestion that the Branch Education Pack could be reworked and updated to fit in with the current geography curriculum.

There was therefore an opportunity for the Branch to organise an event or project around the celebrations promoting wider conservation area issues, and it was known that Sean O'Reilly, IHBC Director, was keen to promote outreach initiatives that engaged with the general public.

Rob suggested that the focus should not just be on Stamford, but that it should look at the celebration of Conservation Areas in general and he suggested the use of examples where Conservation Area designation had perhaps saved something or generated something positive for the local area.

On the educational theme Rob also suggested the development of an application or other software that was based around changes to buildings to show how incremental changes could have both a negative and positive impact. However, such an initiative would need funding as there was no budget for this in the Branch Business Plan, but there was perhaps an opportunity to approach the IHBC, which had set aside a budget for suitable projects.

Liz considered it important to show the importance of protecting Conservation Areas, and Matthew also made the point that there was need to explain the history of the buildings and their importance within the Conservation Area

Liz also commented that it was also important to use other Conservation Areas and not just Stamford, although Rob pointed that in publicity terms the focus will be on Stamford.

Jason noted that if the Branch was to move forward with the idea of an app, then it would need to be professionally developed and would need to involve a range of buildings and be easy to use, to get the conservation message across.

Rob said he had in mind a relatively simple programme with a toolbox that could allow people to change the look of a building to show how incremental changes affect its appearance. Kelly noted that it would also have to address the more restrictive permitted development allowances within Conservation Areas.

It was suggested that Liz should contact Sean to see if this idea was something that he would be happy to support and help to fund.

### **Any Other Business**

Jane noted that Nottingham Castle had recently been awarded a £13.9m lottery grant, and a visit to the Castle and a presentation of the City's Heritage Strategy could be a suitable option for the April Branch meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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