



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Tuesday 14 July 2015
At The Fox & Crown, Appleton Gate, Newark**

Attendance: Liz Mayle, Robert Walker, Fiona Newton, Neil Robertson, Roy Lewis, Liz Blood, Rose Thompson and Stephen Bradwell

Apologies: Philip Grover, Rebecca Waddington, Ros Worrall and Chris McKinney

- 1. Minutes of Last Meeting:** Roy Lewis noted that his article on the Bonsall Conservation Area case had been sent to the IHBC for wider publication, and Rob Walker asked whether it could be circulated to the Branch.

Fiona asked for clarification of the Minute in which Chris Edwards had expressed concern regarding membership standards that had resulted in two applicants being turned down for membership. Fiona however confirmed that there had been no change in the requirements for full membership.

Following the invitation for applications for the Annual School Bursary, only one (late) application had been received from Rose Thompson, and this had been approved by circulation of e-mails around the Branch Committee, and this was **confirmed by the Branch Committee.**

Rose had also sent her thanks.

- 2. Chairs Report:** Liz noted that the visit to the Marble Halls and Branch meeting in Derby had been well received by those who attended.

She also announced that Sara Crofts had now moved to the HLF and due to changing work commitments had had to stand down from the Branch Committee.

Roy also commented that Sara was probably the 'highest-level' serving Branch officer and while the Branch has previously had service directors as members, this was now no longer the case.

3. Branch Reps Report: Roy explained that the IHBC Council+ Committee has run alongside virtual meetings of F&R Committee that have dealt with the day-to-day business of the IHBC.

Roy also noted that the Branch has had three new members: John Ruddy, of Capstone as a full member; and Catherine Banfield and Joanne Jones as affiliates.

Roy also noted that there had been some discussion about having some IHBC practice principles guidance notes that would have national coverage; to compare with practice standards like the CiFA.

Roy also noted that at the last Council meeting, Sean had proposed a new practice document 'Caring for Your House'.

Roy also clarified the membership position for retired members who could add 'Rtd' after their name, but they were outside of full membership.

The Council+ meeting after IHBC Norwich school had covered a number of reports and topics, with an 'open mike' session. Liz Blood, who had also attended on behalf of the Branch, said that a number of issues affecting the IHBC had been tabled and members were able to comment and bring forward new ideas. These included benchmarking of jobs; developing practice and skills; and encouraging new members.

There had also been some discussion about time-limiting affiliate membership, although it was felt that this may deter some membership applications as it can take people a long time to secure full-time posts.

Fiona confirmed that the IHBC wanted to encourage people to move on from affiliate to full membership and it was therefore useful to have the new 'stepping-stone' route to full membership.

The next Council+ meeting was to be held in December and Ros Worrall was to attend on behalf of the Branch. After that the Full Council had to decide whether to carry on with this experiment.

Roy also noted that Catherine Davies was now the IHBC Vice-Chair, previously of English Heritage and North Shropshire, and she had expressed interest in attending a future Branch meeting.

It was agreed that Liz would write to Catherine to invite her to the forthcoming Buxton AGM meeting.

- 4. Treasurers Report:** Rose reported that the Branch's finances were:
Current Account: £1,132.39 - £650 from IHBC
Reserve Account: £190.17

There was also some discussion about Rose's contribution towards the Branch's activities in lieu of the Annual School Bursary, and it was suggested that a Branch presentation by an Historic England officer could be arranged, possibly on structural engineering.

- 5. Membership Report:** Neil reported that the Branch membership now stood at 159 members – with some decline in numbers resulting in from recent retirements.

It was suggested that the Branch County reps could advise on incoming Conservation Officers to encourage new membership applications.

- 6. County Representatives Report:**

Derbyshire: an email report from Becky was circulated to the meeting, which noted that the last meeting of the Derbyshire CODs meeting had seen some concern over two poor appeal decisions in Ticknall (SDDC) and Churchfields Farm, Brailsford (DDDC), both from same inspector. On complaining to the Planning Inspectorate DDDC had received an apology.

There was also some discussion about the approach to energy conservation at Bolsover Model Village where single glazing for social housing not an option and that 'slim' double glazing had been proposed if a Stage 2 HLF bid project is successful.

In a separate appeal decision, an application for up to 400 dwellings at Quarndon/Kedleston had been refused by AVBC in July (Application Reference AVA/2014/0928), in part due to the 'less than substantial harm' to Grade I Kedleston Hall, its Grade I registered park and garden and the setting of Kedleston CA.

In addition, John Sewell had also retired approximately a month ago.

Neil added that the appeal decision to allow the removal of render from one half of a pair of estate properties had also been challenged by SDDC and an apology received from Planning Inspectorate.

Neil also added that the Conservation Manager post had been advertised at Derby City.

Leicestershire: Liz noted that the Conservation Officer Forum meetings were now meeting twice a year with the charring duties being shared between the Districts.

Richard Spooner had retired at Melton and a part-time post had been advertised, NWLDC were also advertising a conservation officer post and Leicester City had appointed a new conservation officer.

Liz also pointed out that the next Forum was due to be held in Leicester and she asked whether Liz would like to attend to talk about the benefits of IHBC membership as there are a number of conservation officers who are not members.

The Committee agreed that Liz was able to attend.

Lincolnshire: The last LCOG meeting held in mid-June had been hosted by Heritage Lincolnshire at the Town Hall in Kirton.

It was noted that the Church Commissioners (Uses & Disposal) Committee had held its annual tour in Lincolnshire in early June and most of the churches visited were in East Lindsey – 7 Fen Churches and 3 Wolds churches. Rob Walker (East Lindsey) and David Walsh (Historic England) attended the two-day tour with the Commissioners.

After the business meeting LCOG members went to look at the Old King's Head in Kirton – now a house and identified as a Building at Risk project following the Lincolnshire-wide 'Heritage at Risk' survey carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire.

It was also noted that West Lindsey District Council had recently re-advertised for a conservation officer.

Notts & Northants – no reports.

- 7. Communications Officer:** There had been no further progress with the Membership Survey, but it was agreed to issue the next Branch newsletter with information about the AGM.
- 8. AGM-Joint Meeting with North West:** It was agreed that the Branch AGM would be held on Friday 4th September at The Crescent in Buxton.

Liz had looked at a number of venues in association with Richard Tuffrey and Adam Lathbury and they had identified The Old Hall as the most appropriate venue.

It was proposed that the AGM would take place between 4.15 & 5.00pm and after to join with the North West Members for presentations and tours of The Crescent followed by a hot buffet supper, and those attending were to be asked for a £5 per head contribution.

- 9. Derby Conservation Advisory Panel:** Neil was endorsed as the IHBC Branch Rep on Derby Conservation Advisory Panel.
- 10. Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust:** An email from Allan Morrison on behalf of the DHBT was circulated, advising that he was attempting to revitalise the Trust with an application for an HLF Our Heritage grant. And particularly to examine BAR cases in Derbyshire to establish the scope and parameters for a rescue package for each case, in anticipation of HLF funding, that might provide affiliate IHBC members with CPD opportunities.

To meet the educational outcomes required by the HLF, he had written to the IHBC LETS officer for advice and assistance.

Roy thought that more information was required about the project before the Branch could consider being involved, but there were opportunities for the Branch to help publicise the DHBT initiatives.

11. AOB

Liz Blood queried who the Branch representatives were on local conservation advisory panels, of which only Derby and Leicester City have such panels.
