



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Friday 10th July 2012
The Moorings, Castle Gate, Newark**

Attendance: Roy Lewis, Neil Robertson, Robert Walker, Liz Mayle, Rose Thompson, Jane Roylance, Philip Grover, Mark Strawbridge, Jason Mordan & Stephen Bradwell

Apologies: Chris McKinney, Ramona User & Fiona Newton

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of the 13 April 2012 were approved, except for the omission of Chris McKinney's comments on the press pack and the opportunities to prepare campaign and press releases. In order to help decide how the Branch can develop its communications a revised press pack had been circulated.

It was decided to take the matter of presenting a more active and public face to the Branch AGM for discussion.

Philip noted that any Branch press releases should not be seen as being partisan when dealing with local issues. Robert also noted that there would be times when the Branch might want to comment on issues, such as the closure of a conservation service, but in other cases it also needed to avoid conflict between IHBC members.

Philip wondered whether there was a need to comment at a more strategic level given the role of the IHBC whereas Liz thought it might provide an important opportunity to present a local stance on national issues but not to repeat views of the national IHBC.

Mark suggested circulating the IHBC News Blog to the local press to try to generate interest in the IHBC. He also noted that there was a skill in writing press releases, it was important to recognise whom your recipients were and that it needs to be done regularly.

Philip thought the Branch would need to have a regular, single point of contact to put issues into the local context if this was to be taken forward.

Jane also referred to the opportunities to talk to local County groups and that she had been invited to speak to the Leicestershire Conservation Officers Group about the work of the Branch and National IHBC. Robert noted that Fiona had spoken in the past to Donald Insall Associates about the IHBC.

It was also noted that the next Leicestershire Conservation Officers Group was intending to visit the Melton PSiCA scheme and this might provide an opportunity for other Branch members to visit Melton.

It was also mentioned that Jenny Timothy had been offered an opportunity of a roofing demonstration from Jordan Heritage Roofing, and that this might also be a useful CPD activity.

2. **Treasurers Report:** Rose noted the current account was £387.24 with £189.87 in the deposit account.
3. **Branch Representative's Report:** Roy noted that Bob Kindred had been collecting details of local government Ombudsman cases arising from cases of 'inadequate conservation advice' where there was no qualified conservation staff in post.

Roy also noted that the IHBC were proposing to conduct a survey of people resigning from the IHBC to find out their reasons.

The Governance Review was the main issue for discussion and it had been proposed to consult the membership on a number of specific issues, the most contentious being the idea of accreditation.

Liz noted that English Heritage and RICS, for example, already had issues about IHBC recognition. There was also concern from the HLF about the loss of conservation staff and they were now trying to provide financial assistance to County Conservation Officer Groups.

5. **Membership Secretary:** Mark had nothing to report from the last quarter.
6. **County Representatives Reports**
Derbyshire: An officer from the Architectural Heritage Fund had talked to the last Conservation Officers' Group Meeting regarding the funding of new projects.

Leicestershire: Ramona had sent comments by e-mail.

Lincolnshire: No recent meeting to report.

Nottinghamshire: Whilst there was no meeting to report Jason noted that staffing levels were changing at Rushcliffe with their Conservation Officer leaving in August; while Broxtowe was sharing a service with Erewash and Bassetlaw was sharing with Ashfield.

7. **AGM:** A date of 7th September was agreed for the AGM with the venue at British Geological Survey at Keyworth.
8. **IHBC Summer School:** Robert asked what contribution the Branch had requested from Lisa Walton in return for her Bursary. Neil noted that she was going to report back to the Derbyshire Group and it was considered useful if she could send a summary of her presentation to the Branch.

Roy queried whether her presentation could be adapted for the Branch website.

Otherwise it was generally agreed that the School had been enjoyable although Philip noted that it seemed heavily weighted towards English Heritage, although Matthew Slocombe of SPAB had offered some balance.

9. **AOB:** In terms of the Business Plan it was noted only £200 had been drawn down from the Buxton funds and there was enough left to fund another Bursary, which would have to be a full school place given the distance to Carlisle.

It was also decided to maintain the peripatetic Branch meeting if this was agreed at the AGM.

Jason also mentioned the plaster and reed floor guide that had been proposed in the past but no money had been set aside to carry out this work. Jane noted that the SPAB guide had been rewritten and was going through the Technical Panel and thought it was therefore best to wait for its publication to see if there anything further we could add.

Next Meeting

AGM - 7th September at British Geological Survey at Keyworth.
Next Committee meeting to be arranged.