



**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Tuesday 12th January 2010
The Fox & Crown, Appleton Gate, Newark**

Present: Jane Roylance, Fiona Newton, Rose Thompson, Roy Lewis, Phillip Grover, Jenny Timothy, Robert Walker, Steve Bradwell and Jason Mordan.

Apologies: James White, Chris McKinney, David Boyson, Chloe Oswald & Rachel Booth

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Point 5: Branch Reps Report: Philip Grover queried the use of 'sustainable' to describe the Council Away Day, it was his view that if the Institute covers its costs then technically it would be sustainable, whereas the discussion had really been about whether the costs were justified. It was agreed that the Minutes should be amended to change '*are not sustainable*' to '*may not be sustainable*' and alteration of '*fair*' to '*transparent to all*'.

2. Chairman's Report and Business Plan

Jane had nothing further to add to the items on already on the agenda.

3. Treasurers Report

Accounts stand at £77.45 (current account) & £189.45 (reserve account). Rose noted that following the approval of the Business Plan, she would now make an application for the £500 grant.

Rob also queried when the Buxton money would be available to draw down. Rose had been in correspondence with Sean, it was agreed that the maximum available was £2,000 and that there was no time limit as to how long it could be kept in the Branch's bank account. Rob made the point that it was important to have the money in our account to apply for early bird bookings for the next Annual School. Fiona did not think that this would be a problem as the Branch could still make the booking and pay later.

4. Membership Secretary

David was absent.

5. Branch Reps Report

Roy reported that there had been a very useful meeting with Baroness Andrews who was very aware of the IHBC.

A major rewrite of PPS15 was being undertaken but the timetable for publication may prevent any a further consultation.

As agreed at our last Branch meeting Roy reported the Branch's concerns regarding the costs of the Annual Regional Council meetings but had received no support, the Council remained firmly committed to the meetings but acknowledged that in England they needed to target regional officials. At best the meeting may have conceded that there was a cost to these meetings and they therefore needed to demonstrate real benefits.

Robert expressed concern that Council did not seem to be taking the matter seriously and that the cost to the IHBC had to be justified when so many IHBC members had no training budget and were losing jobs/work.

Philip thought it was necessary to show that we were getting value for money, to which Rob agreed adding that there was a need to justify expenses and for greater transparency.

Fiona noted that the costs of Council members were being reviewed for the Annual School.

Roy also reported on Bob Kindred's survey that showed a marked reduction in conservation jobs in 2009.

Roy commented on a recent technical pamphlet produced by SPAB and the South East Branch on '*Peg Tiles in the South East*' that had been presented to Council. Roy thought that the EM Branch should consider producing or sponsoring a similar technical leaflet on a topical regional issue. Jason suggested gypsum plaster floors, as sufficiently relevant and regional.

6. County Reps Report

Derbyshire – Chris McKinney was absent

Leicestershire – it was noted that James White was moving from Leicester City and that Jenny Timothy was happy to take over the Branch Reps role once she had moved to Leicester City.

Lincolnshire – in the absence of Liz Mayle, Rob noted that the group had had a pre-Christmas meeting and that North Kesteven had appointed a new full time conservation officer.

Nottinghamshire – Jason noted that the next meeting was due to be held on 3rd February. The last meeting had been at Rufford Mill with a tour of Kirklington Hall. He also noted that there was a new conservation post at Bassetlaw to undertake conservation area appraisals and that Rushcliffe had appointed a new conservation officer.

Northamptonshire – Rachel Booth was absent but had sent a short report noting that a meeting of the Northamptonshire Conservation Officers had been hosted by Daventry District Council in December with a visit to Boden & Ward's stone yard in Flore and Althorp House, where the historic construction and subsequent architectural treatment of the building façade has raised some interesting conservation issues. She also noted that a specialist archaeological planning advisor would be in post in the new financial year.

7. Bursary Scheme for the Annual School

Rob had sent an email to all Branch members and had 4 responses, 2 in support of the scheme and 2 expressions of interest to receive the award.

Philip presented a draft statement outlining the eligibility and selection criteria and after some discussion and comment Philip was asked to revise his report to ensure that the scheme encourages applications but with clear selection criteria to target genuine candidates. It was hoped that the Bursary will encourage people to get involved with IHBC affairs and Branch activities.

ACTION: Philip to revise draft criteria for next meeting

8. IHBC Committee Nominees

Jane reported that the Technical Panel was due to meet on 20 January. Jenny noted that the last meeting of the Policy Committee was in September 2009 but had had no feedback, Rob thought that the Minutes were meant to be sent out to her and that some liaison with Lydia Porter would resolve this. Philip has had no recent correspondence from the Education Panel.

Fiona noted that at the Policy Committee in November it had been reported that a number of local authorities were proposing to adopt sections from PPG15 as SPD before it was superseded by PPS15. Fiona also noted that the Context editorial board had agreed to a 'fire and emergency' feature in the next edition to be followed by a Building Preservation Trusts feature in May and 'views' in July.

9. Branch Connection Day

David was absent - to be discussed at next meeting.

ACTION: Dave to report back on his recent attendance

10. Hathern Terracotta factory

Jane had been in contact with Hathern Terracotta and thought it best to set a date in April, after Easter, with maximum numbers of between 20-25 people.

Fiona also noted that English Heritage had a roadshow on the designation process and the principles of selection and on area appraisals, that had been presented to the South West Branch and had been well received.

It was considered that these presentations would also be of interest to EM Branch members and Fiona was asked make further inquiries, although we would have to find a venue, and also to liaise with Jane should the dates for a possible EH presentation clash with the Hathern visit, which could be moved to early summer.

On the subject of future events Fiona asked whether the 'Buildings at Risk' seminar was to be looked at again.

ACTION: Jane to contact Hathern to arrange a possible date for a visit and Fiona to liaise with English Heritage

11. AOB

Roy noted that despite our concerns the RIBA list for accredited architects has been announced with a spring launch. The new system has 3 tiers to deal with different gradings of listed buildings.

The Branch would make a donation to the Gus Astley Award once we have the money in our account.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 23rd February 2010