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BUILDING · CONSERVATION

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

**Minutes of Branch Committee Meeting:
Tuesday 2nd November 2010
The Fox & Crown, Appleton Gate, Newark**

Present: Jane Roylance, Robert Walker, Chris McKinney, Rose Thompson, Stephen Bradwell, Roy Lewis & Liz Mayle

Guest: Claire Searson

Apologies: Fiona Newton, Chloe Oswald, Jenny Timothy, Rachel Booth, Philip Grover, Jason Mordan, & Rachel Booth

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

It was noted that the Corporate Plan had been circulated and that Jane had sent a thank-you letter to Hathern Terracotta following the Branch visit.

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

2. Chairman's Report and Business Plan

Jane noted her disappointment with the attendance at the AGM given the efforts of the Branch Committee to organise the day.

It was also noted that the Branch Business Plan had been forwarded to the IHBC Council.

[ACTION: SB to post Branch Business Plan on IHBC web site]

3. Treasurers Report

Rose reported that the accounts now stand at £93.29 (current account) & £189.75 (reserve account). The depleted current account should be sufficient to operate with until the approval of the Business Plan.

4. Membership Secretary

In the absence of a permanent Membership Secretary Stephen reported that 3 new applications had been made since the last Branch meeting.

Roy noted the importance placed on the Branch comments by the IHBC Council.

Rob suggested that an e-mail be circulated to the Branch members to ask for a volunteer to take on the role of Membership Secretary and Committee member.

[ACTION: Jane to draft e-mail for distribution]

5. Branch Reps Report

Roy noted that the recent peripatetic meeting of Council had taken place in Newcastle. Of particular interest:

- The approved Corporate Plan had set aside more money to spend on communications to promote the IHBC;
- Following a debate on the subscription rates it had been decided to increase these by £3 to reflect the rate of inflation;
- The next Branch Connection day will be held on 4 November
- In response to potential cut backs in conservation positions it was proposed to set up a web based monitoring system;
- The next peripatetic meeting will be hosted by the North West Branch;
- Applications for affiliate membership from Lisa Walton and Elizabeth Adkins were approved.

6. County Reps Report

Chris McKinney (Derbyshire) – the latest meeting of the Derbyshire group had heard from the County archaeologists regarding opportunities to develop more thematic studies within the HER and had discussed the possible publication of a lime ash floors guidance note.

Liz Mayle (Lincolnshire) – reported that their last meeting discussed issues around heritage protection work with English Heritage, particularly to consider the time taken to make revisions to listed building details.

In response to a query from Rachel regarding the submission of PPS5 heritage statements with planning applications, Liz noted that that there had been a recent letter to local authorities from Dr Anthony Streeton explaining the situation - it would seem that unless the requirement is in the Council's local validation criteria then there are no grounds to delay registration while awaiting PPS5 information. It was accepted that given differences in local validation criteria it might be difficult to achieve a countywide consistency.

7. IHBC Committees

Jane noted that she has had to tender her resignation from the Technical Committee but was continuing to act as a 'corresponding member'.

It was also noted that the Policy Committee had disbanded most of the IHBC Panels leaving only a Law & Practice Panel; a Consultancy Panel and a Technical Panel.

8. Branches Connection Day

As Rose was unable to make the meeting Robert had offered to act as a stand-in if that was acceptable to the Committee.

9. IHBC Corporate Plan Actions

As the Corporate Plan had been adopted it was noted that the drafting of the 2011-12 Business Plan would need to be drafted to reflect the Corporate Plan. Although as Roy pointed out the present Branch Business Plan generally complies with the Corporate Plan.

10. Representations on Conservation Advisory Committee

Following discussions about the role of IHBC representatives on local conservation

advisory committees it was decided that a letter should be sent to Charles Glenn to remind him of the importance of providing feedback for the AGM papers.

[ACTION: SB to contact Charles Glenn]

11. East Midlands Branch Annual School Bursary Scheme

Following the success of the 2010 Bursary Award there was some discussion regarding the need to make different arrangements for the 2011 Annual School given the difficulties of travel to Llandudno.

It was therefore agreed that the 2011 Bursary should be changed to fund one person for the whole of the Annual School and that the criteria for eligibility should be amended to ask potential candidates to suggest ways that they may be able to contribute to the activities and/or promotion of the IHBC either at Branch or national level.

[ACTION: Robert to draft letter on Jane's behalf to invite applications for the 2011 Bursary]

13. English Heritage Consultation on The Setting of Heritage Assets

Robert noted that whilst this document had had a long gestation period there had been little response from the IHBC Membership although James Caird had expressed some concerns about the implications of the guidance.

Roy was concerned that inconsistencies on appeal were due to woolly guidance but this guidance did not seem to address the issue.

Robert had already raised the advice on appeal but noted that it was often difficult to assess the level of harm and impact on long-distance views to historic buildings and landmarks.

Roy was concerned about the scope of the advice and its implications, expressing concern that there was a need for greater clarity where it relates to heritage assets and issues such views and settings and the differences in determining applications in urban areas and rural areas, particularly for wind farms.

[ACTION: Stephen to e-mail Branch members to submit comments]

14. AOB

Roy noted that Peter Badcock had revamped the Branch page on the IHBC web site.

Liz Mayle expressed concern about the poor quality of advice given in the DC Casebook published in Planning regarding the changes to a non-original window.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11 January 2011
